



Economics as if God Matters: Over a Century of Papal Teaching Addressed to the Economic Order (Catholic Social Thought)

Rupert J. Ederer

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In this revised and expanded edition of *Economics as if God Matters*, Rupert J. Ederer brings forward to the present his classic assessment of how papal social teachings address economic questions from the end of the 19th century. Noting how "economic order reflects economic philosophies, which, in turn, mirror the basic philosophies" and even theologies, Ederer explores the papal perspective on economics and its place in human affairs. Through the study of social encyclicals issued since 1891, Ederer illustrates the "organic development of doctrine" on economic matters through his detection of a series of common principles.

Ederer considers in each of his chapters key encyclicals, from which he abstracts an economic philosophy that seeks to balance Church teaching with evolving 20th-century economic systems. His survey thus encompasses close readings of Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* (1891), Pius XI's *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931), John XXIII's *Mater et Magistra* (1961), Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio* (1967), John Paul II's *Laborem Exercens* (1981), *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (1987), *Centesimus Annus* (1991), and Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate* (2009).

Written for clergy and lay readers, as well as students and scholars of the Catholic perspective on the intersection of economics and society, *Economics as if God Matters* is a sophisticated review of the moral purpose of one's participation in the economic life of modern society.

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