

Faithful to refrain from attending Fr. Garcia's services or that of any other priests coming to the Archdiocese without any faculties. When in doubt, consult the Chancery.

In this connection, I would also like to mention that the BNP, which originated in Manila, Philippines, has been banned to operate in the Archdiocese of Manila and subsequently, in many dioceses of the United States, including the Archdiocese of San Francisco, as per letter of the then Archbishop of San Francisco, John R. Quinn, dated October 12, 1989, addressed to all Pastors. The letter says, inter alia, "as of October 12, 1989, no BNP activities are permitted to be held in any church facilities within the Archdiocese." To my recollection, that has not been changed, although it has been reported that the group is still operating in a couple of parishes. This must be stopped without delay. (For any questions, you may contact my office or Monsignor Fred Bitanga or Monsignor Floro Arcamo.) (415) 614-5616 Fax (415) 614-5620.

In an Official Statement on January 10, 1990, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles said: "The BNP has sought to legitimize through deceptive relationship with local Roman Catholic parishes. New recruits are told that the BNP is a Roman Catholic organization supported by the hierarchy both in the Philippines and in the United States...In the past, priests have occasionally heard confessions and celebrated mass at Apostolic Mission Classes, believing that the retreat was a "Filipino Cursillo." Their presence at the retreats has been singled out by BNP leaders as "proof" that the church approves of the BNP.

In general, priests and laity are forbidden to support and attend the activities of the BNP, unless they are appointed by the bishops to investigate them.

Banal Na Pag-aaral is **NOT a Catholic** organization for their teachings are incompatible with Catholic doctrine. They have deceptively used Catholic practices such as the Cursillo, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Block Rosary to recruit new members. The BNP church is truly a schismatic and heretical cult.

This movement and its teachings have been thoroughly studied by the Catholic Church and have been banned by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin of Manila and the Diocese of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and New York among others. Catholics are duty-bound to obey the magisterium, the teachings of the Catholic Church through the bishops who are successors of the apostles. The claims of the leaders that the movement is approved by Rome are FALSE. Members of the BNP by their action excommunicate themselves from the Catholic Church.

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Pamphlet 586

WARNING: About "Banal Na Pag-aaral"

Mrs. Salvacion (Sister Salve) Aguillon Carreon, alias Mrs. Remedios Rios Stuart founded the Banal Na Pag-aaral on April 7, 1968 in Novaliches, Quezon City, Philippines.

Banal Na Pag-aaral, Inc is a private company incorporated as a non-denominational Church located in Ontario, CA.

The BNP did not seek approval from the local bishop because the group was already banned in some dioceses of the world. It deceived the prohibition in the Diocese of San Bernardino on February 16, 1994. Ontario, California is under the jurisdiction of that same diocese.

Mr. Estanislao Hokson Stuart, the current husband of Mrs. Carreon, claims that he is the pastor of the BNP Church in Ontario, California.

When the church was built, the organization filed with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles in Long Beach, and claimed to be a separate church with Estanislao Hokson Stuart as their pastor.

Stuart declared, "I am an individual over the age of majority and am Pastor of the BNP Church located at 1877 East Riverside Drive, Ontario, California 91761...and have held the position of Pastor of the BNP Church since 1991 to the present."

Stuart's religious credentials were issued by the Universal life Church, which, according to the website <http://www.themonastery.org>, "Welcomes all who ask to become an ordained"... "The Universal Life Church ordains clergy for life for free. Each

denomination has its own special requirements that its ministers comply with or perform to gain their allegiance. The Universal Life Church is the only religious and spiritual denomination in the world that opens its door to all and welcomes all who ask to get ordained, granting ordination without questions as to religious and spiritual beliefs.”

Since its inception, the BNP movement has spread worldwide, with chapters established throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, Australia, Singapore and regions of the Philippines. The BNP continues to grow through spiritual retreats and other activities.

Condemnations:

The Archbishop of Manila, in his Official Circular Letter of October 16, 1989, calls Banal Na Pag-aaral (BNP) “under the chairmanship of Mrs. Salve Carreon... (as) not a Catholic association in good standing.”

The official Statement of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on January 10, 1990 warns the faithful: “Roman Catholics should be warned that the BNP is not a Roman Catholic organization in any sense of the word.”

On April 29, 1986, Bishop Norman MacFarland of the Diocese of Orange declares: “The Filipino group Banal Na Pag-aaral (BNP) is not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church nor are its activities approved by the Church.” Remember, it is neither a Roman Catholic association nor organization, the way we accept Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, etc. It is not approved! The BNP is forbidden in the Philippines through the Bishops’ Conference, due to the leadership of the Archdiocese of Manila on October 16, 1989.

The United States headquarters of the BNP are located in Ontario, Ca, in the San Bernardino diocese. Bishop Gerald Barnes promulgated the following, strongly worded, letter concerning the BNP on December 5, 2005:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of San Bernardino:

It has come to my attention that there is much confusion among some of our Filipino brothers and sisters pertaining to devotion and affiliation to Banal Na Pag-aaral, better known as BNP Movement. In 1999, I issued a letter that read:

“By way of this letter, I wish to let you know in no uncertain terms that the BNP movement is banned in the Diocese of San Bernardino. No BNP activities are permitted in any parochial or diocesan facilities. Priests and deacons of the diocese are not permitted to participate in any of the BNP sponsored activities nor offer their spiritual service to the movement. The Catholic faithful are prohibited to join the BNP.

“...I ask that all Filipinos remain devoted to their faith in the Holy Catholic Church and they continue to set an example to other Catholics in the Diocese, as we thank God for the gift they are to our Church.

“Since many of our brothers and sisters are new to the diocese, including some of my brother priests, I wanted to reiterate that this mandate is still in effect.

“The BNP movement promotes activities and teachings that are not in conformity with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and many diocese. Including the Archdiocese

of Los Angeles and several in the Philippines, have, like us, banned this group.”

The following dioceses have banned the “Banal Na Pag-aaral” (BNP):

The Archdiocese of San Francisco on October 12, 1989,

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles on January 10, 1990,

The Diocese of San Jose on February 27, 1990,

The Archdiocese of Chicago on October 17, 1991,

The Diocese of Cleveland on November 2, 1992,

The Diocese of San Diego on February 26, 1993,

The Diocese of Brooklyn on March 2, 1993,

The Diocese of San Bernardino on February 16, 1994 and again on December 8, 2005,

The Diocese of Orange on April 29, 1996, and other Diocese in the world,

In an Official Statement on April 4, 2007, Most Reverend Ignatius C. Wang, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of San Francisco promulgated the following letter:

*To: All Pastors and Faithful of the Archdiocese, RE: **Banal Na Pag-aaral (BNP) and Father Garcia***

*It has been brought to my attention that a certain priest by the name of **Father Ben Garcia**, affiliated with the BNP, is in the Archdiocese saying Masses for the aforementioned group. In light of the new policy decreed by Archbishop Niederauer, that all priests exercising public ministry in the Archdiocese will require faculties, I am, therefore, calling the attention of the Catholic*