



# KirchenVolksBewegung

Reform Movement 'We Are Church', Germany

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*We Are Church*

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About recent projects of We are Church Germany since Fall 2008:

## 24<sup>th</sup> 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) focussed 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 was **Fr. Dr. Wolfgang Seibel SJ**, observer of the Council and many-year editor of the Jesuit magazine 'Stimmen der Zeit' (= Voices of time).

His Result: It would be the worst possible reaction, were we to resign ourselves to the present course of our church leadership. That would only work to the advantage of the opponents of conciliar renewal. It makes much more sense to do everything possible to keep the initiatives of the Council from fizzling out while instead imposing them on the life of the church. Throughout the history of the Church, all new ideas, all forward-looking initiatives, and all attempts at reform have come from the bottom up. Nothing is there to prevent us, the people who really are the life of the church, us at the grass roots, us in our communities, to orient ourselves toward the guidelines of the second Vatican Council and portray life according to its forward-looking concept. Hope and gumption are called for, according to Seibel.

The **speech of Wolfgang Seibel SJ** has been published in the form of a **brochure**. **Authorized summaries** are available in **English, French, Italian, Spanish and German**. (see also <http://www.we-are-church.org/int/>)

## Petition 'For the full recognition of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council'

The petition developed as a direct reaction to the extremely problematic unconditional lifting of the excommunication of the bishops of the traditionalist brotherhood of Pius X, which had been drawn up on the 21st of January and published on the 24th of January 2009 (exactly one day before the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Second Vatican Council). The petition was **initiated by German-speaking theologians** (both male and female). This petition is seen as so important by the German, Austrian, and Swiss People's Church Reform Movements that they have together taken over its organization and dissemination.



**Presentation of the preliminary results of the "Vaticanum II" petition to the Secretary of the German Conference of Bishops, Pater Hans Langendörfer SJ (right) on the 3rd of March 2009 in Hamburg. The petition, which as of that date had been signed by 36,300 persons, was presented by (left to right): Dr. Lioba Zodrow, Liturgical Scholar, Prof. emeritus Dr. Stefan Knobloch OFM Cap, pastoral theologian emeritus as well as Christian Weisner and Sigrid Grabmeier, of 'Wir sind Kirche Deutschland'.**

*We are Church* Germany and Austria as well as the *International Movement We are Church* (IMWAC) welcomed the **remarkable letter of Pope Benedict XVI to the Bishops, dated March 10**, with a press release ([http://www.we-are-church.org/int/pdfs/LetterPope09/PRE\\_090314\\_Popeletter.pdf](http://www.we-are-church.org/int/pdfs/LetterPope09/PRE_090314_Popeletter.pdf)).

Despite this letter the **petition will be continued until April 9 (Maundy Thursday)** because there is a continuing need to strengthen and uphold the spirit of renewal in the Roman Catholic church from this visionary Council.

## 24<sup>th</sup> public general meeting of *We are Church* Germany in Magdeburg, March 27 to 29, 2009

'Spirituality – not a Superfluous Luxury for Those Active in Church Politics' is the main topic at the 25th national conference in the home town of the mystic, Mechthild von Magdeburg. On the occasion of World Prayer Day for the Ordination of Women, a Mass will be celebrated in front of the Cathedral of Magdeburg.



### Further activities since Fall 2008 (selected):

- Position paper, 'Sexuality as a Life-Giving Force'
- Preparing for the (Protestant) Church Convention, Bremen 2009, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Church Convention, Munich 2010
- Several further activities of our diocese and project groups

### Important own statements since Fall 2008

- on the 70th birthday of the liberation theologian, Dr. Leonardo Boff (14.12.2008) and Jon Sobrino, SJ (27.12.2008)
- on the 20th World AIDS Day (1 December 2008)
- on the 75th birthday of Prof. Dr. Dr. Gtthld Hasenhüttl (2 December 2008)
- 20 Years after Cologne's Declaration for the Right to Decide for an Open Catholicism (6 Januar 1989)
- on the start of 'Prayer Week for the Unification of All Christians' from 18 to 25 January 2009

### Our permanent offers

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

### International assignments

- Cooperation in the team of the international movement 'We Are Church' (IMWAC)
- Participation in the 'Church Demonstration' and at the conferral of the Haag Prize on 8 March 2009 in Lucerne

### Preview of our work in 2009

- March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009      Our 25<sup>th</sup> public general meeting in Magdeburg – 'Spirituality'
- Mai 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009                      call for 'church people sermon' at the 'world day of spiritual professions'
- June 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009              First stage of the ecumenical pilgrim-bicycle-tour Berlin-Munich
- August 6<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009          'Spiritual meeting days' on Rothenfels castle
- Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009          our 26<sup>th</sup> public general meeting in Munich – 'Ecumenical movement'
- May 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009          32<sup>nd</sup> (Protestant) Church Convention in Bremen

Donations in Germany: **Wir sind Kirche 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)**

**For money transfers from other countries: IBAN: DE07 4006 0265 0018 2220 00 SWIFT/ BIC: GENODEM1DKM**

*'We Are Church e.V. Germany' is listed as a public charity according to German Law.*

*Compilation: Christian Weisner; Translation by Harvey Utech*