

## LET'S GO WITH POPE FRANCIS!

**Pope Francis' post-synodal letter “Querida Amazonia” resulted in controversial reports. Common to many is the sole focus on women's ordination and celibacy. Yet the Holy Father looks much deeper and much further.**

In matters of detail, Pope Francis' post-synodal letter “Querida Amazonia” is primarily concerned with Amazonia, not Germany. Unfortunately, however, many articles on the Pope's letter refer only to the German Church - reducing the Pope's statement primarily to women's ordination and celibacy. Yesterday, the Italian newspaper Osservatore Romano quoted the Pope's confidant Archbishop Vitor Fernandez. Aptly, he said: While evangelicals managed to send well-trained laymen, endowed with responsibility, to the farthest corners of Amazonia, “we would think that with a few married priests we could solve the enormous problems we face.”

So, there is much more at stake. And so, we read Pope Francis' text as an inspiring continuation of the letter he wrote to sisters and brothers in Germany on June 29. However, Pope Francis now takes a global view. We Germans are therefore called upon to look beyond the edge of our noses. Above all, it becomes clear what the Holy Father means when he speaks of evangelization. He thinks and understands evangelization very comprehensively: He thinks of the salvation of the whole creation! That is what he has in mind. No more and no less.

We would like to bring our enthusiasm about this into the synodal journey that the Church in Germany is taking, but also and above all into daily life.

We therefore ask with all urgency: Let us follow the Pope! Let us give direction to the Synodal Way: Conversion of ourselves and new orientation towards God and new evangelization are the goals that are now at hand. Mary 1.0 therefore proposes that the “Synodal Way” be given a new, directional name and be renamed, for example, “Way of Conversion and New Evangelization.” Let us develop together how we can all walk the path of conversion and turning to God.