

Catalonia has been shaped by Christianity: the genius of our people, our culture, our language and our world view have, undoubtedly, Christian roots.

Our commitment as citizens and Christians pushes us to work for the rights of the people that make up our nation, not only individually, but also as a community, that is, as a people and nation.

We are rooted in a civil and ecclesiastical tradition which helped to maintain and intensify consciousness over time, although a number of challenges and external circumstances have tried repeatedly, in vain, to destroy it.

Bishop Torras i Bages, in *the Catalan tradition*, stated: "The most important thing is to promote the substance of the motherland."

Carles Cardó, in *The Two Traditions. The Spiritual History of the 'Spains'*, claimed: "Let's make it possible that Catalonia, rather than putting effort in self-declaring, puts all the efforts in Being intensely in all orders, as against being there is no any force

Catalan bishops stated in the document *'Christian Roots of Catalonia'*: "We, as bishops of the Church in Catalonia, embodied in this people, affirm the national reality of Catalonia, having been shaped during a thousand years of history, and also claim the application of the doctrine of the Ecclesiastical Magisterium for Catalonia: the rights and cultural values of the ethnic minorities within a state, the peoples and the nations or nationalities must be respected, and even promoted by the state, which in no way can, according to law and justice, pursue them, destroy them or assimilate them into another majority culture. The existence of the Catalan nation requires an adequate legal and political framework to allow the exercise of the aforementioned rights viable".

And, on occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the aforementioned document, in the letter *'To the service of our people'*, the bishops said: "Likewise, in continuity with our predecessors, we recognize our own personality and national features in the real

meaning of the expression, and we defend the right to demand and promote all what it entails."

Given that nowadays the Catalan nation is systematically impeded from exercising their rights; our people live more passionately, with an appreciation of their particularity and specificity, *than in early past*. This awareness is accompanied by a firm commitment to the achieving of full sovereignty for Catalonia.

Christian social thinking gives us a rich argument which legitimizes such will regarding our case, doing grasp that:

- People, are defined by culture; a culture that thrives on our specific territory in which geographical, historical and ethnic elements interweave in a unique and original way; a culture that expresses the fundamental sovereignty of our nation which we must not allow to be denigrated by political and economic interests;
- Our language, learned by some within the family, incorporated from society by others, allow us to be membership of our nation; a language that expresses our experiences, our civil and political achievements, and the feelings of our struggles and our aspirations;
- Our nation will be truly free when it can be constituted as a community determined and bonded by the union of its language, culture and history and is able to live in full freedom and equality with all other peoples of the world.
- The right of our people, as everyone else's, of organizing itself, being responsible for their own affairs and being their own subject of development, must be respected for reasons of justice;
- The experience of freedom which, as individuals and as people, we are searching for, is a big challenge for our personal and spiritual growth and for the moral vitality of our nation; loyalty to our national roots also has a religious character.

Christian conscience urges us to wish coexistence for our nation, based on:

- truth (recognition of human rights and obligations);
- justice (respect for other people's rights and fulfilment of one's own obligations);
- love (feel our neighbour's necessities like our own);
- freedom (setting up a system respectful of the dignity of citizens that enables responsible action).

Furthermore, we consider that the full sovereignty of our people may allow a more authentic experience of the individual dimension of our faith, notwithstanding its universality.

Therefore, as Christians, we feel it morally legitimate to give our opinion and act with the aim of achieving full sovereignty. This option does not mean enmity towards other people. On the contrary, it tries to achieve a development as a nation which enables us to take up responsibility for our actions, whilst maintaining a relationship of equality, respect and solidarity, with other peoples of the world.

With this purpose, we invite you to join us and work, together with other fellow citizens, within the framework of the Assemblea Nacional Catalana (Catalan National Assembly), so that Catalonia can become an independent state within the European Union.



[www.cristians.cat](http://www.cristians.cat)  
[cristians@assemblea.cat](mailto:cristians@assemblea.cat)