

University of Notre Dame
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Capitalism and The Church.

Does the Church defend the capitalistic system with all its abuses?

Liberal capitalism, as an economic system, is hardly less savage and unchristian than socialism. Socialists deny God's existence. So, for all practical purposes, do gross capitalists. If many of them theoretically admit God (often to protect their own interests) just as many actually live and operate like Disney's pinkened pigs.

Socialists drag to an animal basis the human personality. Extreme capitalists have done it practically every chance they've had. Socialists say men must work because they are children of blind, ruthless, economic laws - economic determinism - Godless, hopeless.

Extreme capitalism says, get what you can and defend what you get by sharp practice, by machine guns if necessary; use your strong influence to see laws passed that protect your own wealth regardless of injustices done to the masses, - Godless and hopeless too.

Both extreme capitalism and socialism make a mockery of Christ and His teachings. Why should the Church defend either? A system founded upon the rights and obligations of private property, wherein the eminent dignity and divine destiny of the human personality are recognized, wherein Christian charity and justice are accepted as inviolable principles of action - such a system has never existed.

When it does exist - call it what you will - the Church will probably defend it.

Immoral Sterilization.

Several have asked, Precisely what is the Church's attitude on the morality of sterilization? To answer, two questions are to be distinguished: a) the sterilization by the state of the physically unfit, and of mental defectives, and b) the sterilization of delinquents as punishment for committed crimes, or as protection against future crimes.

Sterilization by the state of physically unfit and of mental defectives, even when it is certain that the malady will be transmitted to offspring, is, without reservation, unqualifiedly condemned by the Pope's Encyclical, Casti Connubii. The state has no direct power over the bodies of its subjects; the state has but an indirect power to use those bodies to punish subjects for their offenses.

When a man has committed no offense his sacred and prior rights over his own body are not to be violated by the state simply because one of his legs is shorter than the other, or because he has a relatively low I-Q. Men with weak bodies, yes even mental defectives, may people Heaven with saints more perfectly than generations of supposedly super-men. Some people will find it hard to understand the importance of this reason.

Regarding sterilization as a punishment or preventive of crime, the Church is non-committal, according to Father Verneersch's Catechism on the Encyclical Casti Connubii. When the text of the encyclical was first published in Latin it seemed clearly to condemn even the sterilization of criminals. Later corrections of the text were published officially in Rome expressing the authoritative non-committal stand of the Church.

PRAYERS: Ill - the mother of Max Gouthior, '30; Vincent Stace, '28; Leo Sullivan's grandmother; a friend of Dono Schirmer. Three special intentions.

MASS - 6:20 Friday, Sorin Chapel, for the repose of the soul of Jim Moscow's father (Senior Class).