

Maria 1.0 regrets Kötter's resignation, but hopes that Maria 2.0 will now show more restraint in internal church debates

Today, Thursday (July 15, 2021), Elisabeth (Lisa) Kötter from the diocese of Münster completes her departure from the Church. For Maria 1.0 this is regrettable – just like any other church resignation – but at the same time it also requires a clear statement: Lisa Kötter is co-initiator of the protest movement called Maria 2.0 – and is mistaken.

Lisa Kötter is looking for the limelight to tell the public about her departure from the church. In an interview with [katholisch.de](https://www.katholisch.de), the official website of the Catholic Church in Germany, Ms. Kötter explained the approximately 220,000 church resignations in 2020 by saying that “people just vote with their feet on what is going on in the church right now. As long as the Catholic Church in Germany, or the Roman Catholic Church in general, does not put a stop to everything that is exclusionary, this will continue.” Thus Mrs. Kötter once more made clear the theological deficits of her protest movement, Maria 2.0.

She is corrected by Clara Steinbrecher, spokeswoman for Maria 1.0, a counter- initiative: “Anyone who assumes that the same sociological mechanisms take effect in the Holy Church as in a man-made association or party has not understood the essence of the Church.” It is precisely not majority decisions or fickle popular feeling, but eternal truths, that are binding for the church, continued the 23-year-old Steinbrecher. She added that Kötter is mistaken if she assumes that the church must align itself with supposed majorities. “Only Jesus Christ aligns the church in terms of content. Here on earth, He appointed Simon Peter and his successors as His deputies. Pope Francis is the current representative of Jesus and in this respect also the only authoritative authority on content at present,” emphasized the student from Eichstätt.

By leaving the church, Ms. Kötter has excluded herself from the sacraments. When asked by [katholisch.de](https://www.katholisch.de) whether she would nevertheless continue to receive the sacrament of communion, Kötter did not rule this out. From the point of view of Maria 1.0, this is further proof that the heads of Maria 2.0 lack sacramental understanding. “You have to feel sorry for

people like Lisa Kötter. The mystery of the faith must never have been properly communicated to them,” Steinbrecher assumed. But for all her compassion for people who exclude themselves from the communion of the Roman Catholic Church, that is, from the Body of Christ, it is clear to Clara Steinbrecher: “In doing so, one has also disqualified oneself for any inner-church discourse.” Maria 2.0 should distance itself from its co-initiator and subject the understanding of the sacraments in its own ranks to a serious review. “How is one supposed to seriously discuss at eye level if central elements of the doctrine of the faith are simply ignored?” the women of the Maria 1.0 movement ask themselves with regard to Kötter's protest movement, which also wants to debate the core of the Church's faith in the “Synodal Way”.

Maria 1.0 was launched in May 2019 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.