

Labor Day is here, an American tribute to the contribution made by blue-collar workers to our country. First celebrated as a Labor Union event in New York on September 5, 1882, Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894. Meanwhile Oregon was the first state to legislate a Labor Day (1887), and on May 1, 1889 the Marxist International Socialist Congress proposed the 8-Hour Work Day, continuing to celebrate a Socialist Labor Day thereafter on May 1. Pope Pius XII created the May 1 feast of St Joseph the Worker as a Cold War counterpoint to Communist ideology. We began this series last May 1, and continue today with John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (1963), in its analysis, this week, of the relations between states.

Political communities, he says, are reciprocally subjects of rights and responsibilities, just like individual persons. And nations cannot put aside their personal cultural identities and dignity without violation of the moral law. If all nations respect the natural moral law, they will be able to coordinate and inter-relate without violating each other's integrity. The first rule governing relations is **truth**, recognizing that all States are by nature equal in dignity; this includes eliminating "racism," by which one State is deemed superior to another by reason of its racial makeup. So that each nation can have access to "truth," they must all have access to the modern means of communication. *Today this means* an internet not censored by ideological concerns, but also not flooded with fake news and cyber-warfare propaganda, such as with the use of artificial intelligence to robotize spreading politically preferred views to groups of netizens whose profiles have been harvested in unbelievable detail through their use of the web and carelessness in using it, especially in social media platforms. A ranking federal official recently conceded that China probably has stolen enough private information to prepare a substantial dossier on every single person in America. Did you ever click on a bad website, or say something politically incorrect? It could be used to blackmail you someday.

Second, nations need to be regulated by **justice**. Otherwise the world is a band of competing robbers. Since the 19th century, says the Pope, the boundaries of nations often no longer coincide with the boundaries of ethnic communities. Minority cultural mores should be recognized, but not exalted above universal human values, and national cultural mores, legitimate as they may be, should not be exalted above the international requirements of truly universal human values, lest solidarity among nations be hindered. And solidarity includes a genuine balance among population, land, and capital factors, allowing free circulation of goods and services so that all may experience more adequately the balanced conditions for achieving integral perfection of their God-given nature. At times emigration from one's native land is rightly sought, whether as political refugees (asylum from persecution) or for economic opportunity; this means coming to a new land, with grateful integration into, and participation in the host country's culture and laws. *Today this means* not so much the issue of "white-washing" the immigrant, scrubbing away his past, but of other challenges, such as whether to permit female genital mutilation, honor-killings of daughters who violate dating rules, family-executed death sentences for members who convert to another religion, stoning for adultery, rejection of the binding character of all laws inconsistent with Shariah law, a right to be held accountable exclusively to Shariah law, and to insist others follow it as well. All these have been points of considerable discussion here and in Europe, in the case of Muslim immigrants. Something not on John XXIII's radar was the *weaponization of immigration*. For instance, Belarus dictator Alexander Lukashenko is flying in tens of thousands of people from Iraq, etc., and amassing them at the Lithuanian border, to crash it, and destabilize the country (many arrive sincerely believing their \$8,000 airfare to Minsk will ensure them entry to Germany; Lithuania then foots the bill to fly them back). Similarly the current administration has opened our southern border to a flood of people, to punish political opponents and advance partisan objectives. An enormous international cartel network of organized crime now funnels people from all over the world to come here, 99% not for reasons of political asylum (normally, they would have to seek that in a country contiguous to their own), but for economic advancement, or as lead agents to further cartel-profiting drug and trafficking networks. Another example: Recep Erdogan (Turkey) manipulating Greece and the EU with threats of refugee hordes.

Third, says the Pope, **disarmament**, and security for every nation, no matter how small or ill-equipped militarily, should be our goal: **negotiation**, not arms, ought to resolve issues. Fear must be replaced by love, as the directive and constraining feature of international life.