

# **Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Catholic Social Teaching**

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**Amélie Soulacroix  
Ozanam with  
daughter Marie**





# *I'll tell you a secret*

An introduction  
to Catholic  
social teaching

Jim O'Keefe



## **What is 'the Church's Social Teaching'?**

It has often been described as 'the Church's best-kept secret'. Many Catholics are hardly aware of the body of teaching on social, economic, political and cultural questions that has been developed over the last hundred years. It gives a fresh perspective on many of the major issues of our day, often cutting across traditional divides of left and right or capitalism and socialism.

In *I'll tell you a secret* Jim O'Keefe, President of St Cuthbert's College, Ushaw, gives a simple and straightforward introduction to each of the key documents, placing them in their historical context and drawing out some of their implications for us today.

ISBN 1 871549 60 4

£1.95

**CAFOD**



There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.'

Acts 4:35



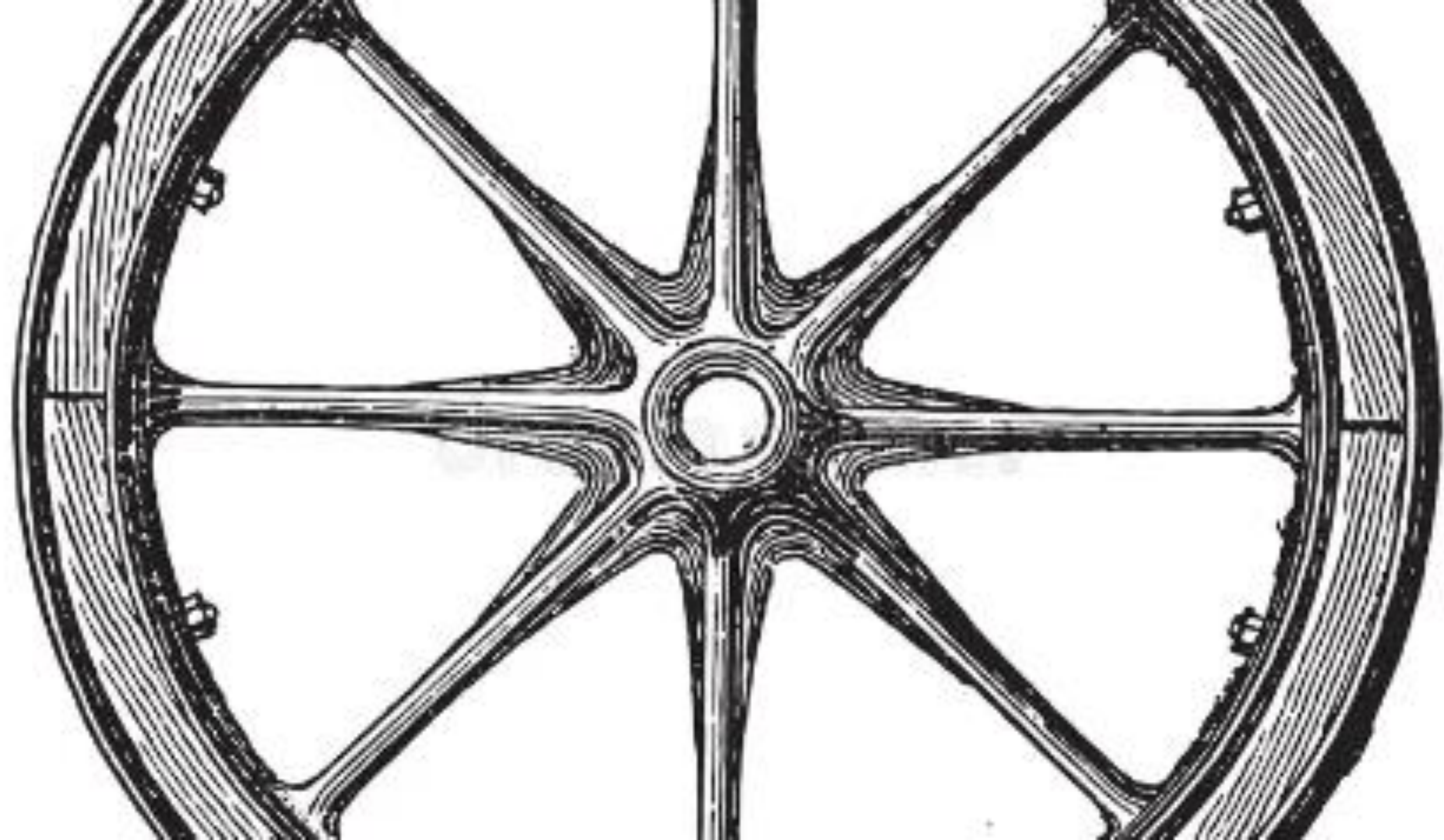
# Rerum Novarum


Enciclica di S. S. LEONE XIII  
sulla

Questione







A collection of various tools including wrenches, a screwdriver, and pliers, arranged on a red background. The tools are metallic and black, with some having yellow handles. They are positioned at the bottom of the frame, with the red background filling the rest of the image.

There is exploitation  
when the master  
considers the  
worker not as an  
associate, as a  
helper, but as an  
instrument, from  
which he must draw  
the maximum  
service at the lowest  
possible cost.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam 1840





a 'great crime  
which cries to  
the avenging  
anger of  
Heaven'

*Rerum Novarum* 1891

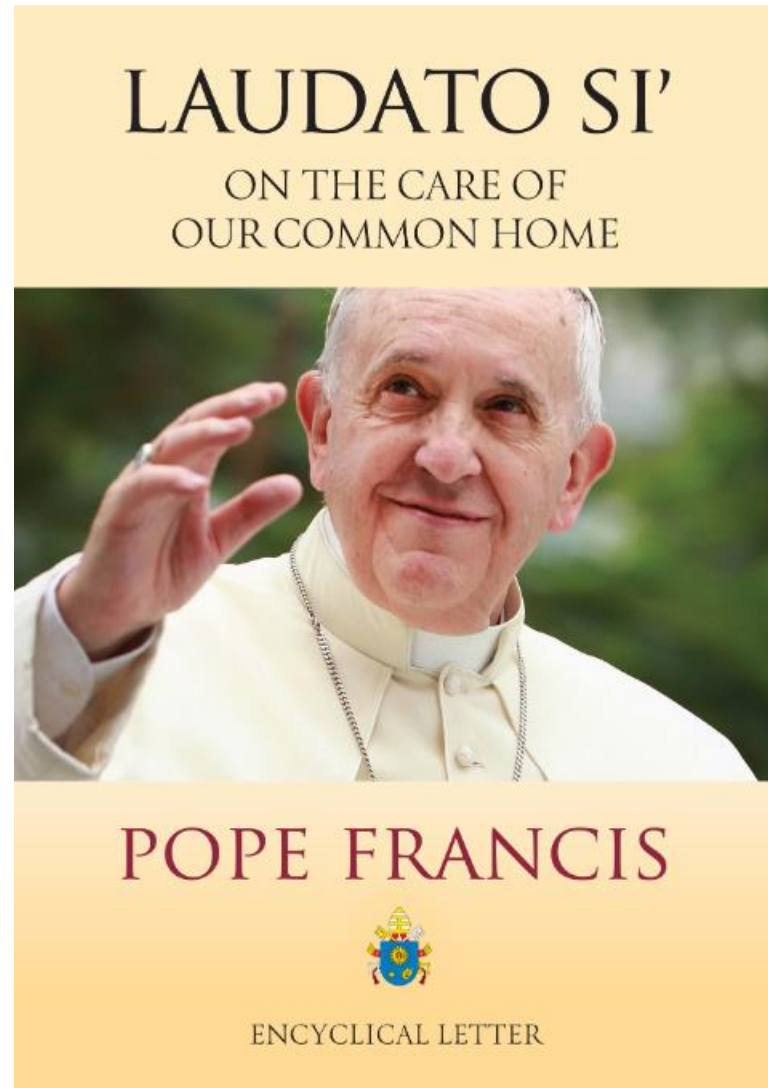
It is 'shameful' to use people  
as 'things' Pius XI *Quadragesimo Anno* 1931

'the worker should not be an  
'instrument' or tool of  
production because the  
worker is a subject and not an  
object

John Paul II *Laborem Exercens* 1981



An  
instrumental  
way of  
reasoning...



Decisions which  
may seem purely  
instrumental are  
in reality  
decisions about  
the kind of  
society we want  
to build.

Just take a look at  
philanthropic organisations:  
they are nothing more than  
meetings, reports, accounts  
and minutes. Philanthropy  
is a form of decoration  
proudly worn by people who  
wish to boast about their  
good works

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam 1835





# Solidarity

Capital cannot do without  
labour, nor labour without  
capital

*Rerum Novarum 1891*

Everything is  
Connected and  
No One is Saved  
Alone

*Laudate Deum 2023*

# Subsidiarity

Before taking action for the public good we can  
take action for the good of individuals

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam 1834

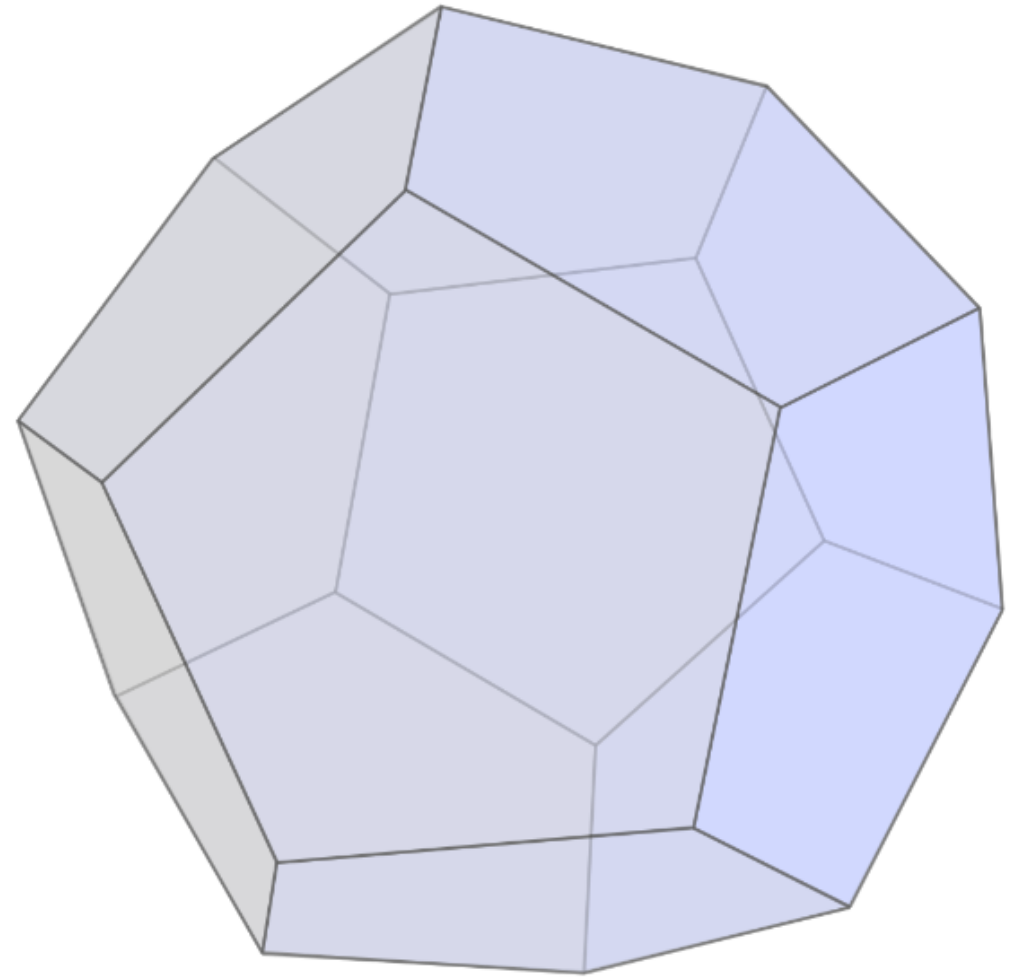




# Danger of 'reducing society to one dead level'

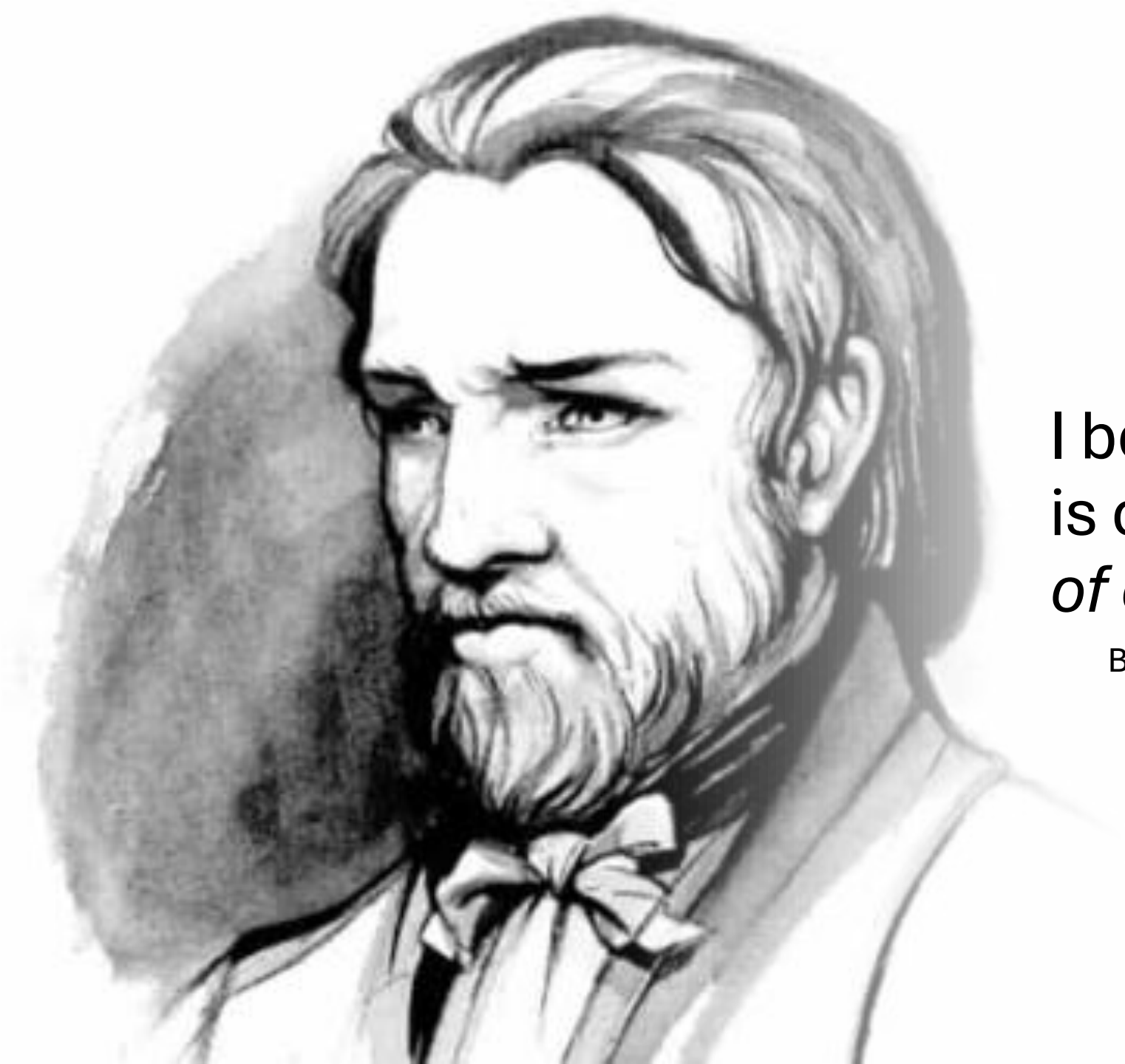
*Rerum Novarum* 1891

# Polyhedral Globalisation









I belong to what  
is called *the party  
of confidence*

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam 1849

The globalization of hope, a hope which springs up from peoples and takes root among the poor, must replace the globalization of exclusion and indifference!

Pope Francis Address to Popular Movements 2015

