

## Diocesan Policy on Gambling on Church Property or at Church Events

In recent months, my office has been questioned about the policy with regard to gambling in the Diocese of Chicago.

My position is the same as that taken by Lambeth Conference, my three predecessors—Bishop Stewart, Bishop Conkling, and Bishop Burrill—and the general stance of the Episcopal Church.

I wish to make it clear that there will be no gambling of any kind in the Diocese of Chicago to raise funds for Church purposes. This is more than a moral problem; it is a matter of stewardship. We should give of our substance for Our Lord's work because of our love for Him and not be depending upon devices that are unworthy of the cause to which we give.

I would like to point out four aspects of gambling which should be recognized by all Christians:

1. Gambling is created for gain without service. The gambler always hopes to get something for nothing.
2. Gambling creates an artificial risk. It is not at all similar to the unavoidable risks of life.
3. Gambling is done at the total loss to the loser. The winner cannot win save at the expense of another.
4. The outcome of gambling depends upon the turn of chance. It is risking money hap hazardly.

In summation, I would like to quote Archbishop Temple's view on gambling:

Gambling challenges that view of life that the Christian Church exists to uphold and extend. Its glorification of mere chance is a denial of the divine order of nature.... [Gambling] disregards the insistence of the Church of every age that possessions are a trust and that men much account for their use. The persistent appeal to covetousness is fundamentally opposed to the unselfishness which was taught by Jesus Christ and the New Testament as a whole.

+ James W. Montgomery  
Bishop of Chicago

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