

Ban on Sunday Shop Openings

Zagreb, Sep. 10 (CWNews.com) - Labor laws in Croatia are being used to exploit tens of thousands of citizens, Catholic leaders have charged.

"Archbishop Ivan Prendja, president of the Croatian Catholic charity Caritas and Bozo Vuleta, director of the Institute for the Culture of Peace, made the charge in a letter delivered to Prime Minister Ivica Racan this week. The letter accompanied a petition of calling for a ban on the Sunday opening of shops.

According to Croatia's labor law, Sunday is a holiday, and therefore shops should not open. However in 2001 the Ministry of the Economy issued new rules, allowing local government bodies to make their own decisions on shop opening times. This new policy, the Catholic leaders claim, has led to violations of the spirit of the legislation.

The Croatian government is not in favor of the Sunday shop openings, but would prefer a strategy of discouragement and disincentives, rather than an outright ban. However, the prime minister himself admits that more needs to be done.

Support for the idea of a total ban is considerable. The 300,000 signatures on the petition represent 1 out of every 15 inhabitants of Croatia. Moreover, according to Caritas and the Institute for the Culture of Peace, their campaign against Sunday opening has the support of-- among other powerful groups-- the trade unions, the Chamber of Crafts, the Merchant Guild, members of parliament and, the Ministry of Crafts and the Ministry of Tourism. The case for a total ban is due to be discussed by the Croatian parliament later this month.

Papal Letter, "Dies Domini" On Keeping The Lord's Day Holy

The Papal call for people to keep Sunday Holy, and push for legislature to make this "convenient".

APOSTOLIC LETTER DIES DOMINI

He writes:

#13. The Sabbath precept, which in the first Covenant prepares for the Sunday of the new and eternal Covenant, is therefore rooted in the depths of God's plan. This is why, unlike many other precepts, it is set not within the context of strictly cultic stipulations but within the Decalogue, the "ten words" which represent the very pillars of the moral life inscribed on the human heart. In setting this commandment within the context of the basic structure of ethics, Israel and then the Church declare that they consider it not just a matter of community religious discipline but a defining and indelible expression of our relationship with God, announced and expounded by biblical revelation.

The pope's defense of Sunday is trying to place it as the "evolution" into the "fullness of expression" of the Biblical Sabbath, and applies to Sunday observance a moral imperative rooted in the Decalogue itself, thus trying to elevate it to a divine command.

He writes:

#62. It is the duty of Christians therefore to remember that, although the practices of the Jewish Sabbath are gone, surpassed as they are by the "fulfilment" which Sunday brings, the underlying reasons for keeping "the Lord's Day" holy — inscribed solemnly in the Ten Commandments — remain valid, though they need to be reinterpreted in the light of the

theology and spirituality of Sunday: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.

By rooting Sunday keeping in the Sabbath commandment, the Pope attempts to offer the strongest moral reasons to urge Christians to "ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy." (#67)

Yet, Sunday is a child of the Catholic Church, IT IS NOT A COMMAND FROM GOD.

Everywhere she has the power to do so, the Catholic Church will push for Sunday legislation.

The "Infallible" words from the "papal chair" declared by a former pope:

In the Bull "Cantate Domino", Feb. 4, 1441 during the Council of Florence,

"It [the Roman Church] firmly believes, professes, and teaches...after the promulgation of the Gospel it asserts that they (laws, including the SABBATH) cannot be observed without the loss of eternal salvation. All, therefore, who after that time observe circumcision and the Sabbath and the other requirements of the law, it declares alien to the Christian faith and not in the least fit to participate in eternal salvation, unless someday they recover from these errors."

Now read what the present Pope says:

(Apostolic Letter Dies Domini on Keeping the Lord's Day Holy)

"Sunday assembly is the privileged place of unity. . .which marks the church as a people gathered in the unity of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For Christian families, Sunday assembly is one of the MOST OUTSTANDING EXPRESSIONS OF THEIR IDENTITY. . .explaining the important reasons behind the OBLIGATORY NATURE of the precept." (#36)

Notice, Sunday according to him is "obligatory", inscribed in canon law, hoping to become legislative laws?

In section #29 "Sunday appears as the supreme day of faith.....Given it's many meanings and aspects, and its link to the very foundations of the faith, the celebration of the Christian Sunday remains, on the threshold of the third millennium, an indispensable element of our Christian identity."

Interesting isn't it that the RCC should call SUNDAY the indispensable element of Christian IDENTITY. Yet the Bible calls the 7th Day Sabbath a sign between God and His people throughout the generations; that we may know that God is the LORD that does sanctify us. (Ex. 31:31, Ezekiel 20:12) "Keep My Sabbaths Holy for they shall be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God." (Ez. 20;12,20)

The letter says "keep Sunday holy" over and over again! Just see in #4 how "legal sanction" and "keep Sunday holy" are combined!

"Until quite recently, it was easier in traditionally Christian countries to keep Sunday holy because it was an almost universal practice and because, even in the organization of civil society, Sunday rest was considered a fixed part of the work schedule. Today however, even in those countries who give legal sanction to the festive character of Sunday, changes in socioeconomic conditions have often led to profound modification...."

If we want to know where a trend is going we simply need to look back and see where it came from. Sunday laws have a history of cruelty to those who do not see it as the Sabbath, and wish to worship on another day.

Rome's challenge

Why do Protestants keep Sunday? The Genuine Offspring Of The Union Of The Holy Spirit And The Catholic Church His Spouse. The Claims Of Protestantism To Any Part Therein Proved To Be Groundless, Self-Contradictory, And Suicidal

Prophecy says "he thinks to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25)

Strangely I've been told on several forums where the Sabbath/Sunday issue was debated, that no one believes Sunday should be kept, it's only a convenient day to go to church.

How wrong-- the drive is on to KEEP Sunday as if it were part of God's ten commandments!

However, WHICH DAY, does God say we are to keep holy? Is it Sunday? No, Genesis 2:1-3 tells us it is the seventh-day that God blessed, rested upon and set aside for holy purposes. Exodus 20 reaffirms this day, places it in the heart of the ten commandments, and asks God's people to REMEMBER the Sabbath day-- the seventh day upon which God rested, and which He set aside for holy purposes at creation.

However, let's not be too hard on the Catholics, the Protestants are right there with them, encouraging the Sunday sacredness. Yet, we read no where that God ever sanctified Sunday.

THE WALL BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

What does that mean? "It is true that the literal phrase 'separation of church and state' does not appear in the Constitution, but that does not mean the concept isn't there. Thomas Jefferson, then president, declared that the American people through the First Amendment had erected a "wall of separation between church and state. James Madison, considered to be the Father of the Constitution, said in an 1819 letter, "[T]he number, the industry and the morality of the priesthood, and the devotion of the people have been manifestly increased by the total separation of the church and state."

The government was not to deal in religious matters. It was not to impose, nor impede the religious convictions of it's citizens.

But now the drive is on to demolish that wall of protection from religious tyranny.

One group keeps pushing to extremes in trying to restrict the expression of religion in any public place, (by law) which is a violation of free speech. Bated by the oppression, the other side wants to impose their brand of Christianity upon America. Either way, if that wall comes down, there will be persecution.

Many Christians are now speaking quite forcefully against that wall which keeps government from imposing religion. They say government has no right to have a "state"

religions, as in "Catholicism" "Luthern" of Baptist, but they are very much agreed that the STATE RELIGION must be Christianity (which of course is then interpreted according the leaders.)

History is filled with awful stories of people being deprived of comforts, and the necessities of life, and often even of life itself, simply because they did not believe the same as the majority.

Things have not changed, the new Catechism of the Catholic Church explicitly states:

"In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sunday and the Church's Holy Days as legal holidays. They have to give everyone a public example of prayer, respect, and joy and defend their traditions as a precious contribution to the spiritual life of society. If a country's legislation or other reasons require work on Sunday, the day should nevertheless be lived as the day of our deliverance which lets us share in this "festal gathering," this "assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven. #2188

Of course, the religious liberty to which the Catechism alludes is not the freedom of all religions to observe their respective holy days but, more narrowly, the freedom of Catholics to place their own holy days under the protection and indeed recommendation of civil legislation.

Religious Liberty is not making "legal" one's own religion. Religious Liberty is having a government that provides freedom for all to worship God as their conscience directs, which means that even minority peoples have the right to follow their conscience in worship as long as that worship does not endanger others. The U.S. elections of 2004 were heralded as a great victory for the conservative Christians. But many of these Conservative Christians seek to demolish the wall between church and state.

Changed Ten Commandments now considered by Colorado legislature:

From the bill SB114:

"Each school district shall post in every public school classroom and in the main entryway in every public school a durable and permanent copy of the Ten Commandments."

"Specifies the language to be used."

And what is the specified language?

"The text used is a compromise version developed by interfaith scholars..."

"The copy of the 10 commandmnets shall read EXACTLY as follows...."

- and then follows a version of the Ten Commandments where the second commandment about the worshipping of images is left out and the fourth commandment about the sabbath day (now third) is heavily abbreviated - the portion of the sabbath day being the seventh day is totally left out.

Thus the change made to this sacred Law of God by the Catholic Church is honored, and support is given to the false sabbath day, the heathen day of sun worship, SUNDAY - is the posting of this CATHOLIC INSPIRED DOCUMENT now in the process of becoming LAW? backed by STATE POWER?

Despite all the opposition the march is moving forward to get the "altered commandments" posted in every school.

Catholic World News — News Brief — 07/27/2001

"RALEIGH, North Carolina, Jul 27, 01 (CWNews.com)

- The North Carolina House of Representatives approved a bill on Thursday that would allow the Ten Commandments to be posted in schools as a document of historical significance to the formation of the United States.

The Senate approved the bill last week and Democratic Gov. Mike Easley is expected to sign it. The American Civil Liberties Union has promised to challenge the law in court.

The law allows the posting of the Ten Commandments or other words "associated with a religion ... along with other documents of historical significance that have formed and influenced the United States legal or governmental system." It also mandates a curriculum to promote character education and the teaching of North Carolina history."

For more links on this subject:

North Carolina Legislature

And Education Week Report

The Ten Commandments Controversy: A First Amendment Perspective has some really interesting discussion on this subject.

So often when meeting with people who say the Seventh-day Sabbath is done away with, they will lump the ten commandments in with the ceremonial laws and say that is all done away with. Yet, we see this tremendous drive by Sunday keepers to make the commandments prominent, BY LAW and place them before the public. Is this not a contradiction? Obviously the Christian world doesn't really believe the ten commandments are obsolete relics of the OT! Yet it is those commandments that contain the Seventh-day Sabbath.

But as we saw earlier we see an altered commandment-- a commandment of men based on mere tradition being uplifted! The day of the Sun will receive honor, rather than the Day of our God.

Look at this news brief from ABC NEWS U.S. which basically says:

Pass laws to post the commandments, and Bring the Nation Back to God.

"W A S H I N G T O N, June 18 — By approving a bill to curb juvenile violence Thursday, House lawmakers seem determined to go beyond creating a "more perfect union," to creating a more "moral" one.

After hours of rhetoric about bringing religion into public life and increasing the nation's morality, House lawmakers included in the bill a measure that would allow schools and government buildings to post the Ten Commandments.

"The focus must be returned to God," said Rep. Tom DeLay, the House Republican whip and a driving force for cultural conservative issues. "Our nation will only be healed through a rebirth of religious conviction and moral certitude."....

The House voted 248-180 to allow states to display the Ten Commandments on public property, despite objections that the measure was unconstitutional.

All of this of course is breaking down the wall between church and state. It is this very wall that has given us the freedoms we so value. It is this that has protected those, not members of the mainline churches, from persecution.

Knights Take Action

Section 56 of the Charter Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus authorizes state councils

"to take into consideration all matters whatever relating to the well-being and good order and laws" "pass votes and resolutions" and "make report thereof to the Supreme Council for action.

WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments are the fundamental moral and legal code given to us directly by God through Moses and reaffirmed by Our Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, these great Commandments have always been the bedrock of civilization, the basis of law, the articulation of God's will, and essential for human happiness and fulfillment; and

WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of our country (the United States) recognized the principles embodied in the Ten Commandments as the foundation of civil society, a prerequisite for self-government, and critically important to the success of the American experiment; and

WHEREAS, The Ten Commandments historically have been displayed in our schools, government and public buildings, and courthouses, including the courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court itself, which includes a depiction of Moses holding the Ten Commandment tablets, and

WHEREAS, The Ten Commandments are now under attack by those who seek to censor this fundamental expression of objective law and morality and instead promote an empty and dangerous philosophy of relativism and subjectivism; and

WHEREAS, These forces of censorship and religious intolerance are now seeking to effect the forcible removal by courts and/or legislatures of any display of the Ten Commandment in public buildings of any kind; now there be it

RESOLVED, That the Knights of Columbus strongly supports the continued public display of the Ten Commandments in schools and government and public buildings, including courts of law, to reinforce the critical importance of these principles to the health of our society, the legitimacy of our legal system, the welfare of our families and the security of our democracy.

(Knights of Columbus--Columbia, Oct. 2000, p.9)

But what commandments are being pushed here? It is the changed commandments where the second command not to worship images is removed, and the Sabbath commandment does not define the day God blessed and sanctified.