

JUSTICE, PEACE AND SAFEGUARDING CREATION

Whacking the Bottom One Percent

When asked about the U.S. President-elect, Pope Francis said, “I do not make judgments on people and political men; I only want to understand what suffering their behavior causes to the poor and the excluded.” He went on to say his greatest concern now is for refugees and migrants, declaring, “We must knock down the walls that divide.”

One of the economic policies touted by the President-elect is the deportation of as many as three million undocumented immigrants.

This is from Economics Professor Richard D. Wolff, a graduate of Harvard, Stanford and Yale. He currently teaches at New York’s New School University:



A homeless shelter in Cranston, Rhode Island - Brian Snyder/Reuters

There is something so bizarre about this--that I really have to say it. Here is a man who literally embodies all of the arrogance of the one percent: the richest people in America, who is telling all of us that the way to solve our economic problems is to really whack the bottom one percent.

Undocumented immigrants are people at the very bottom of the pyramid of our society. They are people who don't get paid properly, who often don't even get paid the money they are owed—low as their wages are—because the unscrupulous employer knows very well that the undocumented immigrant can't go to the police, can't go to any government authority to get their injustice corrected because they don't have documents, etc. These are the most oppressed, exploited people in our society.

So, we are being told by a man from the one percent at the top, that what we need to fix our society is to really hurt the one percent at the bottom. There is something so indecent, so unethical, so un-Christian, if I may say so, about this, that it kind of boggles the mind that we live in a time where you could get away with it.

And yet, it is here. In the coming months, as social safety nets are torn down, as school programs close and medical clinics get defunded, the Church-yours and mine- will be one of the few charitable institutions left standing to feed and shelter the poor masses. This is where our sainthoods will be tested. Get ready to roll up your sleeves. -- Bro. Mark