Response to the Luis Rivera Pagán Lecture

Is Cuban migration a solution to the problems of the conflict Cuba - USA?

The difference in the migration of Cubans to the US with respect to other countries?

Every morning that I get up to go to work, I go out thanking God for life and with the joy of being on time to complete the day's work. Thus I undertake a meaningful journey, feeling that I am following Jesus Christ in the midst of everyday circumstances. But among so many questions and answers that arise to me, many times I have reflected on the time that I have already been on the path of God, and I am still here in the land of my parents, where I was born.

Not staying in the same place and country, that is, emigrating, is one of the global topics of discussion in all contexts. The plight of the world's refugees and related immigration problems have become two of the current issues that most cause people to take diametrically opposite positions. We live in a time when fear of the "stranger" has escalated, reinforcing the approval of strictly anti-immigration legislation. And, in a time of global economic downturn like the current one, public opinion can easily turn toward anti-immigration sentiment. No real and lasting solution to this crisis will emerge until the time comes when we, as a global community, begin to address the root cause of the problem, which lies in the economic disparities and social injustice that currently prevail in the world.

Dr. Pagán mentions in his lecture the situation of several regions, but does not refer specifically to the case of Cuba. It's true that our country has had privileges in this regard for more than 60 years. The Administration of the US government, in a first stage, promoted and supported migration with political purposes to destabilize our nation in every way. The long journeys and rickety boats or rafts that crossed the sea occasionally ended in tragedy. Many Cubans have drowned trying to reach the United States from Cuba or third countries. Migration has been in some cases political but mostly economic and for reasons of family reunification.

Cuba is a country blocked for more than 60 years with challenges and, above all, uncertainties in the way to coexist with the US without interference and without ideological discussions which increasingly worsen the economic situation, leading to despair the people that have suffer from deprivation for more than half a century and try to survive.

For Cubans, we must reconsider how to depoliticize the relationships between people living in the diaspora to avoid by all means a confrontation between both groups. Reconciliation and love must prevail and thus fulfill the Lord's commandments. The Church, the people of God is the one who must begin to establish the dialogues in order to reach the kingdom of God and His justice. We cannot live hating because a person thinks differently; it is necessary to learn to dialogue and not enter into confrontations that prevent good coexistence between peoples, establish bridges of friendship between those who live
outside and inside Cuba. A God who unites His people in love based on the life of Jesus Christ: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

_Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other._ Psalms 85:10

Reconciliation based on love must inspire us in these times and not expressions of prejudice, xenophobia, and all kinds of discrimination and violence that separate or attack us. As followers of Jesus Christ, in the first instance we must contribute to the improvement of the relations between all Cuban men and women.