

# philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

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## Institute of Social Order

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*Philippine Studies* vol. 3, no. 3 (1955): 312–313

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# Notes and Comment

## *Institute of Social Order*

In his last Christmas Eve Address, Pope Pius XII urged all Christians to promote the common good, in these words: "..... the truth must be lived, communicated and applied to all phases of life. Also truth, and particularly Christian truth, is a talent that God placed in the hands of His servants in order that, with all that they undertake, it may bear fruit in works for the common good. To all possessors of this truth, We would wish to propose a question, before the Eternal Judge asks it, whether they have used this talent fruitfully, in any way to be worthy of the invitation of the Master to enter into the joy of His peace. How many, perhaps even priests and lay Catholics, ought to feel remorse for having instead buried in their own hearts this and other spiritual riches because of their own indolence and insensibility to human misery!"

To heed the exhortation of the Holy Father an Institute of Social Order was formally inaugurated on July 31 at 114 Calle Nueva in the Vicenta Building only a few steps from the Escolta. Rev. Arthur A. Weiss, S.J., is the director and his assistants are Rev. Ciceron Cebrero, S.J. and Rev. Walter B. Hogan, S.J. The purpose of the Institute of Social Order is to communicate the social doctrine of the Church and apply it to our social order. There are three steps in expounding the social teaching of the Church. The first is the simple statement of principles. The second, the correct interpretation of these principles if there be any doubt as to their meaning. The third is the practical application of these principles to concrete situations.

This last the Institute of Social Order aims to do by social study and social action. In carrying out this double purpose, the Institute envisions the building of a sound social structure based on Justice and Charity. Justice must be the foundation because "charity cannot take the place of justice unfairly withheld." But it must be justice inspired, regulated, modified and controlled by charity. Pope Pius XI, in his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, insisted on this point. "Justice alone," he wrote, "even though most faithfully observed, can remove the cause of social strife, but can never bring about a union of hearts and minds. Yet this union, binding men together, is the main principle of stability in all institutions, no matter how perfect they may seem, which aim at stabilizing social peace and promoting mutual aid. In its absence, as repeated experience proves, the wisest regulations come to nothing. Then only will it be possible to unite all in harmonious striving for the common good, when all sections of society have the intimate conviction that they are members of a single family and children of the same Heavenly Father, and further, that they are 'one body in Christ, and everyone members of one another'."

Upon all sections of society—landlord and tenant, manager and worker, producer and consumer—devolves the obligation to work towards the Common Good, to build a social order founded on Justice and Charity. The Institute of Social Order, by its program of study and action, offers its services to all, for the erection of such an ordered society. This is the aim of its Labor-Management School, Sunday radio program, weekly seminars and conferences, spiritual retreats. Cooperation is the aim of all of these and the achievement of a social consciousness, of a social-mindedness that will make such cooperation possible between all groups within the community.

The result of such cooperation will be an ordered society. And the result of an ordered society will be peace. The institute of Social Order aims therefore to serve the purposes of peace. Not any kind of peace but that peace which is the fruit of Justice to all members of society and which in turn is perfected in Charity.

GASTON L. DUCHESNEAU