

**This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
August 23, 2026**



Recently, I began reading Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical. Like many papal documents, it gives us much to reflect upon. One section that especially caught my attention is the Church's teaching on the universal destination of goods. That may sound like a complicated expression, but its meaning is simple. Everything we have ultimately comes from God.

St. John Paul II wrote, "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members without excluding or favoring anyone." Those words remind us that the gifts of creation are meant to sustain all people. The Church has always respected the right to private property. At the same time, she teaches that our possessions are not just for ourselves. They are also meant to serve the common good. Pope Francis expressed this beautifully when he wrote that we must "restore to the poor what belongs to them."

I have to admit that some parts of Pope Leo's encyclical require me to read them more than once! But one message comes through very clearly. Everything we have is a gift from God, and every gift carries with it a responsibility. As followers of Christ, we are called to be grateful stewards of God's blessings. We are also called to care for those who are less fortunate. There is a balance. We are not communists. We are Christians. And we are called to act like Christ.

I remember you at Mass.