
Central America

Vatican's war on cults begins in Honduras

The Honduran Bishops Council's unequivocal condemnation of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church in early April is the opening salvo in a campaign by the Vatican to halt the proliferation of the fundamentalist cults whose aim is to submerge the nations of Central America in civil and religious wars.

The Bishops Council attack on the Moon cult as anti-Christian—denying the fundamental doctrine of Christ's consubstantiality, that he was both God and man—lays the basis for the Church to denounce not only other right-wing cults, but also the left-wing "liberation theology" of the Jesuits. This left-right conflict has been used to generate the population wars in the region (see *EIR*, May 10).

The Honduran bishops made their attack after General Gustavo Alvarez, the Honduran Defense Minister, was inducted into the cult. Mexican and European sources have reported that Alvarez has given the Unification Church and its political front group, the Confederation of the Associations for the Unification of the Societies of the Americas (CAUSA) permission to recruit among Honduras' military officers. CAUSA was created as a special Latin American split-off of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL), an international protective organization for death squads in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and elsewhere.

Excerpts from the April 8 statement follow:

Because of the establishment in our country of the movement CAUSA . . . the Bishops of Honduras upon mature reflection and in compliance with our pastoral duty to defend the security of our faithful in matters of faith and morality, to all priests, nuns and the faithful in general we declare the following:

In a world anguished by division over the great dangers of materialism and communism, before a youth which increasingly lacks confidence in its elders and their values, the Unification Church . . . with studied and subtle psychological techniques . . . utilizing all the means of social communication, especially the press and television, for its propaganda . . . choose very suggestive and attractive themes, which are proposed in the most acceptable forms. . . .

They know especially how to attract the youth which, being the most idealistic, are the most easily subjugated by these well expressed causes and, at the beginning, there is little or no reference to religious questions. . . .

They make every effort to make their first invitations appear attractive, including presenting themselves as one with the predominant church of the area. Here they make use of one South American priest who, according to our sources, is under sentence of canonic suspension by his Catholic bishop.

Once their neophytes are captured, the Unification Church . . . little by little begins to invite its initiates to longer meetings or retreats . . . submitting them to psychological techniques that can be described as destructive and which lead in some cases to nervous breakdowns, even insanity, suicides, loss of will and liberty. . . . "I am a thinker, I am your brain," says Moon to his people. . . .

While this process of indoctrination is going on, which could be described as a sort of hypnotic domination of a person, the religious aspects of the Unification Church little by little begin to appear, because under the force and weight of religion it is very easy to dominate man. . . .

The Unification Church, although headed by someone who passes himself off as a Christian, must in reality be considered an anti-Christian religion. . . . For this church, Jesus was only a man and not God and man. For Moon, although Jesus was the first man to obey God, a great number of errors stained his mission of salvation and unification of humanity and made him fail. But now, according to Moon, Jesus has conferred upon him the mission Jesus was unable to complete. . . .

This church also insists that Jesus was the bastard son of Zachary and Mary and even denies his divinity. Losing faith in Jesus, it is easy to create a lack of confidence in any other Christian Church that is His. Therefore this church is not simply one more Christian church but a truly anti-Christian church. . . . The Christian must know absolutely that Christ is the best unifying link between himself and God. As John Paul II said in Managua, "Christ came to reestablish the lost unity so that there would be 'just one flock' and 'just one shepherd'. . . . This unity was of such motivation to Christ's mission that he 'came to die to reunite as one the sons of God which were dispersed.'" Outside of Christ, instead of uniting ourselves, we will divide ourselves.

Taking into account all the grave dangers the Unification Church presents . . . we absolutely prohibit any priests, nuns or other religious persons from taking part or simply attending any . . . meeting of . . . any other organization of the Unification Church.

We seriously alert all lay persons and all persons of good will . . . to the serious threats to the psychological, religious and civic integrity of those who give themselves to CAUSA. . . . To the extent we can, we prohibit all lay persons who want to remain Catholics, from giving their names to CAUSA or participating in its gatherings. . . .