



## "Economy of Communion"

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Economy has gradually become a core issue in the growth of societies and peoples. It has also become a problem. The current economic system seems indeed unable to level out the growing inequalities in the distribution of wealth and the efforts towards the peoples' development are actually faced with tremendous obstacles. Profit is seen as the highest goal of economic decisions in an exclusively financial perspective, which contributes towards the dehumanisation of the economic activity in contemporary societies.

- "Unlike the consumerist economy based on a culture of having, the Economy of Communion is the economy of giving. This could seem difficult, arduous, heroic. But it is not, because the human person, made in the image of God who is love, is able to find fulfillment precisely in loving, in the act of giving. This need to love lies in the deepest core of our being, whether we are believers or not. And in this affirmation, supported by our experience, is where the hope for the universal spread of the economy of communion really lies." (Chiara Lubich, December 1991)
- "Economy of communion is not so much a new form of company, as an alternative to the companies already existing; it rather seeks to transform from the inside their usual structures (public limited company, cooperative or other), suffusing every relation, within oneself and with others with the light of a lifestyle of communion, with utter respect for the authentic values of the company and of the market." Chiara Lubich, January 1999. Speech at her honoris causa doctorate by the Faculty of Economics of Milan (Piacenza Campus).

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