



Bishop Bätzing on the call for nationwide “blessing services for lovers”

Regarding the call by pastoral workers for “blessing services for lovers”, the Chairman of the German Bishops' Conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, issued the following statement:

“A group of Catholic pastoral workers are calling for nationwide ‘blessing services for lovers’ on 10 May 2021. The day is to be used to bless same-sex partnerships in particular. The initiators explicitly oppose the Note of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published on 15 March 2021, which addresses and responds in the negative to the question of whether the Church has the authority to bless unions between persons of the same sex.

I would like to state emphatically, after the Permanent Council of the German Bishops' Conference discussed the issue a few days ago: of course, people with a homosexual orientation, including those living in a same-sex partnership, have a place in the Church. We welcome them. It is part of the pastoral ministry of the Church to treat all of these people fairly in their respective concrete situations on their life's journey and to accompany them pastorally. In this context, however, I do not consider public actions such as those planned for 10 May to be helpful or a way forward. Blessing services have their own theological dignity and pastoral significance. They are not instruments for symbolic actions on Church policy or for protests.

To reiterate what I said on 15 March 2021: there have long been discussions in Germany and in other parts of the global Church concerning how the Church's sexual morality, also with regard to homosexuality, can be advanced based on tenable arguments – built on fundamental doctrinal and moral truths, progressive theological reflection and also openness for recent findings of human sciences and the life situations of people today. This also includes an appropriate discussion of the question of blessing services. In the current situation, the Synodal Path is a central place for comprehensive discussion of successful relationships.”

General information:

Read the press conference of 15 March 2021 at www.dbk.de under [Aktuelles](#)
For additional information on the Synodal Path, visit www.synodalerweg.de.

Editor
Ulrich Pöner
Secretary General of the
German Bishops' Conference

Editor
Matthias Kopp
(Responsible)
Director of the Communications
Office

Kaiserstraße 161
53113 Bonn
Tel. +49 (0) 228 103 214
Fax +49 (0) 228 103 254
Email pressestelle@dbk.de

dbk.de
facebook.com/dbk.de
twitter.com/dbk_online
youtube.com/c/DeutscheBischofskonferenz