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Economy Must Place People Above 'Idols of Finance'

Pope Francis

As many people around the world face economic uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic, a paradigm shift is needed that places the good of the many over the benefit of the few, Pope Francis said. As a general concept, economics should become "the expression of a care and concern that does not exclude but seeks to include, that does not demean but seeks to uplift and give life," the pope said Sept. 4 in a message to participants at an international forum sponsored by the "European House-Ambrosetti," an economic think tank based in Rome. Economics should be an expression of "care and concern that refuses to sacrifice human

"Each of our personal choices affects the lives of our neighbors, those next door and those in distant parts of the world."

dignity to the idols of finance, that does not give rise to violence and inequality, and that uses financial resources not to dominate but to serve," he said. "Genuine profit comes from treasures accessible to all." European House-Ambrosetti was holding its annual forum Sept. 4-6 in the northern Italian city of Cernobbio. According to its website, the forum gathers government authorities, businesspeople, scholars and experts "to discuss current issues of major impact for the world economy and society as a whole." In his message, the pope said the issues facing the world "call for extraordinary efforts to meet the challenges created or aggravated by the present medical, economic and social emergency." The COVID-19 pandemic, he wrote, "has taught us that none of us is saved alone." The message follows, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

offer a warm greeting to all those taking part in the forum of the European House-Ambrosetti. Your discussions this year deal with significant issues involving society, the economy and innovation: issues that call for extraordinary efforts to meet the challenges created or aggravated by the present medical, economic and social emergency.

The experience of the pandemic has taught us that none of us is saved alone. We have experienced at firsthand the vulnerability of the human condition that is ours and that makes us one family. We have come to see more clearly that each of our personal

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