

Joint press release by Maria 1.0 and the Initiative Dubium

## “Quo Vadis” Bishop Georg Bätzing?

**Maria 1.0 and Dubium, a Catholic lay initiative in Essen, Germany, criticize statements by Bishop Bätzing during the opening ceremony of the autumn plenary assembly of the German Bishops’ Conference on September 21st, 2021, in Fulda and ask him for clarification.**

Both the papal letter of June 29th, 2019, “Letter to the pilgrim people of God in Germany,” and the greeting by Nuncio Eterović for the autumn plenary assembly are deliberately being ignored by Bishop Bätzing, chairman of the German Bishops’ Conference. The course of the German Synodal Path, which is in urgent need of correction, is being pursued undeterred.

In his sermon of September 21, 2021, Bishop Bätzing answers essential questions of the faith, such as the question of salvation, as follows: “Do you want to redeem us from our sins now? “No, we are not entitled to that. We are also unable to.” Or: “No, I cannot. You are confusing the messenger with the savior.”

If the authority to forgive sins, conferred by Christ, is relativized due to the personal guilt of certain shepherds, we urgently ask for clarification and correction. Here Bätzing denies that Christ effects redemption through the church, that the church is his mystical body, through which and in which the Lord makes present his redemption and redeems people. After all, Jesus himself said to his apostles: “Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you deny, they are denied.” (John 20:23)

We call on all Catholics to pray for the German shepherds of the faith, and we encourage the German bishops to raise their voices against such attacks or theologically false attitudes and to defend the divine truths as well as the church’s doctrine – especially when we fear secular media or worry about our reputation in the world or a possible loss of importance. Let us think of Saint Peter, wanting to leave Rome. On his way, he met the Lord, and when Peter asked where he was going, Christ answered him: “To Rome, to be crucified again.”