

Press release on the death György Bulányi (1919–2010)

The representatives and members of the Bokor Catholic Base Community announce that György Bulányi Sch. P., founder of the Bokor passed away on 6 June 2010 in Budapest, Hungary. He was 91.

György Bulányi was requested to organize small communities by an emissary of the Holy See in 1945 so that the Church can survive the suppression of the communist regime. For his activity Bulányi was arrested and with the charge of leading an anti-state organization he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1952. He was set free in 1960, but was not allowed to be employed by the Church, thus he worked as a transport worker.

He completed his six-volume theological work (*"Seek the Kingdom of God!"*) in 1968, in which he analysed the words of Jesus in the Gospels. He concluded that Jesus wanted human society (built upon domination and violence) be changed here on earth into a world based on love, following the ideals of non-violence, serving others, and giving. Bulányi was convinced that all men are capable of following the teachings and life of Jesus, moreover, this is the only possible path for humanity.

Following the model of the community of Jesus' disciples, Bulányi restarted the organization of communities (later known as Bokor – 'Bush'), where each member's conscience was respected by their fellows. Instead of listening only to sermons, community members studied and analyzed the gospels together. Consequently, the members of Bokor realized that it is a contradiction to be a Christian and to swear an oath of killing the enemy i.e. other people. After 1979, an increasing number of young community members refused to obey the military call-up order and underwent several years of imprisonment for their decision. Therefore the communist regime exerted pressure on the Hungarian Catholic bishops to enact coercive measures against Bulányi. (The state could not take direct actions against him due to the Helsinki Accords.) A Church body lead by Cardinal László Lékai suspended him from public priestly functions on the pretext of his essay on *Church Order*, in which he proposed that the Church should be devoid of domination and founded on small communities. His punishment was not withdrawn with the political change of 1989, and the restrictive measures were officially cancelled as late as 1997.

Bulányi emphasized several times that "the alliance of Throne and Altar" is in opposition to the will of God. He often requested the Church to face sincerely its own past. Until the end of his life, he was working for a Church that re-embraces the very roots of the teachings of Jesus and wants to turn the Earth into the Kingdom of God not by words of power but by the network of brotherly communities.

György Bulányi was surrounded by the loving affection of members of Bokor and the Piarist Order when he deceased. His funeral starts at 11AM 26 June in the cemetery of Rákoskeresztúr, Budapest (Új Köztemető). A memorial service is celebrated in the Franciscan Church of Pest (Ferenciek Square, Budapest).

Instead of bringing flowers, participants of the funeral ceremony are asked to express their compassion by helping the poor. Bokor Foundation for the Third World: 10200902-32710423.

Further information (in Hungarian): www.bokorportal.hu