

SUPPORT FOR THE AUSTRIAN PRIESTS WHO FORM THE “PFARRER-INITIATIVE”

We are the married priests and their wives who form the European Federation of Catholic Married Priests (FECM). Today we are present in different active groups in Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, The United Kingdom, Italy and Austria. We thank you for the stand which you have taken and we have decided to assure you of our support. Faithful to the trends of the Second Vatican Council, we must put on record how the numerous openings which it had permitted are today restricted, even rejected. On the other hand we are aware that the urgent and necessary reform required will come about first and foremost because the grassroots will do it and take the initiative.

When so many Christians have already set out on the road to a church which is “other”, we rejoice to see some priests choosing to follow their conscience and carry through an action which is collective, knowing that the Episcopal body is actually reduced to keeping silent under the pretext of unity. However unity does not come from uniformity, nor from blind submission.

We support in particular the opposition to the existing system of regrouping parishes, a system which runs counter to a ministry which is implanted in the community and which creates social and fraternal bonds.

We are going to continue to spread abroad your manifesto to which we will, from here on in, add our letter of support.

We wish you perseverance and strength on the long march.

May the spirit of Jesus guide our spirits and our hearts.

The representatives of the European Federation of Catholic Married Priests.