



The Social Mission Conference 2010

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN



Sherlyn Khong

**Coordinator,
acts29**



The Backdrop

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Where we serve - Payatas Dumpsite, Manila





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Who we serve – Dumpsite children and their families





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Who we work with - School for Humanity





Gaps We Encountered

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The boy who had a toothache...

Also had TB...

And had no Birth Cert



Building Bridges to Social Transformation



Without an education...

- Unable to fill up forms
- Fear of travelling out of locality
- Ignorance of government policies and procedures
- Financial management (day to day arrangement)



Building Bridges to Social Transformation



- Birth Certificates – Beyond the reach of the illiterate
 - ❖ Unable to attend formal schools
 - ❖ Vulnerable to exploitation
- Health – Unable to access the system
 - ❖ Ignorance of health care
 - ❖ Lack of immunization
 - ❖ Widespread tuberculosis



Help The Poor or Walk with the Poor?



- Do we go beyond charity and bring justice?
- Does our work bring about social transformation?

RESULTS

- Helping the Poor >> Feel Good
- Walking with the Poor >> Transformation



Building Bridges to Social Transformation



Social Transformation Efforts

1. Birth Certification - work with National Registration Office to process and provide free birth certificates
2. Tuberculosis - work with Department of Health
3. Scholarship given to at-risk students who show passion for studies
4. Engage locals and create awareness



Dr John Lee

**Board Member,
CHARIS**



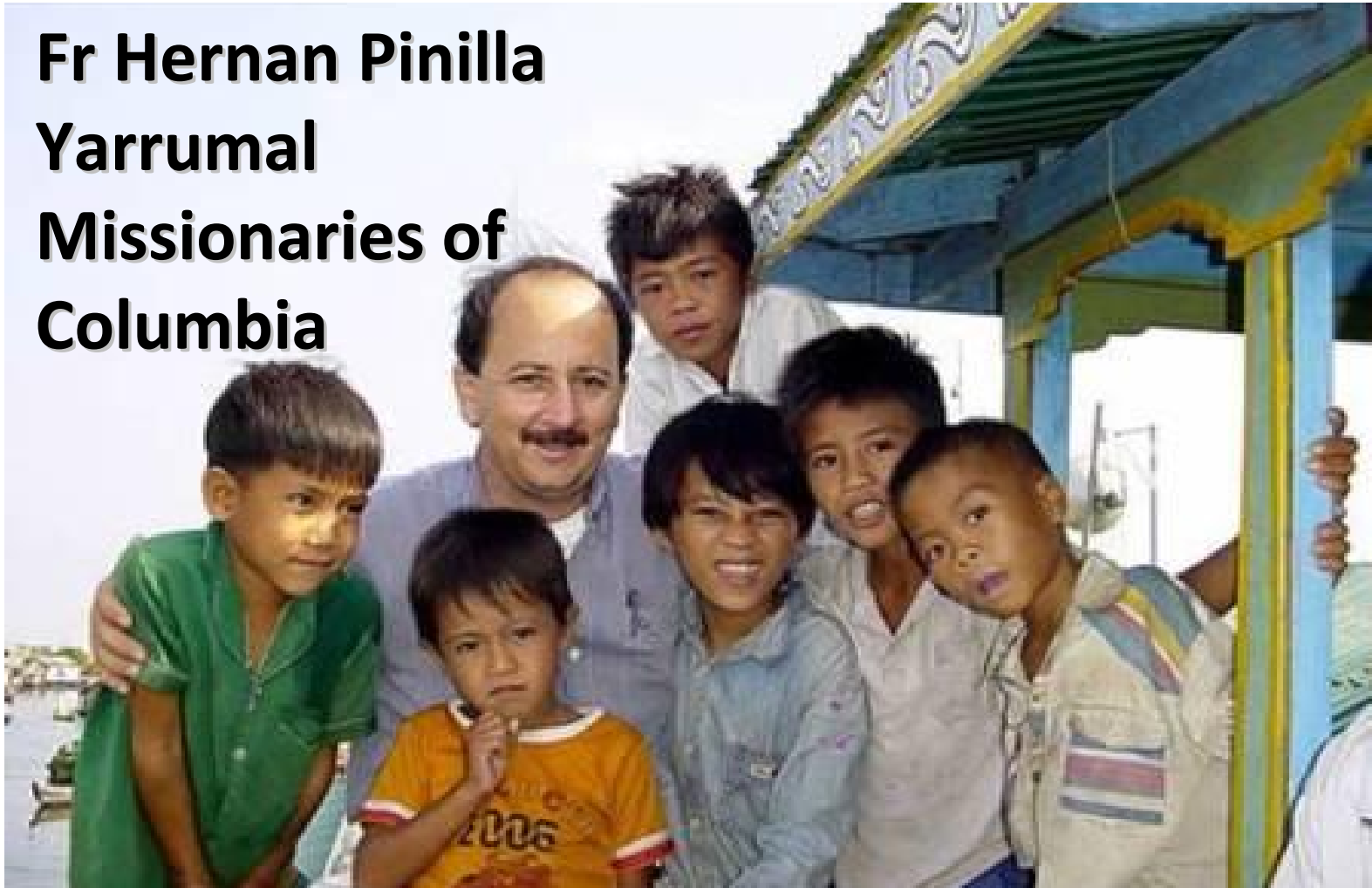
The Joy of Service & Doing Good Better

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Fr Hernan Pinilla
Yarrumal
Missionaries of
Columbia







**“And who is
my neighbour”
Lk 10:29**





In our approach to the sick and the suffering, we should be guided by a precise and all-round view of the human person “created in the image of God and endowed with a God-given dignity and inalienable human rights”

(*Ecclesia in Asia*, 33).









Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 1

Find out and give the recipients what they need not what we think they need









*Sam
Cukun!*





Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 2

To establish effective and sustainable programs you have to engage reliable partner/s on the ground









In an email received on March 16th 2007 Sr Sonia, Canossian Provincial for Timor Leste said, *“We can truly say that the Canossa clinic resumed its shape and service through the kindness and financial support of the Catholic Doctors Many thanks for reaching out to us. God is your reward and God himself will reach out to you in return with his blessings. God bless you.”*



Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 3

Plan for sustainability to ensure long term viability and benefits to the community

“exit strategy”

“colonial slavery”

“crutch mentality”







Myanmar Mission



Archbishop Matthias Shwe in letter to FIAMC on June 15 2005, “Million thanks for the precious financial assistance given to our poor students. Their studies will drastically change their lives and the life of the local people for the better. May God bless each and everyone of the generous donors and collaborators in this project for human development and progress.”



Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 4

Avoid nomadic missions









Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 5

To effectively implement projects one has to first understand the culture of the community where we are working in











Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 6

Give ownership of the program to individuals or organizations which have the capability of nourishing the project





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Lesson No. 7

Think out of box to find solutions to problems





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Lesson No. 8

Important to respect the dignity of recipients





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Lesson No. 9

Dare to Dream







“I tell you this truth, if your faith is the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain “Move from here to there” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17:21



Doing Good Better



Lesson No. 10

The most important lesson that I have learnt is that whatever we do we must do with love



“I am not sure what Heaven will be like but I know that when we die and it comes to time for God to judge us, He will not ask how many great things you have done in your life. Rather He will ask how much love you put into what you did.”

Mother Teresa



“In this life you cannot do great things. You can only do little things with great love.”



“Why do these strangers come from so far away to love us?”

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The fruit of SILENCE is Prayer
The fruit of PRAYER is Faith
The fruit of FAITH is Love
The fruit of LOVE is Service
The fruit of SERVICE is Peace

God bless you Mother Teresa
Be Teresa in me



To Mother Teresa helping those in need was not a burden but a joy as she sees Jesus in every human being. She reached out with love and compassion to those who are rejected by society like the lepers and AIDS victims. In selflessly reaching out to others, I have learnt that we receive much more in return.





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“I am but a little pencil in God’s hands writing a love letter to the world”

Mother Teresa





Thank You

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Fr Colin Tan, SJ

**Spiritual Director,
Jesuit Refugee Service
Singapore**



Theme: Humanitarian work is integral to our Christian mission and faith.

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“The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but the one who gives much.”

(St John Chrysostom)





Humanitarian work – Our Christian Mission and Faith

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Introduction

1. The importance and dignity of life.
2. Our Christian way—To act and love in truth (*Caritas in Veritate*).
3. Our Christian Response--What more can I do?

Conclusion





Introduction

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Our outreach to others who are poor and vulnerable be they refugees or victims of disasters is an integral part of our Christian faith, mission, and identity.



1. The importance and dignity of life.

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Not forgotten. My first visit to a refugee camp in Mae Hong Song in 2001, I was struck by the words of the children who said to us before leaving them, “***Please do not forget us.***”





1. The importance and dignity of life.

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Loved by God. Not forgotten and loved by God. Our faith informs us of God's love for them just as Christ Our Lord has loved us and blessed us, may we too be a source of life and blessings to others.





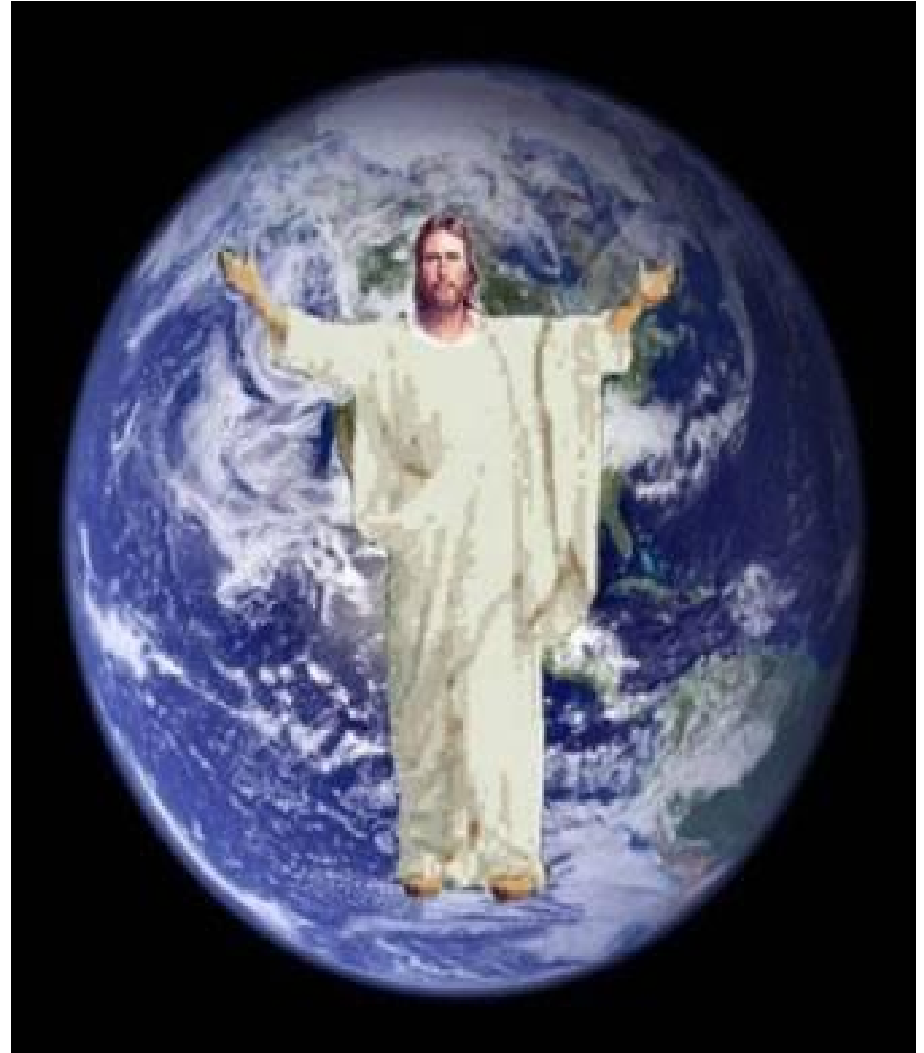
2. To act and love in truth

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Secondly, our Christian Way—
“In charity and in truth”
(*Caritas in Veritate*).

*“Charity in truth, to which
Jesus Christ bore witness by
his earthly life and especially
by his death and resurrection,
is the principal driving force
behind the authentic
development of every person
and of all humanity.”*

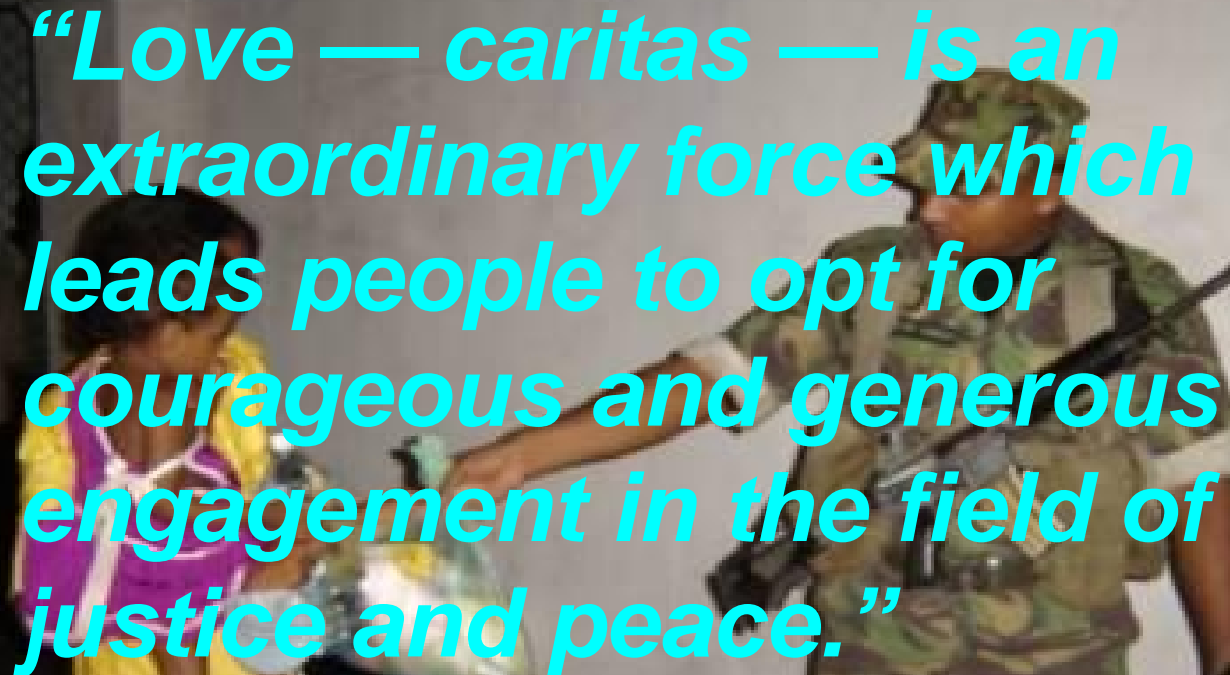
Pope Benedict XVI, #1.
Caritas in Veritate, 2009.





1. The importance and dignity of life.

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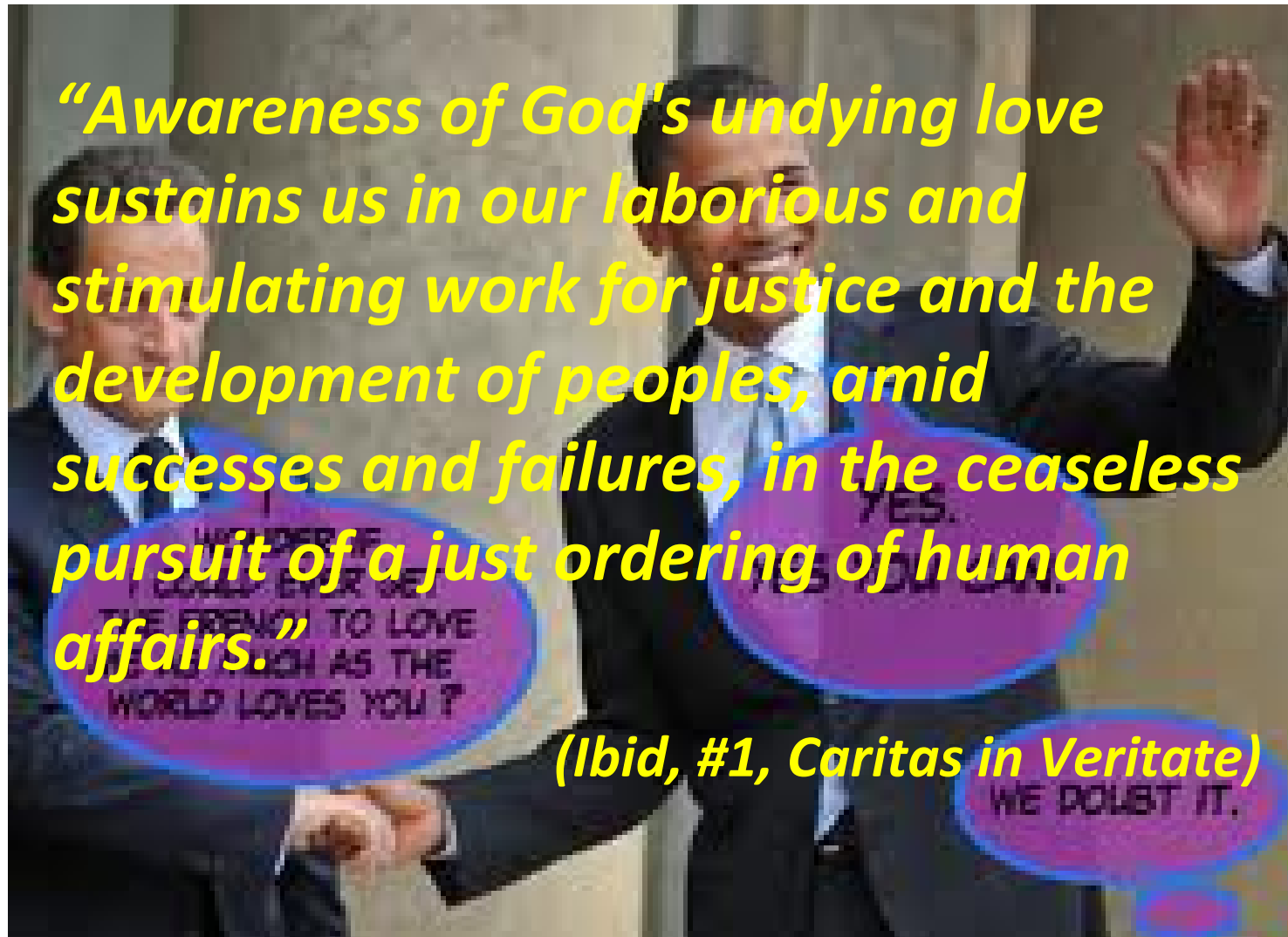


“Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.”

Pope Benedict XVI, #1.
Caritas in Veritate, 2009.



2. To act and love in truth





2. To act and love in truth

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“God's love calls us to move beyond the limited and the ephemeral, it gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all.”

***Pope Benedict XVI.
(#1, Caritas in Veritate)***



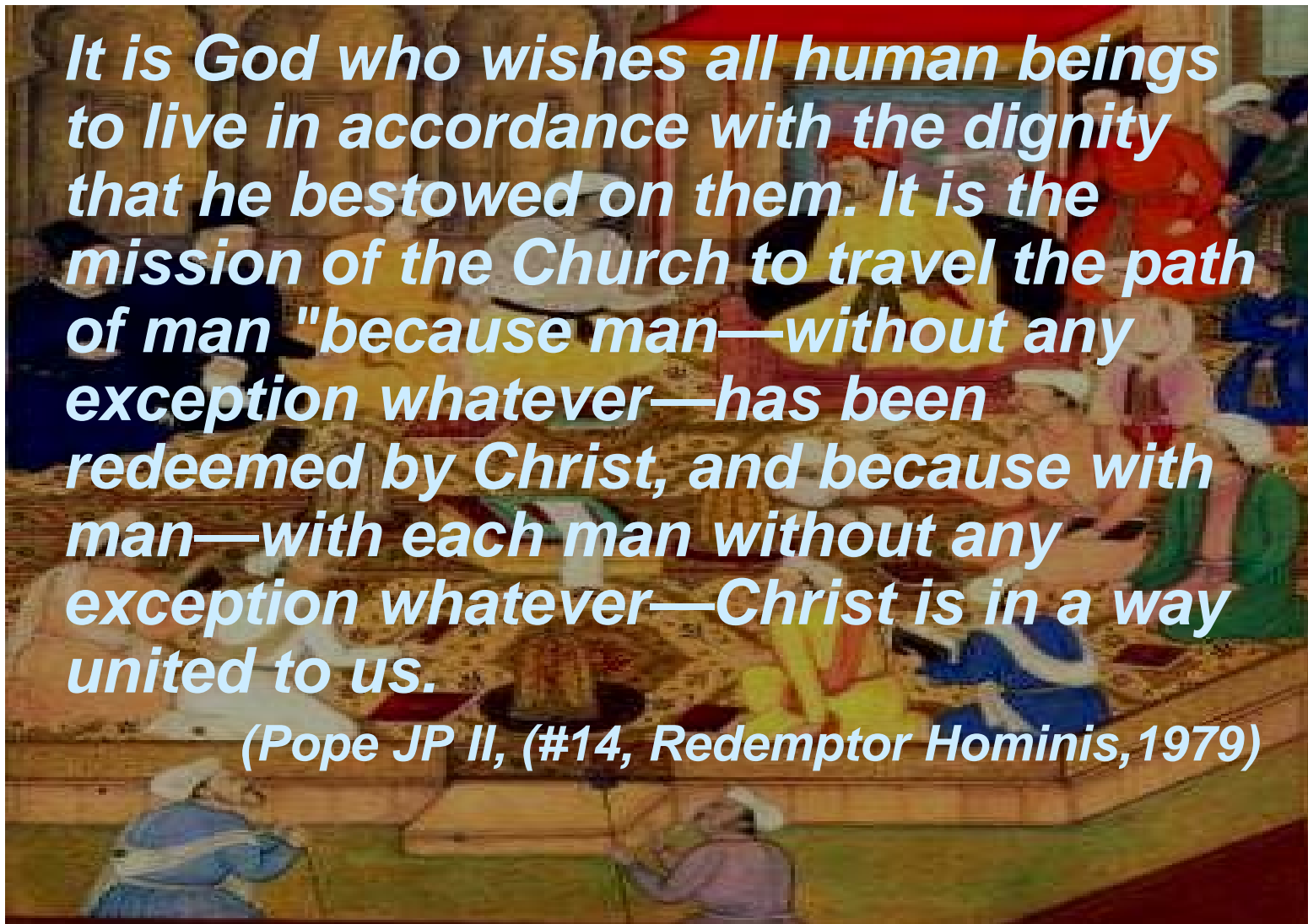


2. To act and love in truth

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It is God who wishes all human beings to live in accordance with the dignity that he bestowed on them. It is the mission of the Church to travel the path of man "because man—without any exception whatever—has been redeemed by Christ, and because with man—with each man without any exception whatever—Christ is in a way united to us.

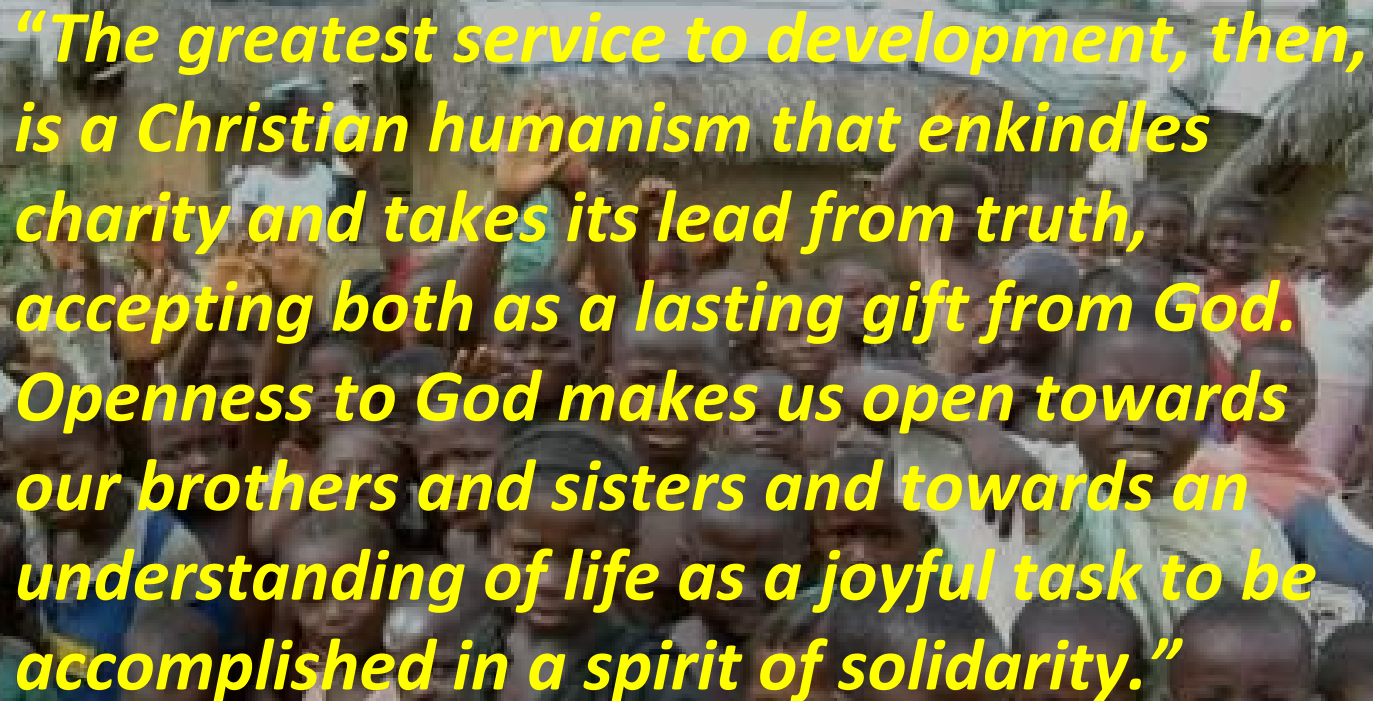
(Pope JP II, (#14, Redemptor Hominis, 1979)





3. Our Christian Response- what more can I do?

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“The greatest service to development, then, is a Christian humanism that enkindles charity and takes its lead from truth, accepting both as a lasting gift from God. Openness to God makes us open towards our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in a spirit of solidarity.”

Pope Benedict XVI. (#78, Caritas in Veritate)



Conclusion

Christians are exhorted to always “choose and desire” the strategic option that is more conducive to their goal—love of God and neighbour. *“Love is God's greatest gift to humanity, it is his promise and our hope.”*

(Ibid, #2, *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009)

