

Cast off, full speed ahead - Osnabrück diocese defiantly sets the sails of disobedience

The fifth synodal assembly has only been over for a few days and already the reformers can no longer keep their seats. Now is the day, now is the hour, is their motto! And that is more than understandable in view of the 90% majorities - in that case, we can go ahead under full sail, thought probably also Bishop Franz Josef Bode, who announced to his diocese on Tuesday, 14 March, that the texts that the Synodal Way resolved would be implemented in his diocese.

The declaration of the Holy See of 21.07.2022 states: "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. It would not be permissible to introduce new official structures or doctrines in the dioceses before an agreement [is] reached at the level of the universal Church; this would constitute a violation of ecclesial communion and a threat to the unity of the Church."

And yet, new celebrations for blessing homosexual couples, baptisms by non-clergy, and sermons delivered by lay people as part of the Eucharistic celebration, are now permitted in the Osnabrück diocese. "The resolutions of the last synodal assemblies, which were supported by an overwhelming majority of bishops and laity, give us the tailwind we need for concrete changes in our diocese," Bishop Bode said.

Blessing celebrations for queer and remarried divorced couples already exist in some parishes in the Osnabrück diocese. Now Bishop Bode is also calling for this openly: "I [can] encourage all couples in our diocese who cannot or do not want to marry in church, but would nevertheless like to place their relationship under a church blessing, to contact us."

In the diocese, from now on, lay people are also to preach and administer baptism as part of the Eucharistic celebration. Bishop Bode commented on this as follows: "We will enable a first group of full-time and voluntary lay people from various places in our diocese in the next few months already to gain practical experience in this important pastoral field. I will

put a provisional order into force in the next few days, which will regulate both the further training and the deployment for lay people who have been appropriately commissioned.”

The Osnabrück diocese also wants to examine how more people can participate in decision-making processes, for example in the election of the bishop.

Rome speaks clearly - but the Osnabrück diocese stands against it. Now it is up to the Holy Father to draw the necessary personnel consequences.

Source:

<https://bistum-osnabrueck.de/von-der-taufe-ueber-die-predigt-bis-zur-segensfeier/>