Towards an Ethical Economy and Politics: Civilization of Love and Solidarity

(Summary)

The quest for an ideal social order has been present throughout the history. This search has still not ended nevertheless, there have certainly been some shifts forward in relation to, for example, Plato's idea of a just society or Augustin's vision of the State of God. In these shifts a very significant role belongs to the Christian vision of man, co-operation and community/society. This vision, actualized through the Catholic societal doctrine from Pope Leon XIII to John Paul II has, as the critical awareness of the mankind, been reflected in numerous debates about the constitution of democratic systems. Love and solidarity among people and nations are the foundations of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. From these fundaments arises the Christian vision of a community of love and solidarity which should not be understood as political orientation, but as contribution to the building of a more righteous world.