



CONVERSION OF THE HEART BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ILLINOIS

Conversion is the response to God's self-revelation as love. Infinite love calls us to a transformation of mind and heart, a turning away from sin and an embrace of God's way for us. Once converted, our eyes are opened; we see what is truly important. We become, with God's grace, free, responsible and holy.

Conversion changes individuals, and individuals change society. Overcoming the sin or racism begins by opening ourselves to God's Spirit who draws all to holiness. The Spirit makes each of us a member of the Body of Christ, and this spiritual relationship is the source of our hope for personal and social change. In Christ, we recognize racism as a division contrary to His will for His people, a division the Spirit will heal.

Any human society, if it is to be well-ordered and productive, must lay down as a foundation this principle, namely, that every human being is a person, that is, his/her nature is endowed with intelligence and free will. Indeed, precisely because s/he is a person, s/he has rights and obligations flowing directly and simultaneously from his/her very nature.

- Pope John XXIII,
Peace on Earth, #9

The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world; all of the Church's work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. For each person not only reflects God, but is the expression of God's creative work and the meaning of Christ's redemptive ministry.

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
The Challenge of Peace, #15

Life, especially human life, belongs to God; whoever attacks human life attacks God's very self.

- Pope John Paul II,
The Gospel of Life, #9

Human Dignity can be realized and protected only in community.

-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
Economic Justice for All, #14