

## MARIA 1.0 CALLS ON GERMAN BISHOPS TO UNITE WITH ROME

Priests should refrain from unnecessary provocations, such as the planned blessing ceremonies on May 10

The Maria 1.0 initiative is calling on all of Germany's bishops to stop the blessing ceremonies for same-sex partnerships planned by some priests for May 10. "The planned blessing ceremonies are a deliberate provocation in the direction of Pope Francis and should therefore be refrained from by the priests," said Clara Steinbrecher, head of the initiative. Unity with Rome must be preserved at all costs, she said. "Rather, we call on bishops and priests to accompany people pastorally and compassionately in all life situations," Maria 1.0 continued.

Maria 1.0 also invites all Catholics and people of good will to pray a recitation of the Rosary on May 10, 2021, expressing their attachment to the Virgin Mary and the whole Holy Church. "We call on people to ask Our Lady for her intercession with Jesus Christ to keep the bishops and priests in their unity with the Pope and the whole Church," stresses Clara Steinbrecher.

With regard to the planned blessing ceremonies for homosexual couples, Maria 1.0 expresses concern: "Such targeted provocations unsettle the faithful and force them to be loyal either to the local bishop, who may approve of these blessings, or to the Pope." This should not be. "Actually, all priests should be loyal to the teaching authority of the Church. After all, they promised it when they were ordained," Steinbrecher emphasizes.

Maria 1.0 believes that in the heated reporting about the handling of homosexual partnerships within the Catholic Church, an essential point was missed out: Of course, homosexual people can receive the blessing, but their partnership just not.

*Maria 1.0 was launched in May 2019 by Johanna Stöhr, a schoolteacher from Schongau, in response to the Maria 2.0 movement, which developed from Münster, Germany, into a nationwide protest against the valid teaching authority of the Catholic Church and for women's access to ordained ministry. Maria 1.0 believes that "Mary does not need an update." The initiative wants to show "that there are also women who are faithful to the teachings of the Church." Since May 1, 2021, Clara Steinbrecher, a student (majoring in mathematics education and school psychology) has taken up the reins from Stöhr. Steinbrecher has already been part of the Maria 1.0 team for some time.*