

THE NEW NAME FOR PEACE IS 'DEVELOPMENT'

This was the insight of Pope Paul VI back in the days shortly after the Vatican Council ended, and before his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* ('On Human Life') was so vigorously criticized, both inside the Church and in the media. I think of this as we are preparing for a 2nd collection next weekend for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Is there a problem, though? Perhaps—'development,' like many other terms, is really value-neutral in itself. It all depends on what the development produces. C.S. Lewis, in *The Voyage of the 'Dawn Treader'* (#3 of the Chronicles of Narnia) has his hero, King Caspian, end the slave-trade in one of his territories. The Governor there protests, "Have you no idea of progress, of development?" "I have seen them both in an egg," retorts Caspian. "We call it *going bad* in Narnia."

When we wish to further human development we must consider means and ends, not just names. For example, does the desire to bring industrialization into the '3rd World' justify the destruction of the environment? Is there a sense of moral rightness in bringing technology into parts of the world for the expressed purpose of removing natural resources there for our use and not their benefit? Historically, one might consider the great wealth brought to Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries thanks to the colonization of the New World—but at what price to the native Americans already living there, so many ultimately reduced to slavery? "Development," yes—but for whose benefit, primarily?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development tries to encourage and support programs that intend to give people "a hand up, not a handout" (as the saying goes). It supplies seed-money to begin projects that can help the poor to be more self-reliant. It is the difference between a soup kitchen and a job-training program. Such use of funds is an example of what Thomas Merton referred to as "disinterested love"—that is, love that has no vested interest, no ulterior motive other than love itself, even if not returned to the lover.

To be honest, most of our 2nd collections are like this (including and especially the recent one for hurricane relief, to which you were so incredibly generous). Most of us will never see the people of Galveston-Houston, or SW Louisiana, or Haiti, who will benefit from our gift. And we know that. But we give, nonetheless. When we hear the Gospel in a couple of weeks for Christ the King (the same Sunday as this collection), I hope you will realize that it is speaking to you personally, and with great approval.