

Catholic Base Movements support P. Jon Sobrino and ask for Reform of the CDF

Before the Pope's Journey to Brazil International Catholic Base Movements Welcome Theologians' Demand for Reform of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Letter of support to liberation theologian P. Jon Sobrino SJ

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One week before the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Bishops CELAM will be opened by Pope Benedict XVI in Aparecida/ Brazil International Catholic Base Movements welcome and support the demand made by some 100 respected and reputed Catholic university professors for an "intelligent reorganization" of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In line with these theologians, the delegates of International Catholic Base Movements at their annual meeting, held in Lisbon, support the theologians' criticism on the Vatican's condemnation of the teachings of Jon Sobrino, a world wide known and respected liberation theologian in Latin America.

The Catholic Base Movements very much welcome the fact that, at last, after a long period of silence, theologians have opened up a theological debate by expressing their criticism – as Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict has invited them to do in his recent book on Jesus.

The Catholic Base Movements asks all theologians who feel committed to the Second Vatican Council and the subsequent theological research and pastoral practice to join this initiative for an "intelligent reorganization" of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This request was initiated by Peter Huenermann, former professor of Dogmatics in Tuebingen/Germany.

Background article: Peter Huenermann: Moderne Qualitätssicherung? Der Fall Jon Sobrino ist eine Anfrage an die Arbeit der Glaubenskongregation (Modern quality management ? The Sobrino case is questioning the work of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) published in HERDER KORRESPONDENZ 61 4/2007

Background Information:

The **European Network "Church on the Move"**, founded in 1990, at present consists of some thirty three grass roots groups working for reform of the Catholic Church in 13 European countries: Austria, Belgium, The Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom and has affiliated members in the USA.

Internet: www.european-catholic-people.eu

The **International Movement We Are Church**, founded in Rome in 1996, is represented in more than twenty countries on all continents and is networking world-wide with similar-minded reform groups. We Are Church is an international movement within the Roman-Catholic Church and aims at renewal on the basis of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). We Are Church was started in Austria in 1995 with a church referendum.

Internet: www.we-are-church.org

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Letter of support to liberation theologian P. Jon Sobrino SJ

- al p. Jon Sobrino
- al secretariado del Forum mundial de teologia y liberacion
- a los organizados del encuentro “America latina, cristianismo y Iglesia en el siglo XXI”

Frente a la Notificación publicada por la Congregación para la doctrina de la Fe, queremos expresar nuestra profunda y agradecida solidaridad al p. Jon Sobrino, que, con su cristología pensada y vivida desde las víctimas, alimentó y sigue alimentando nuestra fe y nuestro compromiso cristiano.

El procedimiento que llevó a la notificación, así como las incontables condenas conminadas a prestigiosas/os y competentes teologas/os, nos muestra definitivamente los defectos de esta manera de abordar la clarificación de los conflictos teológicos. En este sentido, estamos convencidos, hoy más que nunca, que en nuestra Iglesia necesitamos reconocer plena libertad de investigación teológica, promover el pluralismo de la reflexión y favorecer el discernimiento de las comunidades cristianas.

Queremos afirmar, desde la participación de algunos de nosotros en el II Forum mundial de teología y liberación llevado a cabo en Nairobi, la necesidad y el interés de nuestras redes cristianas comprometidas en la lucha por la paz, la justicia, la defensa del medio ambiente y la reforma de nuestra Iglesia, para estrechar lazos con las/los teologas/os de la liberación, incluyendo también las/os teologas/os europeas/os más comprometidas/os. Esperamos, entonces, podernos implicarnos en la preparación y el desarrollo del próximo Forum mundial de teología y liberación.