



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All human persons have an inherent right to “Equality, Prosperity and Peace”. The fundamental equality that exists among all men and women finds its origin both in being created in the image of God and sharing an eternal destiny to be with God in heaven. And, while Adam was told by God that it would be “By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat,” there is the expectation that through work, people will experience the prosperity that is necessary to sustain life and have a quality of life that reflects our dignity as children of God.

Peace is a different reality. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that “the common good requires *peace*, that is, the stability and security of a just order. It presupposes that authority should ensure by morally acceptable means the *security* of society and its members.” (CCC #1909) At the same time, Jesus taught his disciples “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world give do I give it to you. Do not let our hearts be troubled or afraid.”

While we must all pray and work for equality, that every human person will be treated with dignity and respect, and for prosperity, that all may enjoy a just life where every person has access to and is free to receive the fruits of creation that are necessary to sustain and enrich our lives, and will live free from violence in all forms, we must never forget that there is a grace that is peace that regardless of a person’s situation in life will fill our hearts with hope; hope that is rooted in the gracious love of God.

I am grateful for the ongoing work of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation that promotes efforts in support of “Equality, Prosperity and Peace” in the very challenging environment that continues to exist in the Holy Land.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix