

itual heritage. The task of every Christian is to build up and develop an authentic Christian culture, which forms the conscience and assures a person's spiritual growth and development.

*Fill their storehouses with every good thing.
(Anaphora of the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great)*

E. The Christian Understanding of Economy

1. Work and Profession

975 The Lord creates man and woman in his image and invites them to work on the earth (*see Gn 2:5-6, 15*). Labour becomes a blessing if it is a form of cooperation with the Lord, as well as a participation in his plan for the world and humanity. Our likeness to God is fostered by such work. Through the fall of Adam work became "toil" (*see Gn 3:19*). However, in Christ, work, united with prayer, transfigures the world and sanctifies individuals.

976 Metropolitan Andrey wrote:

Work, according to Christian teaching, brings a person honour because it provides the means to support oneself honestly. Work does not demean a person. A person's labour is a part of his or her life, and not a commodity whose value rises or falls depending on demand. Exploitation of human labour is inhuman and a detestable crime; and withholding a worker's rightful wage is a sin that cries out to heaven for vengeance.⁵⁸⁷

977 The withholding of a worker's wage is a grave sin and an offence against God, inasmuch as a labourer in his or her professional activity acts as God's co-worker and co-steward of earthly goods.

Therefore, justice demands that a salary somewhat exceed a minimal sum necessary for life. A lower salary will surely be unfair, and even in the event of a voluntary agreement to accept lower pay because of the pressures of the employer's financial distress, the employer is obliged to compensate in accordance with the appropriate level.⁵⁸⁸

⁵⁸⁷ METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY, Пастирське послання до духовенства 0 квестії соціальної [Pastoral Letter to the Clergy on the Social Question] (May 21, 1904).

⁵⁸⁸ METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY, Пастирське послання до духовенства 0 квестії соціальної [Pastoral Letter to the Clergy On the Social Question] (May 21, 1904).

978 Through one's profession, a person realizes their personal life calling in accordance with their talents, abilities, and professional training. Every profession as a form of service to God and country is honourable. Therefore, it is incumbent upon society to ensure the right of every citizen to work and receive fair compensation.

979 In his pastoral letter *Christian Labour*, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky makes an appeal:

Be hard-working, frugal, sober; do not squander your labour. But most of all, hold on to your plot of land; do not let it out of your hands. Avoid laziness, whatever your social standing may be; laziness is a disease, a wasting of your goods. For the time for work is also a gift from God—a precious gift. Using your time, you can turn work into wealth, while wasting it in idleness, you can bring about your own ruin.⁵⁸⁹

2. Globalization

980 The contemporary phenomenon of globalization is primarily characterized by the creation of a global culture, which leads to the formation of a global civil society. It can be positive if it succeeds in combining the diversity of existing cultures in such a way that one culture enriches other cultures while preserving its own identity. At the same time, the creation of a global culture carries the risk of reducing all cultures to one mass culture geared toward a consumer society.

981 Another element of globalization is the creation of a global economy through which it may be possible to solve such global human problems as poverty, hunger, social injustice, and illiteracy, as well as environmental and natural resource issues. At the same time, in the creation of a global economy there exists the risk that individual states may lose some of their politico-economic sovereignty. As a result of this, the influence of national governments on the economies of their own countries becomes greatly reduced.

982 Globalization could become a genuine sign of the times for the Church in the contemporary world, opening up new possibilities for the evangelization of peoples. The Church, with her experience of unity in diversity, can inspire the peoples of the world to live in mutual understanding. The proclamation of the Gospel will bring to the consciousness of the world community the conviction that there is no contradiction between morality and production, or between solidarity and competition, but, on

⁵⁸⁹ METROPOLITAN ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY, *Пастирське послання до вірних Християнська робота* [Pastoral Letter to the Faithful On Christian Labour].