

War and Just War Theory



Deliberate hatred is contrary to charity. Hatred of the neighbor is a sin when one deliberately wishes him evil. Hatred of the neighbor is a grave sin when one deliberately desires him grave harm. "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

Respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace

cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is "the tranquility of order." Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. CCC 2303-4.

Church Documents:

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part III, Section 2, Chapter 2, Article 5, n.2302-17. Available at <http://old.usccb.org/catechism/text/pt3sect2chpt2art5.shtml>.

Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (1983). Available at <http://www.nuclearfiles.org/menu/key-issues/ethics/issues/religious/us-catholic-bishops-pastoral-letter.htm>.

Catholic Websites:

"How to Vote Catholic: War," CatholiCity.com. Available at <http://www.catholicity.com/vote/war.html>.

"Just War Doctrine," Catholic Answers. Available at http://www.catholic.com/library/Just_War_Doctrine_1.asp

"When is War Justified?" AmericanCatholic.org. Available at <http://www.americancatholic.org/news/justwar/justwar.asp>.

This document contains some hyperlinks to web sites operated by parties other than the Archdiocese of Baltimore. These hyperlinks are provided for your reference only. The Archdiocese of Baltimore does not control such web sites and is not responsible for their contents. The inclusion of hyperlinks to other web sites does not imply any endorsement of the material on these web sites or any association with their operators.