

International Movement We Are Church – IMWAC European Network Church On The Move – EN/RE

<http://www.we-are-church.org/>

<http://www.european-catholic-people.eu/>

Press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholic reform movements launch international Petition ‘For the full recognition of the Second Vatican Council’

International consternation about the Pope lifting the excommunication of bishops of the ‘Society of St. Pius X’ is channelled into a strong and constructive move

Catholic reform movements from all over the world are protesting against the lifting of the excommunication of bishops of the ‘Society of St. Pius X’ (SSPX) by Pope Benedict XVI, because it has been well-known for a long time that the theology of the SSPX is anti-semitic. Even if the case of Williamson is put aside the Pope’s decision appears to us as a most inopportune one.

Although presented as an act aiming at reunifying Catholics, in reality it enhances divisions inside the Catholic Church. Pope Benedict’s increasing identification of himself with a pre-conciliar minority that refuses to recognize the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) has inflicted a severe disservice to the Catholic Church as an institution in today’s world and also as a community of faith. His autonomous decision was a rebuttal of the principle of episcopal collegiality, a key teaching of the Second Vatican Council and one of the main symbols of unity within the church.. Although the highest authorities in the Church seem to desire to annul the Second Vatican Council a large majority of the faithful, including many bishops wish to follow the its traditions. This Council brought among others a new approach to ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue, especially with the Jews, religious freedom, freedom of conscience, including within the Church and a positive look on the world, together with a Mass in which all could participate.

International Petition for the full recognition of the Council

The *International Movement We are Church* (IMWAC) and the *European Network Church on the Move* (EN/RE) have launched the petition ‘For the full recognition of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council’ on an international level. Started by numerous theologians and Christians in Germany, Austria and Switzerland the petition may be viewed at <http://www.petition-vaticanum2.org/>

IMWAC and EN/RE ask all in the pews, priests, members of religious orders, and reform groups all over the world to support this important petition – now available in 12 languages – with signatures of their members and supporters. After completion the lists of signatures will be handed over to the Vatican, to the Nunciatures, and to the National Bishops' Conferences. The press will be informed about the outcome.

We believe that the close correlation between the cancellation of the excommunications (published January 24, 2009) and the 50th anniversary of the first announcement of a General Council of the Church by Blessed Pope John XXIII (January 25, 2009) gives a clear indication of the direction which the present Papacy wishes to take. We sense a desire among our leadership to return to a pre Vatican II

Church with its fear of openness to the breath of the Holy Spirit, lack of appreciation of 'the signs of the times' and abhorrence of the values of democratic institutions.

But, IMWAC and EN/RE believe it would be the worst reaction to the present course taken by the Church hierarchy to fall into resignation and apathy. That would only help the opponents of the renewal envisioned by Vatican II. On the contrary, hope and courageous activity are necessary. We ask all Bishops and all believers to remain true to the route of this great Pastoral Council of the Roman Catholic Church. We must do everything to rescue the initiatives of the Council from disappearing and to make sure that they continue to permeate the life of the Church.

Links:

PETITION 'For the full recognition of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council' now available in [Cesky] [Deutsch] [English] [Español] [Français] [Hrvatska] [Italiano] [Magyar] [Nederlands] [Polska] [Portuguese] [Suomi]

SPEECH of Jesuit priest Wolfgang Seibel on the Second Vatican Council (presented on November 8th 2008 at the national assembly of We are Church Germany)
[English] [Français] [Deutsch] [Italiano] [Español]

Please contact:

Austria: Hans Peter Hurka +43-650-315 42 00 mailto:hans_peter.hurka@gmx.at
Belgium: Edith Kuropatwa-Fèvre +32-(0)-2-567-09-64 <mailto:ekf.paves@telenet.be>
Brazil: Irene Cacaïs +55-61 3223 4599 <mailto:luisirenecacaïs@solar.com.br>
Canada: Jean Trudeau +1-613)745-2170 <mailto:trudeau.jean@videotron.ca>
Catalunya: Francesc Bragulat <mailto:somescat@somesglesia-cat.org>
Chile: Enrique Orellana +56-696 4491 <mailto:lapazesobradelajusticia@yahoo.com>
Finland: Giovanni Politi <mailto:giovanni.politi@kolumbus.fi>
France: Hubert Tournès +33-240119873 <mailto:hubertournes@orange.fr>
Germany: Christian Weisner +49-172-518 40 82 <mailto:media@we-are-church.org>
Hungary: Dr. Marcell Mártonffy +36 1 2190621 <mailto:martonffy@pantelweb.hu>
Ireland: Helen McCarthy <mailto:wearechurchireland@eircom.net>
Italy: Vittorio Bellavite +39-02-70602370 <mailto:vi.bel@IOL.IT>
Netherlands: Henk Baars +31-20 6370221 <mailto:hbaars@steknet.nl>
Norway: Aasmund Vik <mailto:aasmund.vik@nationaltheatret.no>
Peru: Franz Wieser +51-1-4492716 <mailto:fwieser@speedy.com.pe>
Portugal: Maria Joao Sande Lemos +351.91 460 2336 <mailto:mjoaosandel@gmail.com>
Spain: Raquel Mallavibarrena +34-649332654 <mailto:rmallavi@mat.ucm.es>
Sweden: Krister Janzon <mailto:krister.janzon@comhem.se>
Switzerland: Brigitte Durrer +41-819212725 <mailto:bridu@gmx.ch>
United Kingdom: Martin Pendergast +44 (0)208 986 0807 <mailto:martinjp@btinternet.com>
United States: Aisha Taylor +1 202 675-1006 <mailto:ataylor@womensordination.org>