

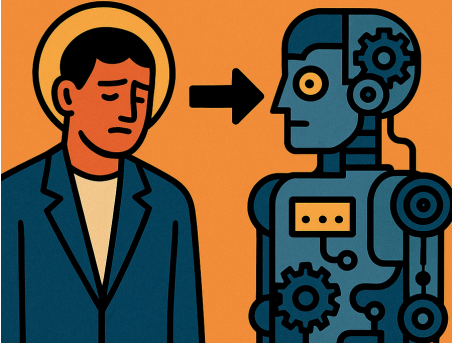
# Rerum Novarum: The Antidote to Techno- Capitalism



Original text by Pope Leo XIII

Summary by The Acolytes of the  
Theotokos

## TECHNO-CAPITALISM HAS DEPRIVED MAN OF HIS DUE DIGNITY



## The Problem:

1. Techno-capitalism has deprived man of his due dignity

Men are made in the image of God and have Inherent Human Dignity. They are not collections of atoms or statistics on a spreadsheet. Anything that does violence to this inherent, immutable dignity is a grave sin.

2.Man has been deprived of dignity in the following ways:

- Insufficient wages (45)
- Treating men as though they were things in the pursuit of gain, valued solely for their labor (20)
- Unjust and unhealthy working conditions that tax working people beyond their strength (42)
- Neglect of the Common Good, subordinating it to the good of the Capitalist alone (34)
- Denial of the right to private property (society of renters) (5)



## The Solution:

1. We must demand,  
as a GOD-GIVEN  
RIGHT FOR ALL  
AMERICAN  
CITIZENS, a Living  
Wage.

This Living Wage  
MUST be enough to  
own private  
property and  
support a family (44  
- 46) on the  
earnings of a single  
income (13).

2. We MUST form unions and worker  
organizations based on the principles of  
Inherent Human Dignity and right to a Living  
Wage(54).

These unions and organizations must therefore  
be essentially spiritual/religious in nature,  
rather than merely political. They MUST NOT  
serve ulterior political motives.



3.The State MUST ACT as an arbiter between Capital and Labor to create a compromise that benefits both parties and the Common Good of society.

The State must not interfere in the ability of Capital to remain productive, nor should it regulate the private lives of citizens (35-36). Wages can be regulated by the government, rather than simply being any wage that is determined by the “free market” (43).



4.Private property should be distributed as widely as possible NOT abolished.

Men are rational actors. Unlike animals, they work not simply to fill their bellies for the present moment, but in order to provide for themselves in the future as well.

Private property such as land and investments, allow men to escape a life of toil lived paycheck-to-paycheck and instead to cultivate these investments into a permanent means of sustenance, as well as an asset to pass on as an inheritance.

Both a Capitalist “renters society” in which all but the top 1% of people own nothing and must rent from the small number that own everything, and a socialist society in which private property is abolished, deprive men of the ability to cultivate private property using their rational and other faculties, causing alienation and helplessness (5-10, 15).



### 5. Class Cooperation NOT Class Conflict.

Marxism views the Capitalist and working classes as being in natural enmity with each other. This causes an unending cycle of social conflict, rather than social harmony.

It is also incorrect. When the classes are operating according to their proper, natural roles, they in fact have a symbiotic relationship. Valuable goods are produced from raw materials through labor, causing society and all of its members who partake in the fruits of this labor to become materially wealthy (19-20).

The problem is when the State favors one class over another, when in fact it should work to facilitate a mutually beneficial relationship between Labor and Capital.

# For more information:

Read Rerum Novarum



[https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_l-xiii\\_enc\\_15051891\\_rerum-novarum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html)

Learn about the Acolytes of the Theotokos



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2025 Anno Domini

✚ Christ is Risen! All Glory to God! ✚