

Ordo socialis

Mission Statement

Ordo socialis is committed to a global order of justice and peace and is guided by Christian social ethics, which in this context speaks of the worldwide or global common good (e.g. *Fratelli tutti* 172, *Laudato si'* 169, *Caritas in veritate* 41). What is meant by this is a world order that has justice as the fundamental value of universal human dignity, that is: in which all people and peoples can attain their share of material and immaterial goods owed to this human dignity and can lead a self-determined life.

Ordo socialis carries out this commitment to the common good of the world above all by promoting international scientific communication in the field of Christian social ethics. This international scholarly communication is necessary because the universality of human dignity is an idea that is neither self-evident nor trivial. In terms of cultural history and the history of ideas, it is rooted, on the one hand, in the biblical concept of man as the image of God and, on the other hand, in the philosophical concept of the moral autonomy of the human subject.

Those who believe in the universality of this concept of human dignity - which emerged in a specific historical and cultural context - must strive to constantly re-establish this universal validity in a global, culturally diverse and plural world and to support it with arguments. This is one of the central tasks of theology and philosophy as well as of related disciplines in the social and human sciences.

Social ethics goes beyond this mere justification of human dignity. Human dignity is reflected here not only as an inner value of human being, but is also developed further as a social principle. Modern Christian social ethics speaks in this context of the personality or person principle. This basic principle of social ethics considers the development possibilities of human dignity and personal freedom as the central yardstick for shaping the social order. The Second Vatican Council formulates this concisely in its Pastoral Constitution of 1965 as follows: "The root ground, namely, the support and goal of all social institutions is and must also be the human person [...]" (*Gaudium et spes* 25).

This means that the social order, i.e. all social systems, structures, rules, processes and institutions, are to be ethically measured by the extent to which they serve the personal development of the human person. Therefore, scientific communication in the field of social ethics must always be interdisciplinary. Alongside theology, philosophy and



other humanities, the human and social sciences are indispensable partners in this interdisciplinary exchange. Ordo socialis pays special attention to the dialogue between Christian social ethics and economic sciences, because just socio-economic institutions and structures are necessary conditions for the protection of the common good and human dignity everywhere in the world. Ordo socialis feels connected to the tradition of the Social Market Economy. Pioneers of the Social Market Economy such as Wilhelm Röpke or Alfred Müller-Armack have always pointed out the great conceptual proximity between ordoliberalism and Christian social ethics and have cultivated interdisciplinary dialogue. Ordo socialis would like to continue this exchange and also stimulate and promote it internationally. The guiding principle is the conviction that an internationalization of the concept of the Social Market Economy would represent an important contribution to the promotion of the world common good. Ordo socialis wants to make a contribution to this.

In times of great global challenges, interdisciplinary scientific communication must take place internationally. Ordo socialis promotes such scientific communication. In its Scientific Advisory Board, Ordo socialis gathers an international group of theologians, philosophers and social scientists who conduct interdisciplinary research and publish on topics of social ethics. In an online library on the Ordo socialis website, texts by the members of the Scientific Advisory Board and also by other scholars are made available in open access. Ordo socialis has translated important texts into other languages in order to promote their broader international dissemination and reception. Ordo socialis promotes exchange among members of the Scientific Advisory Board and other scholars by organizing international conferences and publications.

"There is nothing good / except: one does it" (*Erich Kästner*). Ordo socialis promotes international scientific communication not as an academic end in itself, but with the goal of contributing to a better, more just world. To this end, scientific thought and knowledge must be translated into political, economic, and social practice. The most visible expression of this goal is the Ordo socialis Prize, which honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions through their work to the development, dissemination and real-life implementation of Christian social ethics.

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