

*Rerum Novarum* for more specific ends: in a cautious article entitled 'The Yardstick for Wages according to the Encyclical', it was carefully argued that some wages, even Catholic ones, were clearly set at far too low a level, and that this had now been expressly forbidden by the Pope with the full backing of his apostolic authority.<sup>50</sup> And in an apparently ambitious article called 'The Solution of the Social Question', *De Maasbode* used *Rerum Novarum* as its authority for strong arguments couched in corporatist terms and much 'body-imagery' that the state should return to the Church the control of poor-relief and charity which it had usurped.<sup>51</sup> The least conservative of the Catholic national dailies, *Het Centrum*, remarked rather darkly that there were a number of Catholics who hadn't yet given *Rerum Novarum* their full attention, and who thought that other things were more important: in this they were gravely mistaken.<sup>52</sup>

It is thus clear that Leo was not always successful in uniting the Dutch Catholics with his *Rerum Novarum*, and that in some cases it actually divided them. For example, the monthly *De Katholiek* was very guarded, while the Jesuit *Studiën* was enthusiastic.<sup>53</sup> A new daily was set up, the *Noordbrabantsch Dagblad* in January 1892, to spread the word of *Rerum Novarum*, while at the other extreme it was maintained that Leo's words only really applied to Italy.<sup>54</sup>

The dominant reaction was one of effusive devotion, thanksgiving and wonder at the brilliance of the pontiff in his wisdom. For Ariëns, Leo was more than ever the prophesied 'Lumen in caelo' or 'Light from heaven',<sup>55</sup> while Schaepman spoke of 'the greatest encyclical of Pope Leo XIII', of its 'invincible logic', and of 'the thrill you all have felt, along with thousands of others, which the supreme pastor's message has sent through the highest and lowest, through the hearts and the heads of all'.<sup>56</sup> In its main leader on *Rerum Novarum*, *De Tijd* spoke of 'the enduring power which rests in the Papacy', and of the encyclical's 'calm confidence in its own potency'.<sup>57</sup> 'No other power in the world', exclaimed the leader-writer, 'is capable of a performance like this!'<sup>58</sup> Of the Catholic

50. *De Tijd*, 24 August 1891.

51. *De Maasbode*, 27 September 1891.

52. *Het Centrum*, 15 July 1891.

53. Rogier, *Katholieke herleving*, 329.

54. Rogier, *Katholieke herleving*, 330.

55. See Roes, *Bronnen*, XXXIX.

56. Schaepman, *Rerum Novarum*, 5-7.

57. *De Tijd*, 2 June 1891.

58. *De Tijd*, 1 June 1891.