

Interview of Pope Benedict XVI with journalists during his flight to the United Kingdom (16 September 2010)

At the beginning of 2010, it was in Berlin, at the Jesuit College of St Canisius, that the problem of sexual abuse scandals was first made public in Germany. Many people will expect the Pope to make some sort of reference to these scandals. Here are some elements of his answer from his flight to the United Kingdom, where similar cases had occurred:

1 “These revelations were a shock for me. They are a great sadness, and it is hard to understand how this perversion of the priestly ministry was possible. The priest at the moment of ordination, a moment for which he prepared for years, says “yes” to Christ, in order to be his mouth, his hand, and to serve with all his being so that the Good Shepherd who loves us, who helps and guides us to the truth, may be present in the world. How a man who has said and done this can afterwards fall into such perversions is difficult to understand....”

2 “It is a great sadness, a great sadness also that Church leadership was not sufficiently vigilant and sufficiently swift and decisive in taking the necessary measures. On account of this, we are living a time of penance, humility, renewed sincerity, as I wrote to the Irish Bishops....”

3 “Our first interest must be the victims: how to repair the damage, how to assist these persons in overcoming their trauma, in finding life again, in finding trust in the message of Christ. Care, commitment in favour of the victims, is the first priority, together with material, psychological, and spiritual assistance....”

4 “Secondly, there is the problem of those who are guilty. A just penalty must exclude them from all access to young people. We know that this is an illness, that free will does not rule where this illness is present, and that we must protect these persons from themselves....”

5 “Thirdly, there is the question of prevention through education and the selection of candidates to the priesthood....”

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**July / August /
September 2011**

WORD OF THE PRIEST

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When Pope Benedict XVI travelled to the United Kingdom in September 2010, he was asked by journalists whether he was worried about how he was going to be received. The Holy Father answered: "I must admit that I am not worried, because when I went to France, it was said that it was the most anticlerical country, with strong anticlerical opinions and very few believers; when I went to the Czech Republic, it was said that it was the most irreligious country in Europe and the most anticlerical also. Yes, all Western countries have, each one in its own way, strong anticlerical and anti-Catholic opinions, but they also have a strong presence of the faith."

The Pope then distinguished three groups of people: Catholics, agnostics, and anti-Catholics. From each of them, he had received a different kind of response: "I have seen and received in France and in the Czech Republic a warm reception from the Catholic community, great attention from agnostics who are still seeking, who wish to know and find the values that assist the progress of humanity, and they were attentive, hoping maybe to hear from me something in this vein."

And what about the anti-Catholics? There had been some very strong anti-Catholic reactions in the media before Benedict came to Great Britain. The Pope remained calm: "As regards tolerance and respect from anti-Catholics, naturally Great Britain has had its own history of anti-Catholicism. This is obvious; but it is also a country with a great history of tolerance. And so I am sure that there will be a positive welcome from Catholics and believers in general, attention from those who are seeking how to move forward in our time, and respect and tolerance where there is anti-Catholicism. I am going with good spirits and with joy."

Cardinal Meisner from Cologne said the other day that he hoped the Pope's visit to Germany, his native country, would be "a second England". Such a result also depends on us. Let us go to the Olympic Stadium. Let us listen to Pope Benedict. Let us give him a warm welcome. God bless the Pope!

Father Herbert Gillessen

Liturgy July/August/September 2011

All Saints / St Bernhard's / St Albert's

JULY

3	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
10	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
17	16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
24	17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
31	18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

AUGUST

7	19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
14	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
21	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
28	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

SEPTEMBER

4	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
11	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
18	25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
25	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

Information for the Mission in General

Our Mission offers pastoral care, religious education (children and adults: First Holy Communion, Confirmation). Baptisms, weddings, hospital and home visits can be arranged through the Priest.

The Priest is also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and by appointment.

For weddings, please contact Father Gillessen 3 months in advance.

English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission

at St Bernhard's

Königin-Luise-Str. 33
14195 Berlin (Dahlem)
(U3 Dahlem-Dorf,
Bus X 83, X11)
Sunday at 11 a.m.

at St Albert's

Nestorstr. 10
10709 Berlin-Halensee
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,
S-Bahnhof Halensee) M19, M29
Sunday at noon

at All Saints

Hüttenweg 46
14195 Berlin-Dahlem
Bus 285, 115,
Sunday at 10 a.m.

at Heilig Geist

Filipino Community
Bayernallee 28
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(S-Bhf.Heerstr./U-Bhf. Neu-Westend)
Sunday at 3.30 p.m.

at St Michael's

Ghana Community
Waldemarstr. 8-10
10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg
U-Bhf Moritzplatz
Sunday at 1 p.m.