



KirchenVolksBewegung

Movement We Are Church, Germany

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We are Church

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Update on the work of the German Movement We Are Church since March 2004:

10-Point appeal on the churches' financial and trust crisis

At the end of March 2004 the National Assembly of the Movement *We Are Church* sent a 10-point appeal, entitled „Realising the ‚Signs of time‘!“, to the bishops and the people of God regarding the financial and trust crisis in the churches. The 4-page leaflet „Church without money and trust?“ remains available from the *We Are Church* office.

„We celebrate Hope“ in response to instruction on Liturgy

The campaign „We celebrate Hope“ in response to the instruction on the Liturgy gained very positive feedback. The instruction „Redemptionis Sacramentum“ had been published by the Vatican on the 23rd April this year. In a 4-page letter, sent directly to the chairs of all 13.000 parish boards in Germany at Pentecost, *We Are Church* encouraged the parishes to maintain and further develop the practice of services on the basis of the Second Vatican Council's liturgical reform.

Participation in the 95th German Catholic Congress, 16th-20th June in Ulm

„With God's Strength – shaping the church's future!“ was the slightly modified headline under which the Movement *We Are Church* participated in the 95th German Catholic Congress in Ulm. The participation included a large info-booth with „Talks at Jacob's well“, the session „Parish without priest – a change!“ (among others with pastoral theologian **Prof. Dr. Leo Karrer** from Fribourg/CH) and a „Service with communion without priest“. The discussion „Ice age in Ecumenism – the end of Eucharistic hospitality?“, among others with **Prof. DDr. Gotthold Hasenhüttl**, theologian from Saarbrücken, who was involved in one of the two services in the Gethsemane-Church in Berlin at the Ecumenical Congress in 2003, was part of a fringe programme.

Open letter to the autumn General Assembly of the German Bishops' Conference

The main topic for this autumn's General Assembly of the German Bishops' Conference will be mission and the transmission of faith in our society. In an open letter *We Are Church* asked the bishops for an honest disclosure of the situation but at the same time encouraged them to Christian confidence in its concrete suggestions. Radio Vatican's *Newsletter* reported on the letter.

We are Church National Assembly 22th – 24th October 2004 in Regensburg

„Sensus Fidelium – The sense of faith of the people of God: Pious empty phrase or a reality to be experienced?“ is the main topic of the *We Are Church* Movement's 16th National Assembly from 22th to 24th October 2004 in Regensburg. Key note speaker will be **Prof. Dr. Sabine Demel**, Professor for Systematic Theology und Canon Law at the catholic-theological faculty of Regensburg University.

Participation in the „Bible in Just Language“ project

The *We Are Church* Movement supports the project of a new and just translation of the Bible through sponsoring the translation of the Book Judith. The Bible in just language is due to be finished in 2006.

Position papers on further topics:

- „More transparency and involvement of the people in church taxes“ (20th April 2004)
- „Criticism on unfair practice of the priest's celibacy“ (27th May 2004)
- „Celebrate Pentecost Monday as a feast of Christian unity!“ (28th May 2004)
- „Disappointed about the suspense of Prof. Hasenhüttl by Rome“ (5th June 2004)
- „The Scandal in St. Pölten/Austria ruins the reputation of the whole church – demanding revision of the process of Bishops' appointments and of the conditions to enter priesthood“ (19th July 2004)
- „Anti-Feminism-Paper of the Congregation of the Faith is absurd and contradictory in itself“ (1st August 2004)

Continued overleaf



Movement We Are Church, Germany (Continued)

Preparations for Catholic World Youth Day 2005 in Germany

Following the successful participation of *We Are Church*-Youth representatives in the World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto and its parallel alternative World Youth Meeting, preparations for a critical accompaniment of the XX. Catholic World Youth Day have started. The event will be hosted by the German dioceses from 11th to 15th August and by the Arch-diocese of Cologne from 16th to 21st August 2005. *We Are Church* Youth thereby relies on a "World Youth Day for All", which encompasses all denominations, religions and, in particular, all young people bearing responsibility".

Further information is available under: <http://www.youth.we-are-church.org> and info@youth.we-are-church.org

Comment on Bishops' Synod 2005 on the Eucharist

The Vatican commission for the preparation of the next Bishops' Synod, „*The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the life and mission of the Church*“, which will be taking place from 2nd to 29th October 2005, prepared a Lineamenta including a questionnaire that explicitly invites „*the participation of all in the Church so that they can enter the discussion and take a pastoral inventory*“. As the German Bishops do not involve the people despite the request from Rome, the German *We Are Church* Movement is preparing its own comments until the 31st December 2004 deadline. In addition, there are initial thoughts to carry out another Shadow Synod parallel to the Bishops' Synod.

The Second Decade of the Movement We Are Church . . .

„Keep Moving“ was the theme under which 30 representatives of diocesan and working groups developed perspectives for the second decade of the *We Are Church* Movement on 17th and 18th September in Hannover. The Movement will celebrate its 10th anniversary in summer/autumn 2005.

Upcoming Events 2005 of the German Movement We Are Church

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| 18 th to 20 th March | 17 th National Assembly <i>We Are Church Germany</i> in Erfurt/Germany |
| 5 th to 8 th May | Participation at the <i>Forum of German speaking base communities</i> in Herbrechtingen/Germany |
| 25 th to 29 th May | Participation at the 30 th German Protestant Kirchentag in Hannover/ Germany |
| 24 th to 26 th June | 10 Years <i>We Are Church</i> Movement in Innsbruck/Austria |
| 11 th to 21 st August | Critical Accompaniment of the XX. Catholic World Youth Day in German dioceses and in Cologne |
| Autumn | 18th National Assembly <i>We are Church Germany</i> |

Please direct donations to: » *Wir sind Kirche* Förderverein e.V.« Konto 18 222 000 Darlehnskasse Münster e.G. (BLZ 400 602 65)
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translated by Susanne Kremer, Brighton. GB