

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

ACORN community organizers got their foot in door of The Catholic Church by using the mantra we-help-the-poor, we-help-the-poor. It took several years and millions of misdirected dollars for the Church to open its eyes to the ACORN fraud. Even Congress is beginning to see the light. Now a new group of community organizers from the IAF have come knocking and chanting we-help-the-poor, we-help-the-poor. The IAF is cut from the same cloth as ACORN. They both use the Alinski template. They both use his play book, "The Rules for Radicals". They both have the same world view. The IAF brazenly describes its chief purpose as power. Although legally distinct on paper from ACORN, the IAF for practical purposes is the same wolf with a new set of clothes. The IAF tries to distance itself from its mentor, Alinski, by claiming that it has undergone a religious conversion. The IAF is now supposedly faith based. Is this a genuine spiritual awakening or an opportunistic make-over? If so, to which faith did the IAF convert? Actually, they appear willing to convert to any and all faiths that have open checkbooks. This conversion has proven quite profitable. So, why does a spiritual organization dedicated to selflessness need to affiliate with a Chicago based political organization whose chief purpose is power?

We already belong to the world's oldest and largest community organization: the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We feel closest to Christ at Mass when worshiping and sharing the sacraments with people from all corners of the globe. We also feel close to Christ when working with fellow Catholics to help the least among us. Our charity is dispensed to persons of all faiths and to those with no faith without conditions. Our ministries are salt and light to the world through interaction with agencies and institutions irrespective of their creeds. It is very moving to see people of all trades and backgrounds working together to advance the kingdom of God. The devoted are united: the teacher and the student; the union organizer and the corporate executive; the landscaper and the engineer; the bricklayer and the doctor; the liberal and the conservative. Serving side by side we transcend ideology through our shared love of the Lord. Our inspiration for serving the poor is spiritual, not political. Our unity glorifies God and magnifies the Gospel. What political organization has done more than the Catholic Church to help the poor and the sick? Who has done more to empower the poor with the Good News, with a helping hand and with an education? Who as a group is better organized to promote the sanctity of life, especially life in the womb? Yet, empowered by the Holy Spirit, the faithful are always looking for ways to expand and improve our ministries. Some proposals, however, can be counterproductive. Some proposals divert resources from the poor and politicize holy ground.

Christ was offered power over all of the kingdoms of earth. He resisted temptation and responded that his kingdom was not of this world. Now an attractive offer comes from the IAF that is designed to appeal to good-hearted, well-intentioned Catholics. Their scheme seduces the good hearted with lofty rhetoric and lures the altruistic with the promise of nice projects. This worldly plan says a better way to serve the poor is through political empowerment. The devil is in the details, so the plan is vague and laced with glittering generalities. The blueprints for this plan were drawn years ago by Saul Alinski, a deceased political cynic who taught that the ends justify the means. He wrote "The Rules for Radicals", and gave an acknowledgment to the first very first radical, Lucifer. His rules proudly encourage scheming and deceit in the pursuit of political power. In true Alinski fashion, the highly trained IAF promoters have used selected portions of encyclicals to dupe the naïve.

Pope Benedict could not have said it more clearly when he proclaimed: "...Christian charitable activity must be independent of parties and ideologies..." *Deus Caritas Est*. So, why has the door been opened to a wolf in sheep's clothing? Again!