

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

In an interview with K-TV, the German Catholic television agency, originally given in Rome on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2022, Cardinal George Pell called on the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to intervene and pronounce judgement on the wholesale and explicit rejection of the Catholic Church's teaching on sexual ethics by Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ of Luxembourg, and Bishop George Bätzing, president of the German Bishop's Conference.

The Australian Cardinal said that, while he understood the difficult situation because of declining numbers in the German-speaking churches (and not only these), the only possible response is to "rediscover the promises of Jesus" and to embrace more closely the "undiminished deposit of faith", and *not* to follow the changing dictats of contemporary secular culture. As Pope Paul VI pointed out many years ago, this is a path to self-destruction for the Church.

This erroneous teaching not only rejects the ancient Judaeo-Christian doctrines against homosexual activity, but undermines and rejects the teaching on monogamous marriage, the exclusive union of a man and a woman.

The excellent letter of the Nordic Bishops Conference 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 is one example of the almost unanimous rejection by bishops around the world of these innovations, but a clear Roman reprimand, following all due process, is needed.

The Catholic Church is *not* a loose federation where different national synods or gatherings and prominent leaders are able to reject essential elements of the Apostolic Tradition and remain undisturbed. This must not become a normal and tolerated situation. Catholic unity around Christ and His teaching requires unity on the major elements in the hierarchy of truths.

This rejection is a rupture, not compatible with the ancient teaching of Scripture and the Magisterium, not compatible with any legitimate doctrinal developments.

The Cardinal respectfully concluded by repeating his request for Roman intervention.

Not one of the Ten Commandments is optional; all are there to be followed, and by sinners. We cannot have a special Australian or German version of the Ten Commandments. Nor can we follow Bertrand Russell, the English atheist philosopher who suggested the Ten Commandments might be like an exam—where only six out of ten questions need to be answered.

Christ welcome and mixed with sinners, but He called us to repentance. So a Mass for special groups can be a good thing, provided Christ's teaching is presented regularly, the need for repentance is preached, and the Sacrament of Penance, Reconciliation regularly available.

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