

# Problems With PICO - People Improving Communities through Organizing

## 1. PICO is an Alinskyian community-organization

### a. Institutional and “representational” membership:

1. Institutional membership is inherently unjust to those within a parish who disagree with PICO’s political/social solutions (which are prudential, not moral, solutions)
2. Institutional membership confuses politics (or social solutions) with religion (e.g. an abstinence program in a public school is NOT the same thing as the Christian principle of chastity. One may, for a variety of honest, ethical reasons, oppose the *program*; one cannot ethically oppose the *principle*.)
3. Institutional membership turns religious institutions - churches - into vehicles of the state through government funding. (See [www.sffaith.com](http://www.sffaith.com); do search on “Healthy Families”)

### b. Fr. John Bauman SJ founder and executive director - trained under IAF organizer Tom Guadette

### c. Funding - Alinskyian organizations raise money from grants, from donations, and from “dues” - specifically, all member institutions in any PICO local (unless they receive a temporary waiver because of poverty) give a fixed percentage of their income to the local. The local, in turn, gives a percentage of its income to the national PICO.

### d. PICO subscribes to the organizational theory of Saul Alinsky

1. Alinsky teaches that in politics, the ends justify the means.
2. Alinsky teaches that one must clothe one's organizational actions with "moral garments"
3. Alinsky's worldview is Marxist and therefore predicated on class warfare
4. Alinsky teaches "popular education" techniques - a way of politicizing people into acceptance of Marxism
5. Alinsky second book, *Rules for Radicals*, opens with a tribute to Lucifer.

- e. **PICO networks with other Alinskyian organizations:** There are numerous examples. One is PICO's commitment to the comprehensive small school restructuring movement that is also part of the IAF's (and Gamaliel and DART since 1996) agenda.
- f. It has been argued that this movement is responsible for the "deliberate dumbing down" of American schools - creating a nation of mere "functional literates." The Alinsky organizations are on record as being the vehicle to generate public support for this system. (See Charlotte Iserbyt, [The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America](#), Conscience Press, 1999. Iserbyt was a Senior Policy Advisor in the US Department of Education.)
- g. These schools are part of a comprehensive package in which education, job training and placement (school-to-work, see CHD "Helping People Help Themselves," Fall 1997), health care, various social services, and in some communities, even housing and citizenship classes, are directed by federal funded programs managed by the community organizations (using the churches). This is socialism.
- h. The PICO-supported healthcare component is not pro-life: in CA, the PICO mobile medical van/ school-based health care - refers to Planned Parenthood; in CA, some PICO churches are sites for Healthy Families, which provides election abortion and family planning coverage (See [www.sffaith.com](http://www.sffaith.com); do search on "Healthy Families")

2. **PICO is liberationist: Articles taken from PICO website [www.piconetwork.org](http://www.piconetwork.org)**

- a. John Roscoe, "Institute Provides Faith-based Tools for Positive Change," Catholic Anchor, May 11, 2001) "It's a new ecclesiology, a new way of being church, said Fr. Bugarin" who is an organizer with PICO.
- b. Warren Adams-Leavitt (Exec. Dir. Of PICO locals CCO & WISC), "Ideology and the Prophetic Tradition" gives an example of scripture being used to justify the organization's political/social activities
- c. Rev. Dr. Kendall Clark Baker, "Putting Faith into Action," (speech delivered at a PICO conference) changes Jesus' commissioning of the 70 from a spiritual message (their mission to spread the gospel) to a material vision: "Mission = Creative Vision + Social Program"