



Parish Social Mission Week: Dec. 2-8

[I]t is not just our policies and programming that must change; it is our hearts. We must condemn not only the killing but also the abuse in our homes, the anger in our hearts, and the glorification of violence in movies and music.

Confronting a Culture of Violence, U.S. Bishops, 1994

Gun Violence in Illinois

- In 2004, firearms killed 994 people in Illinois; 573 of which were homicides.
- In 2004, 143 children aged 0-19 were killed by guns in Illinois.
- From 1999 to 2004, 1,039 children have been killed by guns.



We believe that in the long run and with few exceptions (i.e., police officers, military use), handguns should be eliminated from our society. Furthermore, the widespread use of handguns and automatic weapons in connection with drug commerce reinforces our repeated 'call for effective and courageous action to control handguns, leading to their eventual elimination from our society.

New Slavery, New Freedom: A Pastoral Message on Substance Abuse, U.S. Catholic Bishops (1990)

Our schools and our society in general must address the growing "culture of violence." We need to promote a greater sense of moral responsibility, to advocate a reduction in violence in the media, to support gun safety measures and reasonable restrictions on access to assault weapons and hand guns, and to oppose the use of the death penalty.

Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility, U.S. Catholic Bishops, (2004)

As bishops, we support measures that control the sale and use of firearms and make them safer (especially efforts that prevent their unsupervised use by children or anyone other than the owner), and we reiterate our call for sensible regulation of handguns. ... As people of faith and as citizens, we are called to become involved in civil society and to advocate for policies that reflect our values. ... We must advocate on behalf of those most vulnerable to crime (the young and the elderly), ensure community safety, and attack the leading contributors to crime, which include the breakdown of family life, poverty, the proliferation of handguns, drug and alcohol addiction, and the pervasive culture of violence.

Responsibility, Rehabilitation & Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, U.S. Catholic Bishops, (2000)