

To all sincere Catholics of Germany

Dear faithful,

the truth that the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, is the atoning sacrifice for our sins is the fundamental article of the Christian faith without which the Christian faith can no longer be called Christian. No Christian can be saved without the belief in this fundamental truth. It is therefore necessary to believe it by divine and Catholic faith, as is also stated in can. 750 CIC. The Church calls the denial of this fundamental article of faith a heresy (cf. can. 751 CIC) and punishes it with a latae sententiae excommunication (cf. 1364 §1 CIC). Archbishop Zollitsch, in a TV interview, publicly denied the above-mentioned principal truth of the Christian faith. **He thus separated from the Catholic faith and publicly confessed that he is a heretic.** Therefore, on the basis of can. 1364 §1, he incurs a latae sententiae excommunication, i.e. is excommunicated from the Church.

Keeping silent on such a grave offence against the faith means quasi legalization of heresy as a norm in the Church and at the same time declaration of express support of all heretics. We have to point out that this HERESY MAXIMA has its root in the contemporary unsound theological formation of future priests. A priest, and the more so a bishop, is to be alter Christos, and not “alter antichristos”. A bishop is to lead the souls to heaven, and not to hell and, moreover, hypocritically claim their obedience. We make this excommunication public before the whole Church as well as before You, dear Catholic faithful of the German nation. On the basis of can. 194 §1 pt.2, the Archbishop must be removed from his office. The current activity of Archbishop Zollitsch is irregular (cf. can. 1044 §1 pt.2). Every believer, every priest as well as every bishop of the German Bishops’ Conference is released from obedience to Bishop Zollitsch. We emphasize that as a heretic he must no longer be obeyed by anyone. The bishops of the German Bishops’ Conference are obliged to see to it **that the excommunication penalty is made public, and that Archbishop Zollitsch is deposed** and prohibited from performing the duties which follow from his consecration.

In Christ,

bishops of the orthodox Catholic Synod of the UGCC

- + Samuel OSBM
- + Metoděj OSBM
- + Markian OSBM
- + Eliáš OSBM

Pidhirtsi (Ukraine), 28th May 2009

Copies to:

- The Holy Father Benedict XVI
- Cardinals and Bishops of the Catholic Church
- Bishops’ Conference of Germany

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