

Maria 1.0 calls on Bishop Dieser to change his thinking "Danger of banalization of the faith"

Bishop Helmut Dieser of Aachen has reiterated his call for a reform of Catholic sexual morality. Maria 1.0 clearly contradicts Bishop Dieser and calls on him to distance himself from his statements. Call for reform of religious education.

"I want to stop the extreme defensive, the danger of ghettoization and withdrawal of the church," Bishop Dieser said in an interview with the newspapers of the Verlagsgruppe Bistumspresse in Osnabrück on Sunday. "We must be able to show people that this faith brings enriches life." With regard to the sexual morality of the Church, the bishop of Aachen even urged: "We need the impetus for a further development of [Catholic] teaching." Bishop Dieser did not even mention natural law when he deplored his church's stance on homosexual partnerships.

Clara Steinbrecher, spokeswoman for Maria 1.0 expressed her horror. The 23-year-old student finds such thought games by a Roman Catholic bishop to be "grossly negligent". Bishops are guardians of the liturgy and the Magisterium, according to Steinbrecher. "If Bishop Dieser made the observation in his diocese or beyond that sexual morality is not understood or accepted, he would have to change catechesis," Steinbrecher said. The Maria 1.0 spokeswoman made a comparison: "No father or mother would lift prohibitions if the child does not abide by them. If I forbid my child to consume cannabis and he does it anyway, I don't just allow it, do I? After all, the ban was not a cold-hearted sanction, but rather in the best interests of the child," Steinbrecher explained. This is also the case with sexual morality. It is based on the dignity of human beings and is for their own good.

The women of the Maria 1.0 initiative believe that faith will be trivialized and sold off if all positions that cause offense in a hedonistic, post-Christian society are softened up. "We are mostly young women between the ages of 20 and 40, and we don't live sanctimoniously behind high walls, but in the middle of the world," Steinbrecher, who lives in Eichstätt, told us – "of course we know that Catholic sexual morality is hardly accepted, even among Catholics." But that does not make [Catholic] sexual morality a false morality.

Maria 1.0 therefore calls for the strengthening of Catholic religious education, for example with the “Theology of the Body” by St. John Paul II, as a compulsory subject from grade 9 and the investment of millions [of euros] by dioceses in sacramental catechesis. “The Church needs to unleash the best and most charismatic catechists on the faithful, who will communicate the treasure of the faith in an enthusiastic and inspiring way,” the women state.

“Bishop Dieser wants the faith to enrich people's lives. Then he should ask himself why, as a priest and bishop, he apparently fails didactically to communicate Catholic sexual morality, such as in the Theology of the Body, as an enrichment to the lives of his parishioners. Genuine love with body and soul is fulfillment. And fulfillment is incomparably more than satisfaction,” Steinbrecher states.

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.