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AMERICA/BRAZIL - "The candidates are opponents, not enemies": Church calls for a vote without violence

Brasilia (Agenzia Fides) - The upcoming municipal elections, which will be held on October 7, is "an opportunity to strengthen the Brazilian democracy." The use of violence, which characterizes the campaign in many areas, "is unacceptable: candidates are opponents, not enemies": So says a statement issued by the Council of Bishops of Brazil, gathered in Brasilia from September 25 to 27. According to the Council of Bishops, the next administrative elections "trigger a process of greater participation," approaching candidates and voters.
The Bishops' note, sent to Fides Agency, said: "The law that fights vote-buying and the law of 'Transparent Paper', both born of popular mobilization (see Fides 17/02/2012, 24/09/2011 and 30/10/2010), have proved to being effective in preventing corrupted people occupying public offices." But, the report says, it is always necessary that every voter exercises "their awareness, both at the moment of voting, and when applying these laws," denouncing candidates and parties involved in illegal practices.
The document, signed by the highest authorities of the Episcopal Conference, warned: "The use of violence is unacceptable: candidates are opponents, not enemies. The division, fueled by hatred and revenge, contradicts the gospel principle of charity and forgiveness and hurts human dignity: It also violates the basic rules of healthy living together in society, which should guide every political militancy. Otherwise, how can one look for the common good, inspiring principle of politics? ".
Brazilian citizens of 5565 the city will be called to the polls on October 7th. According to the Brazilian press, the "Workers Party", currently in power in the country, have a decline in popularity, due to the scandals concerning the alleged vote-buying. The surveys foresee the decline in key cities such as Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Salvador and Recife. (CE) (Agenzia Fides 29/09/2012)

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