

A new discovery of the Church

Without exaggeration we can say that Liberation Theology has stirred the Latin American Church to greater life. In many places, it has led to a new discovery and rebirth of the Church. One can live one's faith and Christian commitment in a different way: at the side of the poor and against poverty, in solidarity with the economically and politically marginalized and united with the despised ones. Clergy and the laity, including bishops and cardinals moved where the Church was unknown. It was a time of deep pastoral creativity and great prophetic courage, political holiness and spiritual growth.

This renewal saw many initiatives in the areas of inculturation (cf. LU 17), and a reaching out to indigenous people and those of African descent as well as women and minority groups. Liberation Theology has shown not only an understanding of social problems, it also encountered, with respect, the variety of cultures and traditions both Christian and non-Christian.

In this way, Liberation Theology brought forth from its own roots a number of different theological currents: an indigenous theology, a feministic theology, a Biblical theology, a theology which studies the relation between faith and economy, and even an environmental theology.

CCFMC, Lesson Unit 20, C 1.5