



On the human work

Encyclical letter of the Pope John Paul II in the 90 anniversary of the Rerum Novarum

14 September 1981

Human work 90 years after the "Rerum Novarum"

Having fulfilled, on 15 May of the current year, ninety years since the publication by Leon XIII, the great pontiff of the "social question" of that encyclical of decisive importance, which begins with the words Rerum Novarum, I want to dedicate this document precisely to human work, and even more I want to dedicate it to man in the vast context of that reality that is work.

Indeed, if, as I have said in the encyclical Redemptor Hominis, published at the beginning of my service at the Roman headquarters of St. Peter, Man "is the first and fundamental path of the Church", (4) and this is precisely because of the unfathomable mystery of redemption in Christ. Then we must go back to this path incessantly and always continue again in its various aspects in which all the wealth is revealed and at the same time all the fatigue of the human existence on earth.

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