



In Achieving This Responsibility,
Recall That:

“It Takes Nothing
To Join The Crowd;

It Takes Everything
To Stand Alone”.

Hans. F. Hansen

March 14, 2016

Reflections from your Faith TO Justice Committee

The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

Prov. 29:7

Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic act; the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our life style.

(Pope Benedict)

Compulsive consumerism is one example of how the techno-economic paradigm affects individuals. Romano Guardini had already foreseen this: “The gadgets and technics forced upon him by the patterns of machine production and of abstract planning mass man accepts quite simply; they are the forms of life itself. To either a greater or lesser degree mass man is convinced that his conformity is both reasonable and just”. This paradigm leads people to believe they are free as long as they have the supposed freedom to consume. But those really free are the minority who wield economic and financial power. Amid this confusion, postmodern humanity has not yet achieved a new self-awareness capable of offering guidance and direction, and this lack of identity is a source of anxiety. We have too many means and only a few insubstantial ends.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #203