

Presidents of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary consecrated
'themselves'

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH MADE THE THREE POWERS ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

The Bishops avoided polemics on project of the IVF and gay unions.

The day before, Monsignor Ulloa launched criticisms to the plans endorsed by Zapote.

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The Catholic Church bypassed this August 2nd polemics with the government for the support of the Presidential House to the projects to legalize the in vitro fertilization and the same sex unions (societies of cohabitation).

Instead, the bishops were able to put the presidents of the three powers of the Republic to "consecrate" their institutions according to the Catholic belief and to ask forgiveness for the "transgressions" which have occurred in the past.

This is what happened during the mass held this Friday in Cartago in honor of Our Lady of the Angels, an act in which traditionally the highest authorities of the Catholic Church meet with the Hierarchs of the State.

The previous day, during the ceremony of clothing of the Virgin, the bishop of Cartago, José Francisco Ulloa, called the parishioners to close ranks against the "horrors" of the in vitro fertilization or the same sex unions.

Yesterday, however, the matter was not mentioned in the public events in spite that three days before, the Government convened bills related to both themes in the agenda of the Legislative Assembly.

This August 2nd, in charge of the homily was the bishop of San Isidro de El General, Guillermo Loría. He launched a message in pursuit of "getting back on the right course, which is Jesus and his teachings".

Loría only called to retrieve the Christian identity in an "increasingly secularized, more indifferent, more pluralistic" society.

After this, something unusual happened: one by one, the chairmen of the supreme powers made a declaration of consecration. First, President Laura Chinchilla; second, Luis Fernando Mendoza, President of the Assembly; and third, Zarela Villanueva, President of the Supreme Court of Justice. The three read the same text, which varied only in the institutions.

"I hereby do an act of consecration of my person, my family and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica to the love and protection of Almighty God through the intercession of Mary, our Lady, Queen of the Angels. I put in their loving hands my government, with all its officials, employees and citizens which are under my responsibility", read Chinchilla.

“By doing this consecration, I ask God for forgiveness for all the transgressions that have been made in the past in our homeland and for all those decisions that have been taken against His Commandments” she continued.

Mendoza included the deputies in his statement and Villanueva the judges, prosecutors and defense counsel. Already in his speech, Chinchilla requested the Virgin “understanding by mistakes made and thanked her for giving her serenity in the midst of “skepticism and frustration”.

Carlos Roverssi, Minister of Communications said that it was a surprise to see that the chairmen of the three powers had made the same declaration. “We had nothing to do in it. (...) We have no problem with asking for forgiveness, we are human beings and we make mistakes”.

“We take it as such, as the need to generate a greater sense of spirituality around the major themes in the country”, added Roverssi.

Holding their positions. On the controversial projects, he warned that the Government will maintain its positions in defense of the rule of law. Jose Francisco Ulloa admitted that they did not want to cause controversy on Thursday. “It was intended rather to give something more positive to seek a dialog”.

On the declaration of consecration, he recounted that the bishops of the Episcopal Conference requested its wording to Monsignor Vittorino Girardi, Bishop of Tilarán: “ We want, in this Year of Faith, to do an act of consecration to our Lady of Costa Rica. And I think that is actually very significant” he said.

Oscar Fernandez, bishop of Puntarenas, president of the Episcopal Conference, asked God for forgiveness for the sins and violations committed against the common good.

In Costa Rica, a country that declares itself to be catholic by Constitution, 57% of the population professes that religion according to Unimer. In 1999, that figure was of a 73 %. The country also discusses the option to become secular State (without religion).

Carmen Muñoz, a member of the PAC and defender of the secular State, considered unacceptable that the chairmen of the supreme powers would speak on behalf of others. She used the example of the Congress, where not all members are believers. Muñoz described the act contrary to the democratic State and to the respect for religious and political diversity.

Photo:

President Laura Chinchilla heard the homily of August 2nd in Cartago along with her husband, Jose Maria Rico (outside of the image), and along with the rector of the Seminary, José Manuel Garita.

http://periodico.nacion.com/doc/nacion/la_nacion-03agosto2013/2013080301/#4

ACT OF CONSECRATION

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I offer to Almighty God my thoughts and decisions as president of Costa Rica for Him to use them for the good of this country and to always be aware of the Ten Commandments to govern it. I ask God that, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Angels, He may listen and accept my act of consecration and cover this country with His special protection. By doing this consecration, I ask God for forgiveness for all the transgressions that have been done in the past in our homeland and for all those decisions that have been made against His Commandments and I ask for His help to change everything that separates us from Him.

Laura Chinchilla
President of the Republic