

JIM C – QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY – 11/17/08

Past terrorist attacks and current economic crises have reopened the debate on ethics - individual rights versus the common good.

HOW DID THE TERM “*THE COMMON GOOD*” ORIGINATE?

***Definition:* An admission of the individual's basic right in society to the opportunity to freely shape his life by responsible action, in pursuit of virtue and in accordance with the moral law. A minimal state only guarantees man the freedom to seek his own happiness as long as he does not trample the equivalent rights of others.**

***Origin:* Aristotle first articulated an ethical understanding of common good, followed by Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas who developed the concept into standard moral theology. The common good is central to the tenets of many religious faiths - do unto others as we would wish done unto ourselves.**

The common good is a concept central to the Catholic Social Teaching - Pope Leo XIII issued Rerum Novarum, a papal encyclical, in 1891 to guarantee the right to private property while insisting on the role of the state to require a living wage.

C W: Common Good = A 18th century construct for community

Moment of Zen: A good philosophical ideal in a reality-based world