

Satanwatch by Robert L. Baker

Parish shut down over witchcraft

Bishop locks the doors after Minnesota parishioners kick out a heretical nun.

Over the past year, the parents of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Stewart, Minnesota have blocked a gnostic nun from teaching witchcraft to their children. As a result, the church has been shut down by the Bishop, who has not supported the parental objection, and instead is supporting the pagan teachings. A local Catholic lay group has formed, calling itself St. Augustine's Legions, to oppose the heresies and witchcraft.

The nun in question, Sr. Annette Fernholz, is a follower of the controversial Catholic heretic, Rev. Matthew Fox of Oakland, California. During the fall of 1988, the Vatican ordered the silencing of Reverend Fox, a noted Dominican author and teacher on spirituality. Fox was characterized by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican agency charged with maintaining Church doctrine, as promoting "dangerous and deviant" teachings.

Since then, the parishioners of St. Boniface Parish are dealing with a shutdown of their parish by the bishop because they have rebelled against the heresies of Sister Annette, who was hired to administer religion classes for the youth. She directed the girls in her parish to recite the Lord's Prayer, "Our Mother in Heaven . . ." and held up, for adoration, a cloth globe she called an "Earth Pillow"—a pagan representation of Jesus Christ. In addition, Sister Annette sponsored a Mother Earth Festival on Nov. 14, 1988 in which she directed the parishioners to say, "God sang; she created humankind in

her image . . . she created them from humus of earth, from mud, from muck. . . . God looked up on her handiwork and saw it was good."

Much of the content of Sister Annette's ceremonies promotes a blood-and-soil attitude toward farming associated with, among others, the Russian Orthodox Church. Her outlook—you can be a serf and be happy—is intended to condition rural communities not to resist the wave of dispossessions being forced on family farmers. This is the view promoted by a network of groups in the farm states, funded by the Eastern Establishment interests, that includes the Land Stewardship Project, Rural Catholic Life, Groundswell, PrairieFire, and others.

In the Mother Earth ceremony script for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women last fall, the leader intoned such phrases as: "Humus: the brown, black substance formed from decomposing matter; the organic portion of the soil; the basic stuff of life. . . . We [humans] have a lot in common with compost and with earth. We are destined to decompose like autumn leaves, like rotting fruit, we who are children of God and siblings of the stars."

Sister Annette's teacher, Reverend Fox, has been censured by Pope Paul II because his teachings subverted Catholicism with witchcraft. Constance Cumbey, in her book *A Planned Deception*, quotes Fox as saying, "Today's Age of Pisces is yielding to the Age of Aquarius . . . the male conditioned model of coercion as the mode of divine power is being sup-

planted . . . by the ecumenical movement understood as the energizing of all faiths of this planet by celebration." In 1983, Fox hired a witch named Starhawk to teach at his Institute for Culture and Creation Centered Spirituality, who later reported, "I am very glad to discover such a strong movement within Christian churches that is sympathetic to the Pagan Spirit and willing to learn from the teachings of the Old Religion."

Parents of St. Boniface unsuccessfully appealed to various priests, questioning the content of Sister Annette's classes. The religion teachers of St. Boniface Parish gathered on April 16 to draw up a petition of concerns questioning the pagan practices she has taught to their children. Included was the use of such terminology as ritual, feminine energy, fire Christ, cosmos, "the earth is the body of Christ," and reference to the spiritual feminism of God.

As with secular feminism, spiritual feminism first sprouted in academic circles among Catholic and non-Catholic women studying theology. These women influenced nuns, turning them into feminist nuns or ex-nuns. Then, through teaching in Catholic seminaries and schools of theology, they converted priests. Once they obtained bishop's as supporters, they were able to infiltrate nearly every area of Church administration and teaching.

Converting the grassroots, however, proved to be trickier. To speed up the process, methods of group brainwashing, called "consciousness-raising," were devised.

Let there be no lingering illusions about "spiritual feminism." Whenever spiritual feminists gather today, in groups known as Women-Church, they use a syncretic mix of paganism and witchcraft. . . . such liturgies have been witches.