

LEONARDO BOFF, 1938, is a Brazilian theologian, philosopher and writer. He did his postgraduate studies at the University of Munich in Germany where he followed the courses of Karl Rahner, Wolfgang Pannenberg and Gerhard von Rad. Back in Brazil he was for 22 years professor of systematic and ecumenical theology at the Franciscan Philosophical-Theological Institute of Petrópolis, near Rio de Janeiro. He was editor of the *Revista Eclesiástica Brasileira*, one of the most important in Latin America, with its more than 300 quarterly pages, and of the monthly *Revista Vozes*, which has been in existence for more than 130 years. He has been a visiting professor in several universities such as Lisbon, Basel, Heidelberg and has given courses in other universities such as Salamanca, Lund, Mexico, Costa Rica and Harvard among others.

He participated in the drafting of the Earth Charter, under the direction of M. Gorbachev. In 2001 he was awarded the alternative Nobel Peace Prize by the Swedish Parliament. He holds several honorary doctoral degrees. Since 1970 with other theologians he has been accompanying popular social movements, mainly the basic ecclesial communities, human rights, faith and political groups and especially the Landless and Homeless Movement, indigenous and Afro-descendant groups. He has written more than a hundred books in various fields of theology, philosophy, spirituality, ethics, anthropology and ecology.

His 1982 book *Church: Charism and Power* underwent a doctrinal process at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1984. An obsequious silence was imposed on him for an indeterminate period, which was suspended eleven months later in 1985 by Pope John Paul II himself when he was informed that he was working with the poor and marginalised.

His theological ‘nunc dimitis’ was the translation from medieval Latin of the Imitation of Christ, overcoming the dualism typical of this work in line with the more inclement theology of the Second Vatican Council, and he dared to add another part The Following of Jesus in terms of the new vision of the universe. On the verge of his birthday he is still at work and in his own words: ‘Looking at the days that stand still, his eyes are turned towards the eternity that will not be long in coming’.