

## Reflection Monday Week 23 – 2020

The scribes and pharisees are very like politicians today. They seek to find the faults and failings in others - especially the opposition – believing that it will make themselves look good. The sadness in all this is that no positive good is offered in its place. Whatever the faults of others, they have no bearing on how we live your lives, unless, of course, we let it! St Paul raises the question about the way we live our lives. The example we give has an influence on the whole community. This means that we live our lives not just for ourselves and our families but for the **common good**. The best and clearest example of the importance of working for the common good is seen in the way we have treated creation. Its healing is a global responsibility. There are seven basic principles behind Catholic Social Teaching the foundations stones of the common good. They are:- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Solidarity; “CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION”**; Call to **Family, Community and Participation; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Rights and Responsibilities; Dignity of Work and Workers’ Rights**. Principles that unite and strengthen any community built on justice, solidarity and love.

In *Pacem in Terris*, 1963, Pope John XXIII emphasized the world’s growing interdependence. He saw problems emerging, which traditional political mechanisms could no longer address, and he extended the traditional principle of the common good from the nation-state to the world community. Ecological concern has now heightened our awareness of just how interdependent our world is. Some of the gravest environmental problems are clearly global.

In this shrinking world, everyone is affected and everyone is responsible, although those most responsible are often the least affected. The universal common good can serve as a foundation for a global environmental ethic. Pope John Paul II recognized the need for such an ethic when he wrote, *“Today the ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be the responsibility of everyone... Its various aspects demonstrate the need for concerted efforts aimed at establishing the duties and obligations that belong to individuals, peoples, States and the international community. Governments have particular responsibility in this area.” Centesimus Annus* insists that the state has the task of providing *“for the defence and preservation of the common good of both natural and human environments, which cannot be safeguarded simply by market forces.”*

Did you know that ants are the only insects that don’t get sick? It’s true! It’s because they have little **antibodies!!!!**