

Guerrilla Gardening

September 20, 2008

Over the last few years I have advised several owners of a house with a yard or garden to pull up the rose-bushes and plant potatoes. Some of them must have wondered what on earth I was talking about. With the collapse of Wall Street and finance capitalism now well on its way, they may understand better.

It is the last Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, the bankers' puppet at the head of the bankers' own Sesame Cave, who for several years promoted, pushed and protected those financial instruments known as "derivatives" which the famed American investor Warren Buffett denounced prophetically soon after they appeared as "weapons of mass financial destruction." In other words the bankers themselves put in place the rolling rock to let loose the avalanche.

"Free enterprise" means in effect survival of the fittest, with freedom for the stronger to eat up the weaker, until takeovers and mergers make enterprises so massive that they become too big to fail. Then, by capitalism's internal contradiction, the failing enterprises that used to scream for the government not to intervene, now scream for it to intervene, and we see, for instance, the US government nationalising Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae (Sept. 13), AIG, etc. Thus capitalism and socialism that always pretended to be enemies suddenly discover they are friends, while the bankers' globalism is waiting in the wings to swallow up both of them.

So what is the solution to the grand problem of the false split between capitalism and socialism? Many serious and honest non-Catholics recognize it is to be found in Pope Leo XIII's famed Encyclical of 1891, *Rerum Novarum*. That solution is the Gospel. Yes, both capitalism and socialism are problems

ultimately religious!

And what is the solution to the immediate problem of rising food prices and imminent war (classic solution for capitalism's problems)? See the article on "Guerrilla Gardening" in the August 25 edition of the admirable "American Free Press" – dig up the lawn and plant potatoes.

Kyrie eleison.