

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gospel text (Mk 9:38-43.45.47-48): John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward (...)."

The principles of solidarity and subsidiarity in the Social doctrine of the Church

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the words of Jesus invite us to consider one of the social essential structure principles invoked by the Social doctrine of the Church: solidarity. Social life creates multiple interdependencies, so that we must become aware of others' needs, considering them as our own. Thus, interdependence involves demands of the common good, and produces a moral category: solidarity. It is first and foremost a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone (it cannot therefore be merely delegated to the State).

To love someone is to desire that person's good and to take effective steps to secure it. Next to the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked in society: the common good. To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.

—The principle of solidarity must remain closely linked to the principle of subsidiarity: For if subsidiarity without solidarity lapses into social privatism, it is likewise true that solidarity

without subsidiarity lapses into a welfare mentality which is demeaning to those in need.