



News from

Red Hen Press

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Imagine No Religion

An Autobiography

of

Blase Bonpane

This is the personal story of the life of Blase Bonpane, a vanguard practitioner of liberation theology and a former Maryknoll priest.

Imagine No Religion

An Autobiography of Blase Bonpane

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224 pages

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Biographical note:

Blase Bonpane is the director of the Office of the Americas. He has served on the faculties of UCLA and California State University Northridge. His articles have been published internationally, and he has worked as a contributor to the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*.

Blase previously served as a Maryknoll Missioner in Guatemala during the revolutionary conflict of the 1960s. As a result of his work in peasant organization, he was expelled from that country in 1967. On his return to the United States, Blase and his family lived at the headquarters of United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez, where he was editor of UFW publications.

He is host of the weekly radio program World Focus on Pacifica Radio (KPFK, Los Angeles). Blase previously hosted the program World Focus on Time/Warner TV Educational and Public Access Channels. He was named “the most underrated humanist of the decade” by the *Los Angeles Weekly*. In 2006, he was awarded the Distinguished Peace Leadership Award by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

His previous books include: *Civilization is Possible* (Red Hen Press, 2008); *Common Sense for the Twenty-first Century* (2004); *Guerrillas of Peace: On the Air* (2000); and *Guerrillas of Peace: Liberation Theology and the Central American Revolution* (iUniverse, 2000, 3rd edition).

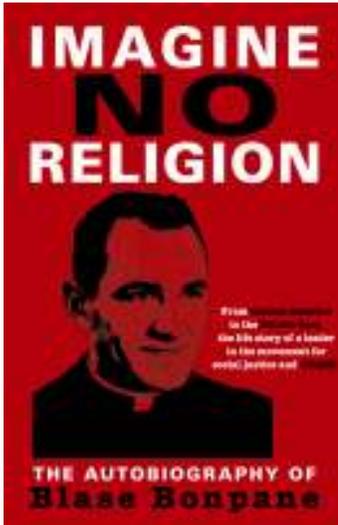
Praise for *Imagine No Religion*:

“I am often asked by young people, deeply disturbed by the state of the world, ‘What can I do to make this sad world a better place?’ An eloquent answer now is, ‘Read Blase Bonpane’s autobiography. If you can aspire to a fraction of what he has achieved, you will look back on a life well lived.’”

—Noam Chomsky



Praise for Blase Bonpane:



“I couldn’t walk in Blase Bonpane’s shoes, they’re too heavy. But I have tried to follow his footsteps which nimbly, deftly, wisely and lovingly try to coax our world into the practice of what it preaches. Not only his feet are prodigious but his hands are the hands of a craftsman, a builder toward those same goals. And to top it off, he’s got the head and heart to guide all four. I have been ennobled by my association with Blase and you will feel similarly having read his autobiography. This is a man for all seasons, all peoples.”

—Ed Asner

“I first became aware of Blase in the mid-eighties, when he and Theresa were working with the poor and disenfranchised in Central America. He has been a source of inspiration for me ever since. His unrelenting commitment to peace and justice is as extraordinary as his life. He is my personal hero.”

—Paul Haggis, writer, director, and winner of two Academy Awards

From *Imagine No Religion*

“How could anyone teach about Latin America without experiencing Cuba? I decided to go there to see what all the fuss was about. I wrote to the State Department requesting permission. The State Department wrote me back denying permission. I left the day after receiving the negative letter from State. I presented myself to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City and received a visa on a separate sheet of paper, not on my passport. Mexico City was in turmoil.

On August 27th, 1968 I saw 400,000 people marching in the streets, an amazing conglomeration of students, professors, peasants and common people. The demonstration continued on the following day in the main square, the *Zocalo*. *Granaderos* opened fire on the students after an action by police provocateurs. Police dressed as students took down the Mexican flag and put up the flag of anarchy to reign over the *zocalo*. Police dressed as students began “sacrilegiously” ringing the bells of the Cathedral of Mexico, which reigns over the *Zocalo*. Students began to drop. They were dead from police and *grandero* bullets. This was the beginning of a blood bath that would continue into the fall as Mexico prepared to host the world in the Olympics of 1968. The Mexican newspapers “forgot” to cover this August massacre and headlined articles about the revolutionaries of 1910 supporting the government of President Diaz Ordaz.”





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