

*From Pontiff to Pew (continued):*

In this regard, my predecessors have expressed the need for updated institutions and a universal authority (cf. John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 58; John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, 137), marked by the principle of subsidiarity (cf. Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 57). The development of such a global community of fraternity calls for “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good” (Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 154). Indeed, it is “more necessary than ever to boldly rethink the modalities of international cooperation” (Visit to the FAO Headquarters on the Occasion of World Food Day, 16 October 2025, 7).

In the final analysis, when earthly powers threaten the *tranquillitas ordinis* – the classic Augustinian definition of peace – we must draw hope from the Kingdom of God, which, though not of this world, sheds light upon the affairs of this world and reveals their eschatological meaning. In this perspective of faith, we are reminded that God’s omnipotence is shown especially in mercy and forgiveness (cf. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 25, a. 3, ad 3); divine power does not dominate, but rather heals and restores. It is precisely this logic of charity that must animate history, for human activity inspired by charity helps to shape the “earthly city” in unity and peace, rendering it – however imperfectly – an anticipation and a prefiguration of the “City of God” (cf. Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 7). Such faith strengthens our resolve to build a culture of reconciliation capable of overcoming the pitfalls of indifference and powerlessness (cf. Address in the Presence of Religious Leaders, 28 October 2025).

With these sentiments, I earnestly hope that your reflections during these days will yield valuable insights for clarifying the legitimate uses of power, the criteria of authentic democracy and the kind of international order that serves the common good. In this way, your work will contribute meaningfully to the building of a global culture of reconciliation and peace – a peace that is not merely the fragile absence of conflict, but the fruit of justice, born of authority placed humbly at the service of every human being and the entire human family.

May the Holy Spirit, source of all charity and bond of unity and peace, enlighten your minds and sustain your efforts. I willingly invoke upon all of you God’s abundant blessings.

*From the Vatican, 9 April 2026*

LEO PP. XIV