

Maria 1.0 welcomes Woelki's decision to remain in office

Maria 1.0, a Catholic initiative, welcomes the Vatican's decision to keep the Archbishop of Cologne in office. "We are pleased that Cardinal Woelki was given a vote of confidence by the universal Church," said Clara Steinbrecher, spokesperson for Maria 1.0.

The Apostolic See has noted that Rainer Maria Cardinal Woelki has resolutely dealt with the cases of sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Cologne, reached out to those affected, and promoted prevention. However, the Holy Father attests to Cardinal Woelki's mistakes in his communication. The cardinal's inadequate communication in connection with the diocese's study on coming to terms with the cases of abuse had led to a crisis of confidence in the Archdiocese of Cologne. "We, too, would have liked to see a better communication strategy from the archdiocese," Steinbrecher said. But the decisive factor for Maria 1.0, she said, was the result of the second study: Cardinal Woelki was not guilty, but actively fought to banish these heinous crimes of abuse from the ranks of the Church once and for all. Maria 1.0 wishes strength and God's blessing to all victims of abuse and to all faithful Catholics who have suffered greatly during this time of crisis of confidence, as well as to Cardinal Woelki, Auxiliary Bishop Schwaderlapp, and Auxiliary Bishop Puff. "We look forward to Cardinal Woelki's return after his sabbatical," Steinbrecher said, because "Rainer Maria Cardinal Woelki is an important worker in the vineyard of the Lord and a shepherd who gives orientation to ordinary Catholics."

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.