Did Translators Alter Encyclical? Jesuit Says So

Hope does XXIII's recent encyclical, "Humani Generis omnium," pass the scrutiny of those who speak Latin as their native tongue? Jesuit says no. And he notes the Vatican's agreement to send the work to Latin American bishops for use in the region suggests the encyclical's wording is not truly translated but in Latin American terms.

The Jesuit, Francis X. Kosek, a Latin-American scholar of French birth and residence, charged last that when Vatican translators released the document to the world, they had made lasting changes to the meaning of the encyclical. The translation, he said, carries less meaning than the original and is not the work of Jesuit scholars, who are better equipped to translate Latin into Latin.

The Jesuit, who is a member of the Jesuit Order in the United States, said that because Latin American bishops have been assigned the task of translating the encyclical into their own languages, it is clear that they are not the ones to do the work. The encyclical, he said, is "a work of great importance" that must be handled with care.

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