

Maria 1.0 is appalled by the “abhorrent” (Gaudium et Spes 51) statements of ZdK President Stetter-Karp on pregnancy terminations and calls for her resignation

In an interview, the president of the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK) calls for a nationwide offer of abortions in Germany. This statement, which is clearly against Catholic teaching, was rejected unequivocally by the German Bishops' Conference (DBK). Maria 1.0 expressly endorses the statement of the DBK. Since President Stetter-Karp obviously cannot identify with central contents of Catholic positions, Maria 1.0 calls on her to be consistent and to resign.

The president of the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK), a registered association that is almost entirely financed by the German dioceses, opposes Catholic teaching on the abortion issue. In a recent interview, Ms. Stetter-Karp called for a nationwide abortion service in Germany. However, she has not just been advocating this position since yesterday: Already in 1999, she openly positioned herself against Rome and the then Pope John Paul II by co-founding the Donum Vitae association. The leader of Maria 1.0, Mrs. Clara Steinbrecher, wonders how it could ever come about that a person with such openly anti-Catholic positions could get into such a leadership office, and she calls on Ms. Stetter-Karp to resign. Unfortunately, the fact that representatives of Catholic lay bodies in Germany repeatedly oppose the teachings of the church they claim to represent is nothing new. But the fact that one of the highest representatives of functional Catholicism so explicitly opposes the official teachings of the Catholic Church on the sensitive and important subject of “protection of life” is shocking.

The DBK reacted with unusually clear words on the part of its press spokesman Mr. Kopp: “The position presented by ZdK President Irme Stetter-Karp on the necessity of a nationwide offer of abortions contradicts the position of the German Bishops' Conference.” Whether the criticism will be followed by financial consequences, especially since the DBK is the main financier of the ZdK, remains to be seen.

Maria 1.0 supports without exception the course of the German Bishops' Conference in the issue of protection of life, from beginning to end! Would it not be appropriate in times of a shortage of skilled workers that we finally start to rethink? How many unborn children have to die every year in Germany because they are not wanted? Isn't it about time that we in Germany finally offer unintentionally pregnant women a financial and social perspective so that they decide to keep the child? In countries like France, Hungary or Sweden, the birth rate has increased partly because they take intensive care of women who have become pregnant unintentionally. Is it not an indictment of a country like Germany that women/couples here still decide against having a child for economic reasons?

As the Catholic Church, we have a duty to accept every life. We fight for the weakest in society, who cannot fight or speak for themselves. Again and again, Pope Francis exhorts us to go to the margins of society, and unborn children, more than any other group, are on that very margin. Whoever cannot follow the teachings of the Church and the countless admonitions and exhortations of the popes (culture of death, contract killing, ...) should ask himself/herself whether he/she can, should, and may continue to call him/herself Catholic.

It is Maria 1.0's wish that not only the DBK, but also every single bishop acknowledges unborn life unreservedly, as the current bishops of Augsburg, Regensburg and Görlitz, among others, do repeatedly. When is there a better and more necessary time than now to take up the fight for unborn life? Maria 1.0 calls on all German-language bishops to take a public stand, as Mrs. Stetter-Karp has deliberately confused the faithful.