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**DO YOU WANT**

- **A POLITICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH?**
- **if so, LEFT WING OR CONSERVATIVE?**

**DO YOU WANT**

- **AN AMERICANIZED CATHOLIC CHURCH?**



**OR DO YOU WANT**

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA?**

**These questions are relevant because in America we have a Church  
that is  
rapidly becoming politicized  
and increasingly distinct from Rome.**

# THE POLITICIZATION OF THE CHURCH IN AMERICA

**THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE (USCC)** the political arm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB): (USCC 1983 budget: \$22,600,000)

- a) is a political entity, a social agency, purely secular, incorporated under U.S. law in 1967;
- b) has no canonical jurisdiction over Catholics;
- c) is totally independent of Rome;
- d) yet prepares plans for social, political and economic propaganda, policy statements, and Congressional testimony FOR THE BISHOPS and was the CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE PASTORAL ON WAR AND PEACE.

Its politicization is obvious in its workings which include:

- frequent depositions before Congressional committees,<sup>1</sup>
- lobbying,<sup>2</sup>
- letters to political figures urging specific economic, social and political steps,<sup>3</sup>
- frequent policy statements advocating specific political, social and economic changes,<sup>4</sup>
- use of church structures and funds to urge such changes,<sup>5</sup>
- concrete plans for indoctrination of students, priests and laity on subject of PACIFISM<sup>6</sup>

and

- SELECTION OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM AS THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT PASTORAL LETTER, CANNILY RENAMED "CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING and THE AMERICAN ECONOMY."

"That the bishops have addressed mainly liberal issues can be explained largely by the political bias of the staff of the Department of Social Development and World Peace." ... "which prepares most of the bishops' statements on political issues..." This USCC staff "does not include representatives of traditional conservative or even neo-conservative viewpoints."

The Pursuit of a Just Social Order by J. Brian Benestad

<sup>1,3,4</sup> "Quest for Justice: A Compendium of the Statements of the U.S. Bishops on the Political and Social Order" edited by Benestad and Butler and "The Pursuit of a Just Social Order" by J. B. Benestad.

USCC's Spring, Summer Book flyer lists many bishops' statements from handguns to strip mining.

<sup>2</sup>USCC's enthusiastic acknowledgment by phone.

<sup>3</sup>e.g. last section of USCC's "Reform of Correctional Institutions in the 1970s" also "Bishops' Education for Justice," section 1.

<sup>6</sup>USCC's J/PEC's flyer offers seminars for teachers, etc., on "The Infusion Technique...for integrating Justice/Peace concepts...into the existing curriculum."

## **PARTISAN POLITICIZATION OF THE CHURCH WHETHER TO RIGHT OR LEFT:**

- destroys the universal character of the Roman Catholic Church;
- concentrates on temporal matters to the neglect of eternal values;
- neglects the teaching of general principles of social, political and economic morality;
- preempts the right of the laity to apply these principles to particular cases;
- overlooks the complexity of secular problems which often require expertise not possessed by the Bishops or their consultants;
- diminishes the respect due to Bishops, teaching in their proper sphere;
- overlooks the possibility of honest disagreement over various solutions for these secular problems and therefore,
- tends to exclude honest, moral Catholics from solidarity with the Church.

### **"ORGANIZATION RESOURCES"**

recommended by United States Catholic Conference/JUSTICE AND PEACE

(partial list)

#### **Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy**

includes over 40 organizations exerting powerful pressure on Congress. Described by Heritage Foundation as the most comprehensive anti-defense effort to date.

#### **Center for Defense Information**

"designed," according to Heritage Foundation, "to effect the most fundamental changes in the national defense policies of the U.S. government."

SANE - espousing unilateral disarmament.

**CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED** whose avowed task is "to join those who...hate the corporate power which the U.S. presently represents."<sup>1</sup>

**Center of Concern** - established 1971 by Bishops, staffed by Jesuits, but independent of Church authority addresses international justice issues.

**Amnesty International**, headed in 1979 by a former Franciscan, and self-confessed "Christian Socialist."

**American Friends Service Committee, Institute for Policy Studies Project on Militarism and Disarmament.**

*"Christ did not bequeath to the Church a mission in the political, economic, or social order: the purpose he assigned to it was a religious one."*

*GAUDIUM ET SPES, VATICAN II*

<sup>1</sup>from Information Digest, remarks of Congressman McDonalds, Congressional Testimony October 15, 1977 P. E 6071.

For full coverage of workings of USCC see "The Gospel of Justice and Peace - According to the USCC," a series by Laurene Conner starting in the Wanderer March 18, 1982.

## CAUSES ESPOUSED BY NCCB/USCC

(partial list)

Panama Canal Treaty, Salt II, liberation theology, complete general disarmament, halt of sale or transfer of arms overseas, etc.

OTHER SECULAR PROBLEMS ADDRESSED BY NCCB/USCC are the energy crisis, social reconstruction, the family farm, farm labor, etc.

## USCC's CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

(partial list)

- declared national health insurance a moral necessity, ruling out other means of health care;
- opposed the death penalty;
- opposed registration and the draft except in emergencies;
- approved conscientious objection without provision for alternative service to the nation;
- blamed the poverty of developing nations on the "cupidity and waste" of wealthy nations;
- requested state regulation of corporations,
  - cancelling of government subsidies to multinational corporations,
  - taxing these corporations with the revenue to go to the developing nations,
  - legislation to limit profit taking in Third World, etc.;
- opposed aid to Nicaragua before the Sandinista takeover;
- opposes military aid to El Salvador now.
  
- CONCENTRATES ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN RIGHTIST REGIMES, according to openly avowed policy of Fr. Bryan Hehir, Director of USCC's Office of International Justice and Peace.

All this material in the Compendium of Bishops Statements on the Political and Social Order and Pursuit of a Just Social Order by J. B. Benestad.  
For documentation of liberal Catholic churchmen joining liberal Protestant leaders in fighting the free enterprise system, profit-taking and the corporation:  
"Sanctifying Revolution—Mainline Churchmen Turn Radical" by Rael and Erich Isaac,  
"Crusade Against The Corporation—Church Militants On The March" by Herman Nickel.

# KNOW

## WHAT CAUSES YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORT

"...the greatest cause of corruption arises not from stealing ...nor from the crooks...but from the generous givers who do not realise clearly the exact purpose the money or time they contribute is used for."

"...the 'givers' pious though they be too frequently contribute funds to the 'takers' who specialize in ideas and movements that make giving impossible."

Father James F. Schall S.J.  
Georgetown University

## SOME QUOTES FROM USCC LITERATURE

"...Catholic teaching has now reached a stage in which it no longer endorses a capitalist as opposed to a socialist economic model."

Catholic Teaching Regarding Capitalism and Socialism  
by Fr. Richard Cassidy, published by USCC's office of  
Justice and Peace

"For these Christians (those committed to liberation of oppressed in Latin America)...this struggle consists of the destruction of capitalism, in order to build in its place a new socialist society."

Christians for Socialism; A Christian Response by  
Fr. Arroyo S.J., prepared for publication by T. Quigley  
of USCC

## FROM USCC RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

"In Latin America the Church must place itself squarely within the process of revolution amid the violence that is present in different ways..."

A Theology of Liberation by Peruvian Father G. Gutierrez

## **THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT ALL THIS**

We invite your cooperation with a new group of many, well-established, independent organizations, publications and individuals.

### **THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COALITION**

**united by:**

- our Roman Catholic Faith
- loyalty to the authentic teachings of the Magisterium
- allegiance to the Holy Father

**Our Goals:**

- to fight against politicization and Americanization of the church;
- to prevent the domination of pacifism in the teaching of the Pastoral on War and Peace;
- to prepare for the next pastoral on the Bishops' agenda: Capitalism;
- to publicize as widely as possible the Pope's teachings especially on family life (Familiaris Consortio);
- to disseminate information on how our donations to the Church and Church-related organizations are spent and to warn against abuses of such controversial projects as Campaign for Human Development and Renew.

### **YOUR DONATION TO NCC WILL HELP US**

- TO FULFILL the above mentioned goals
- To keep you informed so your charitable donations will not undermine your ability to give

Send your tax deductible donations to:

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### **NATIONAL CATHOLIC COALITION**

P.O. Box 11251  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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# **TREND TOWARD THE AMERICANIZATION OF THE CHURCH AS DISTINCT FROM THE ONE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF ROME**

*"A major trend in this country is toward an American Church, that is a Church separate and independent from Rome," and "The locus of this trend is not in the laity but in the church leaders."*

Father K. Baker, S.J. of Homiletic and Pastoral Review

## **ALIENATION FROM ROME**

The flourishing of Secular Humanism, Liberation Theology, Process Theology, Situation Ethics, near-pornographic sex education, in spite of Papal warnings;

The sad state of catechesis; the need for reform of seminaries and convents;

Rejection of *Humanae Vitae* by many clergy; sluggishness or refusal to carry out directives from Rome regarding the liturgy, general absolution, etc.;<sup>1</sup>

The delegation of pastoral duties to a group of men and women (USCC), having no official status in the church, no responsibility to Rome;

The neglect of too many Bishops to guard the Faith as handed down from the Apostles and their protection of dissenters from authentic Catholic doctrine;<sup>2</sup>

INDIFFERENCE TO REPEATED PAPAL DIRECTIVES TO PURSUE THEIR RIGHTFUL DUTIES AND TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS.

## **ALIENATION FROM FAITHFUL AMERICAN BISHOPS**

Total disregard by USCC of opinions of pro-Papal Bishops (and clergy)

Connivance of an "intellectual elite" among other Bishops, theologians and clergy to disseminate their own opinions on matters of faith as well as on political and economic matters.

## **ALIENATION FROM BISHOPS OF OTHER COUNTRIES**

Bishops from other countries are disregarded:

Cardinal Bernadin stated at a Vatican press conference that any opposition expressed by European Bishops "won't significantly affect American Bishops."

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops openly disagreed with the Bishop from El Salvador when the latter came to testify as to conditions in his own country. This was noted by the Washington Post and described as "not edifying."

## **ARE WE TO HAVE A GEOGRAPHIC MORALITY?**

<sup>1</sup>Overwhelming documentation in "The Dissenting Church" by James Hitchcock.

<sup>2</sup>"The Crisis of Authority - John Paul II and the American Bishops" by Msgr. George A. Kelly.



**POPE JOHN PAUL II, TO THE BISHOPS IN BRAZIL:**

*"Your vocation as Bishops forbids you, quite clearly and without half measures, anything that resembles political party spirit or subjection to this or that ideology."*

**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COALITION**

**P.O. BOX 11251, St. Louis, MO 63105**

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new file

# CATHOLICISM IN CRISIS

A JOURNAL OF LAY CATHOLIC OPINION

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### CATHOLIC LAITY SEEK INDEPENDENT VOICE IN POST-CONCILIAR CHURCH WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A NEW JOURNAL CATHOLICISM IN CRISIS.

The first issue, published last week, and now in the mail, sharply criticizes the increasing excesses of clerical authority in the Church since the end of Vatican II.

"CATHOLICISM IN CRISIS was founded with long range goals," says editor and publisher Ralph McInerny, "but the appearance of our first issue at the time of a meeting of the Catholic bishops of the U.S. seems more than fortuitous. Call it providential. We aspire to be a voice for laymen who in another time would have described themselves as Liberals. Labels come and go, however, and our chief aim now is to bring to the attention of our bishops the views of Catholic lay intellectuals."

As post-Conciliar Catholics, the founders of CATHOLICISM IN CRISIS are loyal sons and daughters of the Church, responsive to the lead of the hierarchy, concerned lest the bishops be captured by those who foster a new clericalism, a systematic anti-Americanism and obedience to the winds of fashion.

In another generation, the Spanish War posed a crisis for the Catholic laity because of the tendency of some bishops to see Franco as the champion of the Church. Jacques Maritain spoke out against this. COMMONWEAL was founded in large part because of this crisis. Today it is likewise important that the Catholic Church not be identified with causes which are actually inimical to her well-being and indeed survival.

Contributors include former writers and editors in liberal Catholic publications, such as COMMONWEAL, THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER, and AMERICA. But the new publication will be non-partisan and inclusive.

COPIES OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF CATHOLICISM IN CRISIS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.