# Monday of the Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time

**Gospel text (*Lk* 14:12-14):** On a Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees. He said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends... in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor... blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

## *The "principle of gratuitousness" in economic activity*

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
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Today, it must be acknowledged that economic growth is being weighed down by malfunctions and dramatic problems. The current crisis presents us with choices that cannot be postponed concerning anything less than the destiny of man, who, moreover, cannot prescind from his nature.

The human being is made for giving. Both in the order of thinking and behavior, the traditional principles of social ethics like transparency, honesty, responsibility, cannot be ignored, but also the "principle of gratuitousness" and the "logic of gift", as an expression of fraternity, can and must find their place within normal economic activity. This is a human demand at the present time, but it is also demanded by economic logic.

—In the global era, economic activity cannot prescind from gratuitousness, which fosters and disseminates solidarity and responsibility for justice and the common good. This is, ultimately, a deep and specific form of "economic democracy".