

Press release 6 February , 2009

Would the Catholic hierarchy deny the Vatican Council II?

A decree from the Bishops Congregation dated 21 January and released on 24 January lifts the excommunication of four traditionalist bishops members of the Saint-Pius X Society ordained by the schismatic bishop, himself excommunicated, Mgr. Marcel Lefebvre, one of whom, Richard Williamson, British, had just publicly denied the existence of gas chambers. Three days later Benedict XVI expressed his total solidarity with the victims of the Shoah. In a document released on 4 February the Vatican demanded from Richard Williamson that he should unequivocally and publicly withdraw his pronouncements on the Shoah as a condition to be admitted to episcopal office.

This decree strikes an intolerable injury to the memory of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime and its accomplices. It raises a huge wave of emotion and indignation among Catholics and all over the world .

Presented as a decision aiming to the unity of Catholics, it can but worsen the polarisation which the pope is stirring up by identifying himself more and more explicitly to a minority persisting in a non negociable refusal of Vatican Council II (1962-65) and of its overtures: among others the freedom of conscience including within the Church, a positive look on the world, participatory mass in local language and facing the congregation.

The Catholics gathered in the International Movement We are Church (IMWAC) and the European Network Church on the Move (EN/RE) cannot in conscience become accomplices of negationist deviances that do not spare the Council, from the part of an absolute power of a gone by age above any control (Canon 331.3) and claiming to be of divine right. We can no longer abstain to ask the pope : what have you done with the Council's authority and the Gospel?