



Bishop Bätzing on Today's Publication of the Congregation for Doctrine

Regarding the “Responsum ad dubium” note of the Congregation of Doctrine published today (15 March 2021) in Rome on the blessing of the union of same-sex persons, the Chairman of the German Bishops' Conference, Bishop Dr. Georg Bätzing, has issued the following statement:

“The note of the Congregation of Doctrine published at noon today (15 March 2021) deals with the question of whether the Church has the authority to bless *unions of same-sex persons*. The answer to this question is no. The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith upholds ecclesiastical doctrine as reflected in multiple documents from Rome.

There have long been discussions in Germany and in other parts of the global Church concerning how this doctrine and doctrinal development can generally be advanced with tenable arguments – on the basis of fundamental doctrinal and moral truths, advanced theological reflection, and also openness for recent findings of human sciences and the life situations of people today. There are no easy answers to questions of this kind.

The Synodal Path initiated by the German Bishops' Conference with the Central Committee of German Catholics will therefore endeavor to hold detailed discussions – particularly on the topic of successful relationships – while taking into account the necessity and limits of doctrinal development in the Church. It goes without saying that the considerations brought forward today by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith must and will be included in these discussions.”

The German Bishops' Conference is an association of the Roman-Catholic bishops of all dioceses in Germany. It currently has 66 members (as per: March 2021) from the 27 German dioceses. The German Bishops' Conference was established to promote joint pastoral tasks, to advise one another, to coordinate the Church's work, to jointly adopt decisions and to maintain contact with other Bishops' Conferences. The highest body of the German Bishops' Conference is the Plenary Assembly of all bishops, at which the bishops regularly meet in spring and autumn for several days.

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