



— PRESSEMITTEILUNG —

Bernhard Kellner · Kapellenstraße 4 · 80333 München · Tel. 089.2137-1263/-1264 · Fax 089.2137-271478
pressestelle@erzbistum-muenchen.de · www.erzbistum-muenchen.de/presse

Cardinal Marx establishes foundation for those affected by sexual abuse in the Church

The charitable foundation “Spes et Salus” shall enable healing and reconciliation

Munich, 4 December 2020. By establishing a charitable foundation, Cardinal Reinhard Marx wants to help people who have been affected by sexual abuse within the Catholic Church, and to offer them a path to healing and reconciliation. The foundation is called “Spes et Salus” (“Hope and Salvation”). In the cardinal's view, this should supplement the church's commitment to prevention and to coming to terms with and acknowledging the suffering.

“Sexual abuse in the Church's area of responsibility is a crime. It destroys people's lives and is a heavy burden for those directly affected, as well as their family and friends. The church system as a whole is guilty here. Abuse has systemic causes and consequences,” explained the Archbishop of Munich on the occasion of the foundation's establishment. “It is all the more important to me, both in my role as Archbishop of Munich and Freising and as a private citizen, that I do everything possible to fight against and come to terms with abuse.”

That's why he decided to “give the majority of my personal assets to ‘Spes et Salus’, the foundation I have established”. Throughout his life, the cardinal says, he has tried “to be responsible with the financial resources given to me as remuneration for my work as institute director, professor and bishop”. Over the years, he has accrued some EUR 500,000, “which – I am convinced – should not be used for me, but for the salvation and healing of people”.

Cardinal Marx stressed that he wanted said resources “to be used in the interests of the people who have impressed me again and again in recent years: my encounters and conversations with those affected by abuse, and the reports and investigations about their lives and fates made it clear to me how much force must be applied and how much effort is needed to confront and deal with the causes and consequences of abuse”. He's aware that “money won't heal any wounds. But it can contribute to creating conditions that facilitate healing and transformation.”

The “Spes et Salus” Foundation will be managed under the umbrella of the archbishopric's St. Korbilian Foundation. The chairman of the foundation's advisory board – which also includes someone



ERZBISCHÖFLICHES ORDINARIAT MÜNCHEN : PRESSESTELLE

— PRESSEMITTEILUNG —

Bernhard Kellner · Kapellenstraße 4 · 80333 München · Tel. 089.2137-1263/-1264 · Fax 089.2137-271478
pressestelle@erzbistum-muenchen.de · www.erzbistum-muenchen.de/presse

affected by abuse in the Church – will be the former vicar general of the archdiocese, Prelate Peter Beer. According to its statute, the purpose of the foundation is “to contribute to empowering, encouraging and supporting those affected by abuse on their journeys to self-empowerment and self-determined personal development”. Those affected shouldn’t “just be addressees and participants in the activities, offers and actions”, but “be equal, active participants in discussing, conceptualising, designing and evaluating what can and should be achieved by the foundation”. The foundation shall cooperate in particular with the Centre for Child Protection CCP at the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising’s Foundation Meeting Centre in Rome. The “Spes et Salus” statute stipulates that donations, “whose purpose conforms with the purpose of the foundation” are possible. (kel)

Information:

Statements from Cardinal Reinhard Marx on the establishment of the foundation can be found as text and as a video at www.erzbistum-muenchen.de/stiftung-spes-et-salus.