



KirchenVolksBewegung

Reform Movement 'We Are Church', Germany

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We Are Church

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News update: Current work since spring 2008:

23rd public general meeting: "Sexuality in Christian responsibility"

At the occasion of the 23rd public general meeting of the reform movement We are Church (Germany), Bielefeld, March 28-30, the Paderborn theologian **Prof. Dr. Agnes Wuckelt** presented a sound overview over the relationship between sexuality and religion. The paper was published together with a detailed statement on the 40th anniversary of the encyclical "Humanae vitae" by We are Church in a new booklet in the "yellow series". Download: → www.wir-sind-kirche.de/id=218

On Sunday, **Dr. Eugen Drewermann** gave a report on the topic "Jesus of Nazareth – Liberation for peace". With a liturgical ceremony in Paderborn cathedral at the occasion of the "World day of prayer for women's ordination", the meeting ended.

Letter to Pope Benedict on abolition of compulsory celibacy

The public general meeting appealed to Pope Benedict to make the Sunday Eucharist possible for all Christian communities – a fact that actually is ensured by Church law (can. 213 CIC) – by abolishing compulsory celibacy. By this letter, We are Church supported the worldwide initiatives for that aim, which are becoming more and more numerous. "No more bans on thinking about celibacy!" was the topic of the Pentecost letter of the reform movement to the parishes.

Participation in 97th German Catholics' Convention, Osnabrueck

As it was done before at the occasion of Catholics' Conventions and Protestant Church Conventions, We are Church participated in the 97th German Catholics' Convention (Osnabrueck, May 21-25). Two great events, dealing with progress after the Second Vatican Council and with ecumenism, a liturgy without priest, the talks at "Jacob's well", and the press releases met huge interest. Resolutions, among others, on participation of non-Catholic Christians in the Eucharist and on admitting re-married divorced persons to the mass were issued.

Accompanying critically the Bishops' Synod on biblical exegesis and homiletics in Rome

A **12 topics paper** was issued dealing with the questions aroused during the Synod; this paper was also adopted by the *International Movement We are Church*.

The **Symposium "Go and preach – women in 'ministries' in the early Church"**, Frankfurt/Main, September 27, 2008, was held as preparation of the day of campaign in Rome.

The **day of campaign in Rome** took place on October 15, 2008, the memorial day of St. Theresa of Avila. Representatives of international movements of women's ordination, clothed like in early times of the Church, showed their opinion to the Bishop's Synod by a **press conference and a demonstration march**. In the afternoon, the petition dealing with the resumption of the diaconate for women was handed over to Pope Benedict XVI via the Vatican security chief. The petition is signed by 1571 catholic organizations and individuals. Photos taken on that occasion later had to be deleted on police order.

The day of campaign had been organised by seven women and men from Germany.



24th public general meeting – "Second Vatican Council and the consequences"

50 years after Pope John XXIII was elected (October 28, 1958) and announced the Second Vatican Council (January 25, 1959), the public general meeting (Wuerzburg, November 7-9) focusses on the changes and the progress initialised by this reform Council and on the question how this progress has developed since then. Main expert speaker during this meeting is **Fr. Dr. Wolfgang Seibel SJ**, observer of the Council and many-year editor of the Jesuit magazine "Stimmen der Zeit" (= Voices of time).



Reform Movement *We Are Church* – Germany (continued)

10 years "*Frauenwuerde e.V.*"

The cooperative "Frauenwuerde e.V. – "dignity of women" – dedicated to provide information and guidance in pregnancy conflicts, has been developed by "We Are Church – Germany" and is being carried by catholic women und man. Meanwhile the cooperative is running 6 information centers in Germany. The 10th anniversary took place on August 16th, 2008, in the "Frauenfriedenskirche" in Frankfurt/M. → www-frauenwuerde.de

Further activities since spring 2008 (selected):

- "Spiritual meeting days", August 2nd to 5th, 2008, on Rothenfels castle
- "Study days" on liturgy, September 19th to 21st, Neustadt, first run by We Are Church in 2008
- Supporting the appeal "Facing the climate change squarely" – at the German Bishops Conference
- Preparing for the (Protestant) Church Convention, Bremen 2009
- Preparing the 2nd Ecumenical Church Convention, Munich 2010
- Several further activities of our diocese and project groups

Important own statements in 2008

- "church people sermon" at the "world day of spiritual professions" – April 7th
- The pope's USA-trip and the speech at the UN (adopted by IMWAC) – 13th
- Three years pope Benedict 16th: "The 2nd Vaticanum is being doubted again – April 14th
- Observing Whit Monday as a celebration of the unity of Christianity – May 8th
- At the beginning of the "Paul Year" and to the ordination in Bavaria – June 27th
- To the decree of the faith congregation, regarding the ordination of women –
- To the 40th anniversary of the Encyclical "Humanae Vitae" (adopted by IMWAC) – 25th
- To Johann Baptist Metz' birthday – "A path breaking theologian" – August 5th
- "Seven impulses" to a pastoral restructuring in the arch bishopric Munich and Freising
- At actual cases of clerical abuse in bishopric Bamberg and elsewhere – August 9th
- to the autumn plenary assembly of the German Bishops Conference (DBK) – Sept. 19th
- 12-topic-appeal to the world bishop synod (adopted by IMWAC) – October 5th
- To the 50th anniversary of the election of pope John XXIII – October 28th

Our permanent offers

- Six counselling offices for women thinking about abortion by Frauenwuerde e.V. (Dignity of Women)
→ www.frauenwuerde.de
- "Cypress-emergency-telephone", a helpline for clerically abused children and teenagers

International assignments in 2008

- Cooperation in the team of the international movement "We Are Church" (IMWAC)
- Participation in "10 years (non-)dialogue for Austria", Vienna, October 24th to 26th
- Attendance at the "Luzern Manifest" conference, Zurich/CH, October 25th
- **IMWAC-Council** – 18th conference of the European Network, Strasbuorg/F, April 4th to May 1st
- Participation in the festivity of **Prof. Dr. Hans Kueng's 80th birthday** – Luzern, June 8th

Preview of our work in 2009 and 2010

- March 27th 29th, 2009 Our 25th public general meeting in Magdeburg – "**Spirituality**"
- May 20th to 24th, 2009 32nd (Protestant) Church Convention in Bremen
- June 1st to 6th, 2009 First stage of the ecumenical pilgrim-bicycle-tour Berlin-Munich
- Oct. 23rd to 25th, 2009 our 26th public general meeting in Munich – "Ecumenical movement"
- May 12th to 16th, 2010 2. Ecumenical Church Convention, Munich – "May you have hope" (1 Petr 1,21)

Donations in Germany: *Wir sind Kirche Foerdereverein e.V.* Account 18 222 000 Darlehnskasse Muenster e.G. (BLZ 400 602 65)
NEW: Donations from Switzerland: *Wir sind Kirche* Account 501015.20 Raiffeisenbank St. Gallen (BC 80005)
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