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NEWS

Archbishop identifies “five wounds” afflicting the Church

In a secularized culture that is rejecting the Catholic Church, the specificity of Aguer’s point of view lies in the fact that he considers the danger to come mainly from within. This also means that the answer lies within the Church, which needs to heal those wounds in order to play its true role.

By Jeanne Smits,
Paris correspondent



Bishop Héctor Aguer (retired)

Archbishop Hector Aguer, former Archbishop of La Plata in Argentina, has offered a meditation on the “five wounds” that are presently affecting the Catholic Church that he has always served and loved on the Spanish website InfoCatolica.com.

Archbishop Aguer, following the example of the **Blessed Antonio Rosmini** (1789-1855), priest and

founder of the Institute of Charity, sought which wounds are affecting the Mystical Body of Christ, His Church, today. At the time of Rosmini's writing of his book "*The Five Wounds of the Holy Church*" the text was condemned by the Holy See. It would later be rehabilitated at the same time as Hector Aguer, who was "exiled" from his diocese from one day to the next in order to make way for Pope Francis' appointee to the sea of la Plata, Archbishop Victor Manuel "Tucho Fernandez," ghostwriter of the most controversial passages of *Amoris laetitia*, has often been vocal in his condemnation of the culture of death and the distorting of children's consciences by faulty teaching.

In his most recent column, Aguer named five contemporary "wounds" that are directly affecting the Church and not only the surrounding culture: relativism, the devastation of liturgy, secularization of priestly life and flawed formation in the seminaries, ruin of the Christian family and of the natural family order, and lastly, the de-Christianization of society, which Aguer attributes to the lack of true Christian life on the part of Catholics, "Christians who do not live as such".

In a secularized culture that is rejecting the Catholic Church, the specificity of Aguer's point of view lies in the fact that he considers the danger to come mainly from within. This also means that the answer lies within the Church, which needs to heal those wounds in order to play its true role.

Hector Aguer's conclusion is particularly forthright: "The Catholic absence from those areas where new cultural vigor is emerging leaves the world in the hands of the Father of lies."

Here below is LifeSite's translation of the part of Archbishop Aguer's op-ed in which he describes the contemporary wounds to the Catholic Church.

I venture to present a hypothesis regarding the actualization of the wounds of the Church, those that she suffers in these days; I do so modestly, as an expression of the respect and love that I profess for Catholicism, and of the pain that it causes me to recognize them. These are not my own ideas; many authors with greater wisdom and authority than I have expressed their anxiety, and countless faithful, at times with outbursts of indignation, give their opinion on the ecclesial situation and do not even hide ideological positions. The "social media" constitute a world tribune, a confused areopagus. I will not locate the wounds, as **Rosmini** did, which one on which hand or which foot, which one on the side. I will only list five evils, about which I have spoken on various occasions, or which have been the subject of my writings.

1. I begin with the wound that I consider the most comprehensive and profound: relativism
2. The devastation of the liturgy.
3. Secularization of priestly life and flawed formation in the seminaries.
4. Ruin of the Christian family and of the natural family order.
5. The de-Christianization of society.

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23/06/2020

Las llagas de Cristo... y de la Iglesia

Monseñor Héctor Aguer

La Iglesia debe recuperarse, ante todo, de la crisis interna que la afecta, para cobrar relevancia en el orden cultural y social, de modo que pueda ayudar al hombre a orientarse hacia su auténtico destino.

El Conde **Antonio Rosmini Serbati** (1797 - 1855), sacerdote, hoy beato, fue un pensador original, escritor y fundador de la congregación clerical *Istituto della Carità*. No se limitó a contemplar las llagas

del Cuerpo físico del Señor, sino que inspirado en esa contemplación de amor y dolor, se atrevió a descubrir polémicamente las llagas del Cuerpo místico, o más bien de la organización y vida de la Iglesia de su época. Entre sus obras sobresale *Le cinque piaghe della Santa Chiesa*; en este libro describía, por referencia a las heridas de las manos, los pies y el costado de Jesús, defectos que hallaba en el catolicismo contemporáneo suyo. La obra fue condenada, como otros escritos de su autoría, y él se sometió humildemente a la decisión de la Santa Sede. A partir de la reivindicación de Rosmini, *Las cinco llagas de la Santa Iglesia* fue una obra reconocida con autoridad para la historia de la Iglesia en el siglo XIX.

Yo me aventuro a presentar una hipótesis de actualización de las llagas de la Iglesia, las que sufre en estos días; lo hago modestamente, como expresión del respeto y amor que profeso a la *Catholica*, y del dolor que me causa reconocerlas. No son ocurrencias mías; muchos autores con mayor sabiduría y autoridad que yo han manifestado su preocupación, e incontables fieles, a veces con arrebatos de indignación, opinan sobre la situación eclesial y no esconden, incluso, posiciones ideológicas. Las «redes» constituyen una tribuna mundial, un areópago confuso. No localizaré las llagas, como hizo **Rosmini**, cuál en qué mano o en qué pie, cuál en el costado. Solo enumero cinco males, sobre los que he hablado en diversas ocasiones, o han sido objeto de escritos míos.

... ..

Las cinco llagas que veneramos no fueron las únicas que laceraron el Cuerpo del Señor en la pasión; habría que sumar las heridas de la flagelación y de la coronación de espinas (cf. Mt 27,26.29; Mc 15,15). Tampoco, seguramente, eran solo cinco las que sufría la Iglesia en el siglo XIX cuando **Rosmini** las puso en evidencia. Ni son solo cinco ahora

*Mons. Héctor Aguer,
arzobispo emérito de La Plata*

Académico de Número de la Academia Nacional de Ciencias Morales y Políticas.

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