

## **DBK HAS MISSED ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY**

**At the autumn plenary assembly, the DBK could have carried out the urgently needed transformation. But it once again bypassed the instructions and wishes of Pope Francis. Maria 1.0 is deeply saddened by the bishops' voting behavior in the final vote on the Statutes of the Synodal Way.**

The results of the final vote on the statutes of the Synodal Way at the autumn plenary assembly of the German Bishops' Conference (DBK) in Fulda are disappointing: the Synodal Way was not significantly reshaped. Cardinal Marx and the majority of the bishops insist on the path once taken. They opt for high-handedness instead of fidelity and thus promote the risk of schism. It is a labeling fraud to include the topic of evangelization in the preamble to the statutes of the Synodal Way, but to want to maintain the substantive orientation of the Synodal Way.

The abuse crisis, but also the secularization sought by the DBK, and the high-handed action of Cardinal Marx have shaken the confidence of many believers in the Catholic Church in Germany. Therefore, it is necessary to regain the lost trust by putting Jesus back in the center and focusing on the "primacy of the new evangelization."

Maria 1.0 shares with Bishop Voderholzer the opinion that "the thematic orientation of the forums seems to miss the reality of the crisis of faith in our country." The Synodal Way bears - as Cardinal Woelki says - "great risk of division," which "in the worst case could lead to a German national church."

Maria 1.0 notes with regret that the Pope's instructions for an efficient, sustainable and future-oriented Synodal Way have not been followed in fidelity to the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. We thank the few faithful bishops for their courage and commitment, and especially for voting against the Synodal Way bylaws in the final vote.