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AMERICA/BOLIVIA - Bishops on the 185th anniversary of Bolivia: “Faced with the plague of corruption and drug trafficking we should promote a culture of life.”

La Paz (Agenzia Fides) – Yesterday, August 6, Bolivia commemorated the 185th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, in the midst of a complex process of transition and transformation into a multinational state. On this anniversary of the country, the Bishops of Bolivia have issued an encouraging message of solidarity and hope to the people of all regions and cultures.
The bishops write: "As a church, rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ, we have actively participated in building the country. We have helped to overcome moments of confrontation; we have raised our voices when injustices have brought suffering and pain for the most disadvantaged, especially when the dictatorial and repressive regimes have violated human, civil, social, and political rights."
"There is no doubt that the present moment is full of plans and desires to build a fairer society... The recognition of cultural differences should not blind us to the fundamental equality of all Bolivians as human beings created in the image and likeness of God."
"The justice that, in many cases, in our country has been an instrument of economic power and thus discredited, especially among the poor, is now in danger of falling subject to political interests, in such a way that it continues to create mistrust," continues the bishops' message.
"We note with great concern that the scourge of corruption and drug trafficking continues to grow in the country and create a culture of death. There is a growing number of Bolivian youth who are victims of this social scourge of drugs. Given the scope and implications of this phenomenon, a reaction is needed from society, especially from authorities, in order to counter its growth and foster a culture of life,” say the bishops.
They conclude with an appeal, "It seems appropriate for us to call on everyone to go beyond party interests and to work together to find paths of hope, progress, coexistence, equality, freedom, and justice for our people." (CE)
(Agenzia Fides 07/08/2010)

> LINKS
Complete document (in Spanish): http://www.fides.org/spa/documents/CEBolivia_04082010.doc:

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