

Catholic-Labor Network
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WASHINGTON – The Catholic Labor Network today welcomes the release of Pope Benedict XVI's new encyclical, *Caritas in veritate* or "love in truth." The Holy Father dedicated his third encyclical to the economy and labor, signing it on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29th), with public distribution beginning today (July 7).

We in the Catholic Labor Network take special notice of the Holy Father's observation that

Through the combination of social and economic change, trade union organizations experience greater difficulty in carrying out their task of representing the interests of workers... The repeated calls issued within the Church's social doctrine, beginning with *Rerum Novarum*, for the promotion of workers' associations that can defend their rights must therefore be honored today even more than in the past...[25]

Yet we Americans live in a nation where workers face increasing harassment when they seek to form a union, in large measure because of widespread unlawful action by employers to obstruct the right of workers to organize in unions. We urge all our brothers and sisters in the faith involved in today's contentious debate over the Employee Free Choice Act to reflect on their position in light of the new Encyclical and consider how we can best reconcile our attitudes towards American trade unionism with those expressed by the Holy Father.

The Catholic Labor Network

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The Catholic Labor Network is a group of religious, laity and clergy who are active in Catholic labor issues, pray with one another and work toward the fulfillment of the Catholic Church's substantial tradition of social teaching surrounding the economy and labor. It is the American affiliate of the World Movement of Christian Workers, an international association of the faithful registered in the Holy See.

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