



Group of Nominal Catholics in Ho Chi Minh City today

Truong Phan Chau Tam

Over the past 30 years of renovation, Vietnam has undergone dramatic changes and rapid development in all fields such as economy, politics, culture and society. One of the changes related to religious life in Ho Chi Minh City today is the emergence of a group of nominal Catholics. These are Catholics but for many reasons, though they identify themselves as Christians, they no longer participate in important activities of the community such as practices or weekly community attendance. Rules and precepts of the Catholic organization are no longer important to them.

Nominal Catholicism is a common phenomenon in Catholic life in some Asian, African and Latin American countries. However, each country or region has its own specific causes.

Studying the nominal Catholic group in Ho Chi Minh City, we determine the content of this term: *"Catholics have a change of cosmology, faith, spiritual needs, Personal lifestyle and indifference to ritual practice and less participation in the Catholic community"*

- Through the statistics, we find the causes of N.C cases focusing on: changing humanistic environment, living situation etc

- In the process of living, working, NCs always contact, business partners, coworkers, associates, etc, who are outside the Catholic faith; There are people who believe in Buddhism; traditionally worship ancestors, grandparents, some are atheists etc. It is in multicultural relations that multi-religion is the humanistic environment that influences religious perception. Natural non-theistic views.

- The most common cause is the social matrix that encompasses the macro context and the micro context with four main agents: social, cultural, family and religious. In general, the N. C phenomenon first and foremost derives from the practice of Catholicism, starting with the neglect of the church ceremony, which leads to the non-observance of some rituals.

- This process leads to a break in belief or "wax" belief.

Cultural dimension of the N.C.

- For believers, becoming a NC is a change in religious life of individuals and a change in some cultural aspects.

- The N.C's shifting from culture to culture is a change of religious perception, a change in the level of Catholic community relations and a change in the structure of Catholic faith.

- The change in cognitive culture of N.C**
- Changes in the relationship with the lay community**
- Transformation in the structure of Catholic faith**

Forecast, comment.

With micro and macro contexts, social matrices and religious diversity and diversification, we think that the N.Cs phenomenon will continue to evolve and increase in quantity. Catholic life in Ho Chi Minh City. However, there is a need for a longer-term, specialized research investment than having a good prediction. We also think that the N.Cs in Ho Chi Minh City are in the middle of three paths, one is to find equilibrium, to escape from outside influence, to return to the essence and identity inherent. Secondly, they can become one of the resources of conversion to another religion, that is, they can become a non religionist.

Conclude

The phenomenon of N.Cs in Ho Chi Minh City is now a cultural-religious issue. The main cause of this phenomenon is the influence of the context, the actor as a social matrix takes place. Change in cognitive culture, in relation to the community, and some changes in the structure of the Catholic faith. But the N.Cs are not apostates, no abandon of religion and no transubstantiation, they are still Catholics. This is the necessary silence for them to redefine their identity, their religious identity, overcome difficulties in material and spiritual life, to return to equilibrium and they are in dire need of attention. , The sharing of the Church and the lay community in Ho Chi Minh City.



THANKS FOR WATCHING

The article represents the position of the author as presented in a CESNUR conference, rather than of CESNUR or its