

Networks must be ruthlessly exposed

The Munich report mentions networks that are capable of blackmail and cover-up. Maria 1.0 pleads for an informed and open examination of the abuse for the benefit of the weakest members of the society.

According to the Munich abuse report, there are networks within the German Catholic Church that have massively hindered honest and open investigation and research. They support each other and exchange information – for the sake of their own goals and professional advancement. The interesting thing here is that there are “very clear signs” that these particular networks have homosexual members – “who occupy prominent positions in the hierarchy of the Ordinariates.”

This would provide a possible explanation as to why 80 percent of these crimes are same-sex rapes and assaults during puberty or post-puberty age. More than half of the male victims of violent sexual assault were under 13 years of age.

This fact from the MHG study has been swept under the rug during the sessions of the German Synodal Way until now. Yet, according to the report, it appears to be an issue that must be taken seriously. The knowledge about the homosexual tendencies of a priest would in turn result in a “substantial possibility of influence” and/or lead to “(where appropriate, even mutual) potential blackmail.” These networks therefore “contributed significantly to the undoubtedly prevailing tendencies to cover up” the abuse in the church.

As the weakest links in the chain of abuse, children and adolescents are helplessly at the mercy of adults; even decades after the incidents, they continue to suffer from them severely. Abuse is an unspeakable offense against human souls. That is why Maria 1.0 advocates taking every unpleasant detail into account in the fight against abuse and not turning a blind eye to the fact that (homosexual) networks are very much involved in the cover-up.

The Synodal Path, especially, must not turn away from this now obvious fact, considering the long-time accusation by abuse victims that abuse itself is being instrumentalized for church

political purposes. Such statements must not simply be passed over as they concern the protection and safety of the victims.

Maria 1.0 calls for an end to this “looking the other way,” and relentless investigation of these networks, with the help of the public prosecutor's office, and for uncovering the dishonest machinations within them. So that further investigations run smoothly, and to find out the underlying causes of abuse, an independent hotline for clerics who have been blackmailed (within these networks) or have experienced abuse should also be considered.

The entire abuse report can be downloaded via the following link:

<https://westpfahl-spilker.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WSW-Gutachten-Erzdioezese-Muenchen-und-Freising-vom-20.-Januar-2022.pdf>

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.