

# INVITATION & CALL FOR PAPERS

Castelgandolfo  
23-25 April 2006

The experience matured within the "Economy of Communion" project over the last 15 years since its conception, has also stimulated scientific reflection. Scholars from various fields of the economic sciences, as well as persons interested in a cultural elaboration in the economic sphere, participate in this reflection. They share the intuition that a vision of economic behaviour lies behind the Economy of Communion (EoC), which is original and enlightening. They also share the conviction that experiences of fraternity, reciprocity, and civil life must and can flourish in economic relationships too - even in the market sphere.

Thanks to the EoC (as well as to the many other experiences of social and civil economy), we are witnessing a small and silent cultural revolution that gives new meaning to the traditional language of economic sciences. Some traditional categories of thought are found inadequate to grasp the essence of the EoC. In particular we refer to the classical contrasts between non-profit/for-profit, capitalism/socialism, liberalism/communitarianism. In fact it is not a case that the EoC is considered as for-profit by the non-profit world and as non-profit by the for-profit, as capitalist by the critics of capitalism and as socialist by capitalism supporters, as liberal by the communitarians and communitarianist by the liberals. At the same time, some categories, which were rightly or wrongly considered as insignificant to economic reflection, have all of a sudden with the EoC revealed themselves surprisingly as up-to-date, and thus the object of particular attention. Above all, we could think of the significance that terms such as gratuity and fraternity take on in describing the behaviours of the persons who adhere to the EoC project.

With the study seminar that will be held at Castelgandolfo from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2006, we intend to continue the theoretical reflection on the Economy of Communion. In particular we wish to analyse if, and with which results, categories such as gratuity, reciprocity, and relationality are important for the operation of 3 situations specific of the project. They are:

- [1] the distribution of the aid to the poor, which gives rise to an alternative model of economic development, and a different rapport with the poor and with poverty;
- [2] the governance, organisation, and general management of the EoC enterprises;
- [3] the cooperation among the firms that are situated in the nascent EoC business parks.