

Racism and the call of the Church –

1. In today's readings we hear:

“If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.”

“Light shines through the darkness for the upright; he is gracious and merciful and just. Well for the man who is gracious and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice.”

“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

2. The light of glory according to Irenaeus is the human being who is fully alive and to live is to behold God.

3. To behold God: Pope Saint John Paul II tells us ~~that~~ the guiding principle of Pope Leo's Encyclical, and of all of the Church's social doctrine, is a correct view of the human person and of his unique value inasmuch as "man ... is the only creature on ~~earth~~ which God willed for itself" God has imprinted his own image and likeness on man (cf. Gen 1:26), conferring upon him an incomparable dignity, as the Encyclical frequently insists. In effect, beh

of neighbor such that love of God ~~is~~ lie if we refuse a relationship with our neighbor. As the indispensable core of the Christian life within the community of believers, love means that whatever is necessary for a dignified human life can never be denied to anyone. The genuine ~~message~~ ~~of~~ God is primarily disclosed in living the Christian life and the service of charity carries out the Church's love that seeks the integral good of the human person. The struggle for justice and love in our contemporary reality means working ~~from~~ and toward a true humanism.

8. The struggle for justice and love in our contemporary reality means working from and toward a true humanism. Therefore, there must be a vast work of education in the values that highlight the dignity of the person and safeguard ~~his~~ or her fundamental rights.
9. That education is rooted in the Incarnation, which John tells us in his Gospel was the light who appeared in the darkness, but the darkness did not overcome him. Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and do good to those who persecute us. For example, ~~in~~ the Samaritan village refused to welcome him and the disciples James and John wanted to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, echoing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Jesus refused to do so but simply continued his journey to Jerusalem knowing what awaited him there.
10. Pope Francis continues in the tradition of Jesus when in his ~~World of Peace~~ ~~message~~ he says: "On this occasion, I would like to reflect on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms."
11. Mission of MU –