

FORUM NEW EVANGELIZATION NECESSARY IN THE SYNODAL WAY

The German Bishops' Conference (DBK) and the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK) apparently continue to follow the Synodal Way and thus ignore the letter of Pope Francis. According to the Pope, evangelization should be the priority topic of the Synodal Way. Therefore, a “New Evangelization” forum would be necessary for Mary 1.0.

In a few weeks, the autumn plenary assembly of the DBK is coming up. There, there will also be an interim report on the Synodal Way, which is to lead the Church out of the existing crisis. This will be a decisive signpost for the Catholic Church in Germany. However, the pronouncements of the DBK and the ZdK so far give cause for concern that Pope Francis' letter “to the pilgrim people of God in Germany” is given too little consideration. Because according to the Pope's words, evangelization should be the main topic:

Accepting the current situation and enduring it does not imply passivity or resignation, and even less negligence; on the contrary, it is an invitation to face what has died in us and in our communities, what needs evangelization and the Lord's visitation. But this requires courage, because what we need is much more than a structural, organizational or functional change.

I remind you [...] that one of the first and greatest temptations in the ecclesial field is to believe that the solutions to present and future problems can be achieved exclusively by reforming structures, organizations and administration, but that in the end these do not touch in any way the vital points that really need attention.

So far, all four forums have, at least nominally, dealt only with the latter issues. From the point of view of Maria 1.0, it is not yet apparent that the topic of evangelization is being given appropriate attention in the Synodal Way. Yet Pope Francis writes clearly:

Pastoral conversion reminds us that evangelization must be our guiding criterion par excellence, under which we can discern all the steps we are called to set in motion as an ecclesial community; evangelization constitutes the proper and essential mission of the Church.

In order to do justice to the theme of evangelization, a “New Evangelization” forum would be necessary for Mary 1.0. There are many examples of successful new evangelization in German-speaking countries, where the future of the Church is already being shaped today. These approaches should be taken up at the Synodal Way.