

**Peace is
built on the
foundation
of justice.**

– Pope Leo XIII

The Church supports democracy because of all political systems it offers the best conditions for achieving equality before the law and safeguarding human rights. In order to do that, however, democracy must be more than mere majority rule. True democracy is possible only in a state ruled by laws that recognizes the fundamental God given rights of all and defends them, if necessary, even against the will of the majority.

History teaches that even democracy offers no absolute protection from violations of human dignity and human rights. It always runs the risk of becoming a tyranny of the majority over a minority. That is why Christians in particular must make sure that the values indispensable to a democracy are not undermined.

Everyone has the right of economic initiative; everyone should make legitimate use of his talents to contribute to the abundance that will benefit all and to harvest the just fruits of his labour. He should seek to observe regulations issued by legitimate authority for the sake of the common good. That is why any form of capitalism that is not embedded in an established system of law runs the risk of detaching itself from the common good and becoming a mere means for individuals to make profits. The Church rejects that decisively.

On the other hand, she supports a free-market system which is at the service of man, prevents monopolies, and ensures that all are supplied with employment and vitally necessary goods. Catholic Social Teaching evaluates all societal arrangements according to whether they serve the common good, which means: to the extent that they enable “men, families, and associations more adequately and readily [to] attain their own perfection” (Vatican II, *Gaudium spes*). This is also true of commerce, which in the first place should be at the service of man. ❖

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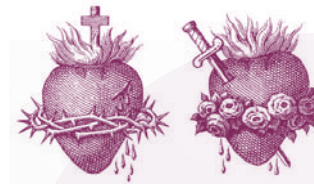
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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

11th Ordinary Sunday

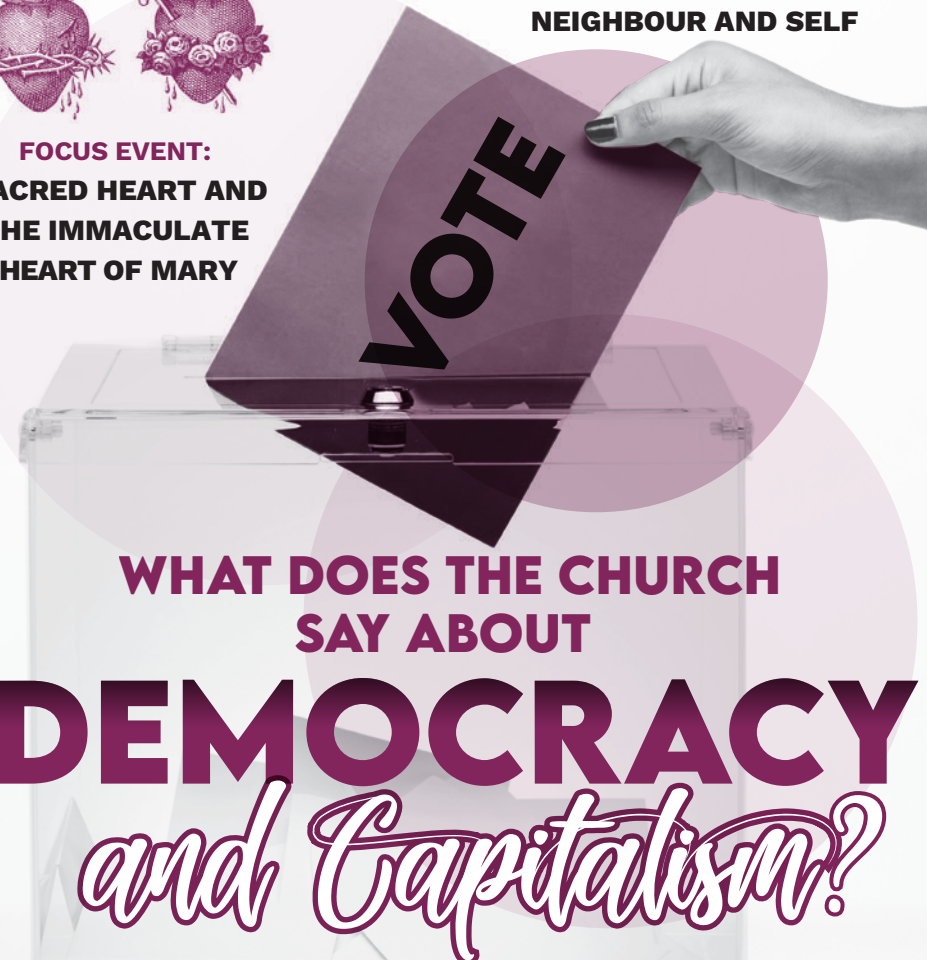
SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:

COMMUNION (INCLUSIVE), PARTICIPATION (CREATIVE) & MISSION (BRIDGE BUILDING)



**FOCUS EVENT:
SACRED HEART AND
THE IMMACULATE
HEART OF MARY**

**MONTHLY FOCUS:
FAMILY – LOVING
NEIGHBOUR AND SELF**



**WHAT DOES THE CHURCH
SAY ABOUT**

**DEMOCRACY
and Capitalism?**