



International Center
For Study of the Phenomenon
of Solidarność



The Pontifical University
of John Paul II
in Krakow

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

SOLIDARITY **AS A COMMUNION** **AND BROTHERHOOD** **OF WORKING PEOPLE**

Solidarność jako wspólnota i braterstwo ludzi pracy



19-20 November 2021 | Online

Organizers:

- ▶ The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
- ▶ The National Commission of the Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarność"
 - ▶ The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków
 - ▶ The International Center for Study of the Phenomenon of Solidarność (PL: Międzynarodowe Centrum Badań nad Fenomenem Solidarności – MCBFS)

Concept Note

The two-day conference "Solidarity as a communion and brotherhood of working people" planned for November 2021 at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in Rome will focus on the need to revive the spirit of Solidarność at the international level.

The idea of solidarity, which became concrete in the testimony of Polish workers and The Independent, Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarność" (NSZZ "Solidarność") forty years ago, has not lost its relevance. It has opened a new phase in the history of the Workers Movement, after the collapse of the Marxist ideology that dominated the Workers Organizations and has given a new relevance to those trends in the Workers Movement that have affirmed the principles and vision of Christian Social Doctrine (the CLAT and the Argentinian Workers Movement in Latin America, the ACLI and CISL in Italy etc.). It requires a deepening and creative development due to the political and economic changes that have taken place in the world since August 1980. In our opinion, a deepened and modernized understanding of the idea of solidarity, expressed in the light of Catholic social teaching, has the potential to solve the crises faced by working people globally.

The diagnosis of these crises is not yet complete, but it is enough to see that the working community is now largely disrupted. New forms of work isolate more and more workers and leave them separated from the free, and often manipulated, market.

International regulations on customs tariffs and trade have resulted in the globalization of capital and trade, while the defence of workers' rights remains only at the national level. As a result, big business can easily shift jobs to countries that offer labour low wages, low levels of protection for workers' rights, and a lack of respect for the dignity of workers. Additional pandemic difficulties have also contributed to the existing situation. Therefore, there is a need to place the community of workers at the centre of the lives of nations, so that each worker is the creative subject of his own work.

For this purpose, we would like to universalise the Polish experience of solidarity and revive its spirit, not on the

local or national levels, but rather the global dimension, so that the dignity of human work is widely recognized, and all participants of economic life will be covered by fair law and can count on fair remuneration.

The emergence and development of Solidarity in Poland was possible thanks to strong Christian inspirations and Catholic social teaching. This thought is also present today, because the Magisterium of the Church responds to the challenges of today. Therefore, during the conference, we want to refer to these teachings, and especially to the new encyclical of Pope Francis *Fratelli tutti*. The Pope has, in recent years, been and is the main advocate of the poor, marginalized, and excluded.

Referring still to the role of Christianity in shaping the Polish experience of solidarity, we would like to emphasize how important was the role of the Eucharist for working people, as it is the source of Christian life. The Eucharistic experience of Communion influenced the Polish experience of solidarity and built community and brotherhood between the workers and then between the members of various social and professional groups. It was a community beyond divisions and beyond the particular interests of individuals.

In turn, among the wealth of inspirations contained in Catholic social teaching, we would like to pay special attention to the concept of the "new economy" (The Economy of Francis), harmonizing it with the idea of solidarity and the need for a new labour and union movement. We will discuss the challenges of the global economy before and during the pandemic. We want to focus on the globalization of workers' rights and the risks associated with them, and simultaneously attempt to find a solution. The globalization of the economy and labour rights are issues included in the program of activities of the *International Center for Study of the Phenomenon of Solidarność (MCBFS)*. We would like the deliberations to end with a "round table" between representatives of trade unions, social movements, and both people of science and the Church.

Programme

DAY I – FOCUS ON THE HUMAN PERSON AND COMMUNITY OF WORK

Introduction

09:30-09:45	Abp. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
09:45-10:00	Abp. Marek Jędraszewski Archbishop of Kraków, Great Chancellor of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków
10:00-10:15	Piotr Duda President of the Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union „Solidarność”
10:15-10:30	Prof. Stefano Zamagni President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Section I – From the Eucharistic Experience of Communion to the Polish Experience of Solidarity

Chairman: Prof. Stefano Zamagni

10:30-10:50	<i>On Globalization of the Idea of Solidarity</i> Prof. Rocco Buttiglione President of the Scientific and Program Council of the International Center for Study of the Phenomenon of Solidarność
10:50-11:10	<i>The Rise of Philosophy of Solidarity in Poland</i> Rev. prof. Władysław Zuziak Director of the International Center for Study of the Phenomenon of Solidarność
11:10-11:30	Discussion
11:30-11:50	Break

Section II – The Economy of Francis and the New Worker's Movement

Chairman: Prof. Rocco Buttiglione

11:50-12:10	<i>New Forms of Solidarity in the Light of John Paul II Teaching</i> Prof. Stefano Zamagni
12:10-12:30	<i>Francis's Economy as a Postulate to Create a New System of Socio-economic Solidarity</i> Prof. Zbigniew Krysiak
12:30-12:50	<i>The Role of Budget Policy in Economic Solidarity</i> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
12:50-13:10	Discussion
13:10-15:00	Break

Section III – Moral and Social Challenges Posed by the World's Economy at the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Chairman: Prof. Joanna Mysona Byrska

15:00-15:20	<i>On Justice Transformation and Sustainable Development. Why we Need to Have Active Christian Voices in the Debate on Ecological Issues and World Economy in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic</i> Prof. Marek Rymśa
15:20-15:40	<i>The Role of COVID Vaccines in Controlling the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic</i> Prof. Katarina Le Blanc
15:40-16:00	<i>Economy and Labour Market in the Time of Pandemic – Protection of Workers' Interests vs. Concern of Common Good</i> Jarosław Lange
16:00-16:20	<i>Towards a Renewed Workers Movement in Latin America Based on Solidarity and Brotherhood in Times of Industry 4.0</i> Prof. Rodrigo Guerra Lopez
16:20-16:30	Break
16:30-17:00	Discussion

DAY II – FOCUS ON GLOBALIZATION OF WORKER'S RIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Section IV – Globalizing Worker's Rights in the Global Economy

Chairman: Rev. prof. Władysław Zuziak

10:00-10:20	<i>Solidarity in Social Insurance on the Example of the Polish Pension System</i> Prof. Marcin Zieleniecki
10:20-10:40	<i>Reviewing some Human Capital Management Practices in the Light of Laborem Exercens</i> Dr Paulina Bednarz-Łuczewska
10:40-11:00	<i>Digital Solidarity and Economy with a New Soul</i> Prof. Gustavo Beliz
11:00-11:20	<i>From the periphery to the center. How Argentine unions are inspired by the Pope and the example of Solidarity?</i> Gustavo Vera
11:20-11:50	Discussion
11:50-12:20	Break

Section V – „The Round Table Talk” Between Representatives of Trade Unions, Social Movements, People of Science and the Church

Leading a discussion: Dr Paulina Bednarz-Łuczewska

12:20-14:20	Guests: Rocco Buttiglione Piotr Duda Krzysztof Wielecki Marco Bentivogli Joaquín Pérez da Silva
14:20	Closing conference