

*Movimiento internacional*  
**Somos-Iglesia**

*Movimento Internacional*  
**Nós somos Igreja**

*Movimento Internazionale*  
**Noi siamo Chiesa**

*Mouvement international*  
**Nous sommes Eglise**

*Internationale Bewegung*  
**Wir sind Kirche**

# *International Movement* **We are Church**

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Press release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Catholic reform movements hope to see further gestures of reconciliation by the Pope – ‘Petition Vatican 2’ will be continued until Maundy Thursday – Knowledge about the documents and the spirit of the Council to be intensified .**

The *International Movement We are Church* (IMWAC) **welcomes the remarkable letter of Pope Benedict XVI** in which he explains his decision to unconditionally lift the excommunication of four bishops of the ‘Society of St. Pius X’ (SSPX).

This very personal letter of the Pope shows that he is listening to the many voices raised in protest at his action. The variety of the **criticism from all over the world should not be considered as hostile to the Pope** but as an expression of deep concern regarding the welfare of the whole Church, as provided for in Can. 212 § 3 CIC (Codex Iuris Canonici): ‘All the christian faithful ... have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful.’

Pope Benedict has once again expressed his desire for reconciliation very clearly. We hope **this desire will lead to the practice of mercy towards other members of the Catholic Church**. If the Pope is so worried about the four bishops and 491 priests of the ‘Society of St. Pius X’ we ask whether he is also worried about the over one hundred thousand priests who were forced to leave their office during the last 30 years because of the law of celibacy, a law which the Pope could revise at any time.

We ask also if the Pope is concerned about his collegiality with bishops, about the disciplining of theologians, about the deprived laity, about the remarried divorcees, about women who do not have access to ordination, about married couples burdened by the rigid rules of ‘*Humanae vitae*’, about homosexual men and women, and finally about HIV-victims who are not allowed to use condoms.

Bishops, theologians and faithful within our church have been upset and confused by this controversy during the last few weeks. But it has had some positive results in that through this conflict **the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) has been brought into focus once again in the whole church**, exactly 50 years after its first announcement by Pope John XXIII on January 25, 1959. We hope – together with Pope Benedict and with our bishops – that the widespread discussions of past few weeks have awakened a new interest in the dynamics and the future directions of the Council.

The *International Movement We are Church* (IMWAC) strives to **deepen awareness and relevance of the documents and spirit of the Second Vatican Council.**

- The **international petition ‘For the full recognition of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council’ will be continued**, not just because of this present controversy with the ‘Society of St. Pius X’ but more importantly because there is a continuing need to strengthen and uphold the spirit of renewal in the Roman Catholic church from this visionary Council.

The petition ([www.petition-vaticanum2.org](http://www.petition-vaticanum2.org)) can be **signed until April 9, 2009 (Maundy Thursday)**. The results will be presented on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the election of Pope Benedict (April 19, 2009).

#### **Links:**

**PETITION ‘For the full recognition of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council’** now available in [[Catalá](#)] [[Cesky](#)] [[Deutsch](#)] [[English](#)] [[Españiol](#)] [[Français](#)] [[Hrvatska](#)] [[Italiano](#)] [[Magyar](#)] [[Nederlands](#)] [[Polska](#)] [[Portuguese](#)] [[Русский](#)] [[Suomi](#)]

**SPEECH of Jesuit priest Wolfgang Seibel on the Second Vatican Council** (presented on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the national assembly of We are Church Germany) [[English](#)] [[Français](#)] [[Deutsch](#)] [[Italiano](#)] [[Españiol](#)]

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