

General Criticism from Rome – “So that everyone understands”

The Holy See reiterates its criticism of the Synodal Way and puts it in its place.

Pope Francis again found it necessary to update his criticism of the Synodal Way.

In a statement released Thursday afternoon (“Dichiarazione della Santa Sede,” July 21, 2022), the Holy See briefly and clearly summed up what should have been obvious to everyone since Pope Francis' letter “TO THE PILGRIM PEOPLE OF GOD IN GERMANY” (June 2019) at the latest: “The ‘Synodal Path’ in Germany does not have the authority to oblige the bishops and the faithful to adopt new forms of governance and new orientations of doctrine and morals.”

However, the declaration becomes even clearer when it states that new forms of leadership, teaching and morality “constitute a threat to the unity of the Church” [sic!] and violate ecclesial communion.

Clara Steinbrecher, head of the Maria 1.0 initiative, notes, “The concise text leaves no room for interpretation and makes it unmistakably clear that Pope Francis doesn't think much of homegrown ‘German synodality’.

“Already the first theologians and synodalists have begun to give the text their very own reading by reinterpreting, twisting or ignoring the Roman text - as they have done on other occasions.

“The message from Rome is clear! Those who now begin to confuse the facts or rebuild the declaration in their own favor, just to continue and implement the path they have begun at any cost, are doing considerable damage to ecclesial unity and misunderstanding what Pope Francis means by ‘synodality’,” Clara Steinbrecher notes.

Maria 1.0 is pleased that the Holy Father has seen the great need of Catholics in Germany and that he calls the “synodals” to order with his declaration. The hierarchy of the Church, its teachings and its morals are just not arbitrary, even if the enterprise Synodal Way suggests this.