

15 March 2011
039a

PRESS RELEASES
OF THE GERMAN
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE



Visit by the Pope 2011

The logo for the Pope's visit to Germany

The logo for the visit by the Pope is a modern design. As a result of the choice of colours and the artistic arrangement, it appears graceful, combining tranquil elements with dynamic lines. Central elements of the design are the church-like construction, a group of people on an ascending path and the cross. We find the German national colours of black, red and gold (in this case yellow) embellishing the design and symbolising the host country visited by Pope Benedict XVI.

The community of believers is depicted in the logo as following the path to Christ. The church-like construction shelters the believers and offers them protection, and a home. The group of people stands for the believers who set off on a shared journey leading upwards. The climbing of the path symbolises the orientation towards the future. The destination of the pilgrimage and the future lie in Christ, who is represented by the cross. It becomes clear that the Church embarks for Christ as God's pilgrim people and community of believers. This image is amplified by the motto of the Pope's journey: "Where God is, there is the future". The logo declares: The Church in Germany is with the Pope on the path to God's future.

The motto of the Pope's visit to Germany

"Where God is, there is the future" – this motto highlights two central topics which provide the two key subjects of the visit to Germany by Pope Benedict XVI, similar to the foci of an ellipse: The question of God and the future. For us as Christians, the future is not an anonymous power, it is not a principle catching us unawares, nor is it an unavoidable fate. Our future lies in and with God. The motto bears witness to this.

At the same time, it is intended to provoke reflection. God is counting on us for the future of the world. He wishes to shape the future through us. Being open to God and His will paves the way for a dignified future. Our past experience, particularly with National Socialism and Communism, has clearly shown that a social system without God has no future. This makes it all the

Kaiserstraße 161
53113 Bonn

Postal address
Postfach 29 62
53019 Bonn

Tel.: 0228-103-0
Ext.: 0228-103 -214
Fax: 0228-103 -254
e-mail: pressestelle@dbk.de
Home: <http://www.dbk.de>

Published by
P. Dr. Hans Langendörfer SJ
Secretary of the German
Bishops' Conference

more urgent to regain an awareness today that the progenitors of the Basic Law (the German Constitution) explicitly spoke of the responsibility “before God and man”. This context is significant for the future, even and indeed particularly now that more than six decades have passed and in a world which is coming ever closer together.

Giving prominence to the question about God is something which Pope Benedict XVI therefore considers to be one of the most central tasks of his own service, as well as of that of the Church as an overall community of believers. One of the most urgent tasks of our time must be to look for ways to bring forward the Christian faith convincingly, not aggressively, but self-confidently, in the political arena, in society, in industry, in academia and in culture. Thus is shaped a just co-existence in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, characterised by love of God and of our fellows. What is more, the question of successfully passing on faith to children, young people and adults is one which ultimately determines the survival of faith in our country and in a society which appreciates responsibility as much as it does freedom.

The motto is a phrase by Pope Benedict XVI himself which he coined during a visit to the pilgrimage site in Mariazell, Austria, in 2007.

The artist of the logo

The logo competition was won by the MediaCompany agency, which has its headquarters in Bonn. The logo was designed by Jola Fiedler. She was born in Stawiszyn, Poland, in 1962 and qualified as a designer at the Technical College in Aachen in 1987. She has been working for the MediaCompany agency since 2010.

Copyright notice for the logo

The logo is the copyright of the Association of German Dioceses (*Verband der Diözesen Deutschlands – VDD*). Institutions of the Catholic Church may use it free of charge on the Internet and on non-commercial printed products. Any further use requires the authorisation of the copyright owner, in particular for commercial use.