



## **AMERICA/VENEZUELA-"It is urgent for human beings to regain respect and dignity " underline the Bishops on the occasion of the Bicentenary**

Caracas (Agenzia Fides) - On the occasion of the celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of Venezuela, the Episcopal Conference of Latin American has published a document that invites you to experience this moment of patriotism with a Christian meaning. The document, entitled "The Bicentenary of July 5" (1811-2011), underlines the call to transform the fragmented, violent and aggressive society, in another society that is fair, respectful and united, guided by the values of the Gospel. The document reads: "Our country is going through an increasingly difficult socio-political situation. In fact, while many nations are experiencing a systematic, progressive and accelerated development, Venezuela has undergone a steady deterioration in economic and social terms, which implies being left outside the global trend of the changes that enable sustainable development. On top of this we add what we are experiencing in recent days: the drama of inhumane prisons (see Fides 24/6/2011). The ambiguity in the defense of human rights and the inefficiency of the State to respond adequately to this major problem, makes us believe that the authorities are simply not interested in this situation which is now controlled by the prisoners themselves. It is time to give a final solution and to humanize the prison system".

The document sent to Fides recalls that the Bicentennial should be a cause for commitment to change society. "We must not lose the critical capacity - the text continues - or the ability of moral reaction, we cannot sit back and look at a situation that damages human tissue and spiritual depths of Venezuelan society. The commemoration of the bicentenary offers us the opportunity to make proposals, as citizens and pastors, who can become the criteria of social renewal of Venezuela". The Bishops therefore indicate: regaining from everyone respect and promotion of the inviolable dignity of human beings and all his rights; to consider the value of a work culture and of supportive collaboration in production and wealth management; strengthen the sense of citizenship, because "being a citizen means to be responsible for the lives and progress of the community"; be disciples of truth, kindness and gratitude. The document concludes with an invitation to "walk the path of brotherhood and respect", seeking the common good and service, "without affecting others, even those who do not think like us". (EC) (Agenzia Fides 07/07/2011)

### > LINKS

The complete document (in Spanish):: [http://www.fides.org/spa/documents/BICENTENARIO\\_5\\_JULIO\\_venezuela.doc](http://www.fides.org/spa/documents/BICENTENARIO_5_JULIO_venezuela.doc):