

Catholic religious women demand greater participation for women in the Church

"Passionately living in community". 34 General superiors from Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland met to this topic in Innsbruck from 18 to 22 October 2018.

General superiors are spiritual leaders and responsible for conducting business in their congregations and their works/institutions. As such, they support by a great majority the demands of the "Osnabrücker Theses". These were adopted at the Ecumenical Women's Office Congress in December 2017. The theses advocate the admission of women to all ecclesiastical offices and services as a sign of ecumenism and steps towards a visible unity of the churches.

In addition the General superiors argue that current scientific knowledge of theological and other disciplines are recognized by the Church-Magisterium and taken into account in teaching decisions.

In future, more women are to be included at Bishop Synods, of course with voting rights. Only then they can decide too.

Women in leadership positions of the Catholic Church can assert their authority, their competencies and their influence. To increase significantly the number of qualified women, would contribute to the diversity and enrichment at all levels.

It needs a new culture of dialogue, participation and gender equality in the Catholic Church. The often expressed intentions are to be implemented in practice.

In the history and the present of the religious orders there are many examples of how men and women have worked and are working in fraternal cooperation beneficially for people.

Structures that promote any form of abuse in the Catholic Church must be eliminated. The General superiors agree to make their contribution. In their own dealing with power they experience it as positive to be elected by its members, that they owe their communities accountability and that their tenure (period of office) is limited.

The German General superiors are a part of the International Union of General superiors (UISG). The worldwide organization comprises 2,000 representatives of Apostolic active congregations with more than 900,000 members. Every three years the General Assembly meets in Rome, in between regional meetings take place. In May 2016, on the initiative of the UISG in, Pope Francis had set up a Commission, which deals with the historical reassessment of the woman diaconates.

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