



The Catholic Church in Germany

**FACTS & FIGURES**  
**2010/11**

Working Aid 249





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**Preface**

*by Archbishop Dr Robert Zollitsch,  
President of the German Bishops' Conference*

Statistics are a way of creating a connection between experience and theory. We use this fact in order to obtain a better idea of what we experience every day, both locally and in the wider context. The figures, graphs, tables and illustrations in this Working Aid are intended to demonstrate what the Catholic Church in Germany means: 436,228 young people aged between eight and 18 serve as altar boys and girls; Catholic schools form part of the German educational landscape with a total of 908 schools; 24.6 million people all over Germany belong to the Catholic Church.

This Working Aid presents the benchmark figures of life in our bishoprics from baptisms to burials, from church-goers to special pastoral care, and shows how many priests and religious there are, how many

people are committed to pastoral services and are working on an honorary basis. The Working Aid provides an overview of the parishes abroad, as well as of the activities of our aid agencies, and shows what the Church is doing in kindergartens, schools, institutions of higher education and adult education. The figures and illustrations represent the people, parishes and associations which shape our society, drawing on their faith.

The Old Testament Book of Wisdom contains the apt words “But you have disposed all things by measure and number and weight” (Wisdom 11:20). The Bible’s wisdom literature praises God for the diversity that He has created. This diversity is well ordered. Already in the Bible, numbers and figures are an integral part of God’s message about the world. In this

sense, the new Working Aid encourages us to gain a clearer picture of the many measures and numbers of the Catholic Church. The Church is unity in diversity. You, Dear Reader, will be able to see this presented below in the pages of this Working Aid entitled “The Catholic Church in Germany – Facts & Figures”, published in this form for the first time.

I hope that you will gain a good insight and a perspective of what the Church is about: serving God and serving people.



*Archbishop Dr Robert Zollitsch,  
President of the German Bishops' Conference*

## 2. Religion in Germany



Alois Glück, President of the Central Committee of German Catholics (Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken – Zdk):

“We Christians can build on a strength which is greater than we are: God gives strength for the tasks of life. This is the source of our strength, particularly in times of crisis and transformation.”

**Roughly two-thirds of the more than 81 million Germans were Christians in 2010.** 24.6 million belong to the Catholic Church; 24.1 million<sup>1</sup> people belong to the Evangelical Church in Germany. Added to this are members of Protestant Free Churches (roughly 300,000), Orthodox Churches (1.2 million) and other Christian Churches (33,000)<sup>1</sup>. The share of Christians in the total population is hence 62 percent. Another third of Germans are either non-denominational or belong to another religion. These include, for instance, members of the two other monotheistic religions, the Muslims (estimated at 4 million)<sup>2</sup> and the members of the Jewish communities (roughly 100,000)<sup>3</sup>.

### The Catholics

There are 1.1 billion Catholics worldwide. At 24.6 million, their number had decreased in Germany in 2010 to just under one-third of the German population (30.2 percent). They accounted for 42.7 percent prior to reunification in 1990; the share made up by non-denominationalists markedly increased after reunification. There are major regional differences here which are caused, firstly, by Protestants being dominant in the Northern areas, as well as by the political system in Eastern Germany prior to 1990. Between three and nine percent of the population in the Eastern Federal *Länder* are Catholic, depending on the region, and in the Northern Federal *Länder* between six percent (Schleswig-Holstein) and 17 percent (Lower Saxony). The share of Catholics is much larger in

<sup>1</sup> Evangelical Church in Germany: survey 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Office for Migration and Refugees: survey 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Central Welfare Agency of the Jews in Germany: survey 2010.

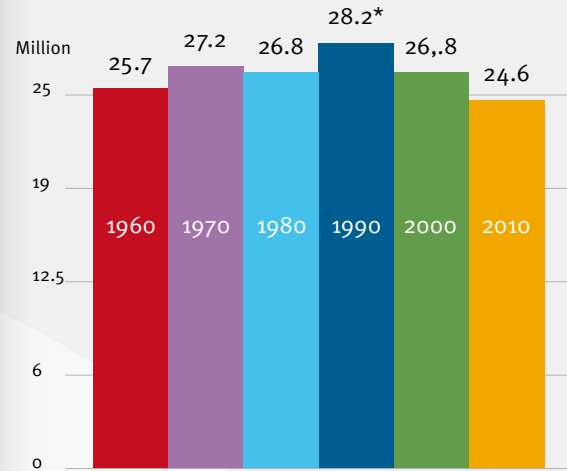
the Southern Federal *Länder*: 55 percent in Bavaria, 64 percent in the Saarland.

This fall in the number of German Catholics is due, firstly, to the demographic developments in society as a whole – more Catholics are buried per year than are received through baptism, and secondly, the share is reduced by renunciations of membership (cf. Chapter 4.5).

Ties to the Church vary considerably among German Catholics. According to an Allensbach survey from 2009, 17 percent refer to themselves as “believing, committed to the church”, 37 percent as “critical, with ties to the church”. Almost 50 percent refer to themselves as distanced, unsure or not religious.

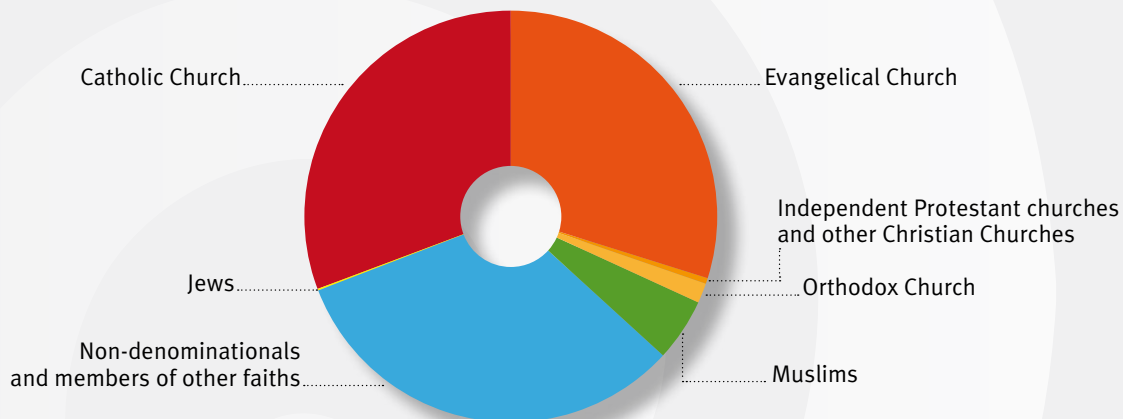
### Catholics in Germany 1960 – 2010

absolute numbers, in millions,  
information from the bishoprics



\* from 1990 with the new Federal *Länder*

### Religions and denominations in Germany



### 3. Views from the inside: The structure of the Catholic Church



Father  
Dr Hans Langendörfer SJ,  
Secretary of the German  
Bishops' Conference:

“Faith brings about trust and serenity, and the Church gives witness to faith and strengthens it. I am grateful that I may take part in this.”

**The Catholic Church is headed by the Pope, since 19 April 2005 Pope Benedict XVI.** He has his seat in the Vatican in Rome and is at the same time Bishop of Rome. As leaders of their dioceses, bishops are dispersed across the entire world. The Catholic Church is hence a “global player”, or indeed a **Universal Church**.

The Catholic Church in Germany is made up of 27 **dioceses**. The dioceses of a region together form an **ecclesiastical province**. They are headed by a diocese that is referred to as an **Archdiocese** (also **Archbishopric**); its bishop is an Archbishop. The other dioceses are referred to as “suffragan bishoprics”. They are legally subordinate to the Archdiocese in certain fields. Germany has seven Archdioceses (Archbishoprics), which preside over the seven ecclesiastical provinces (Bamberg, Berlin, Freiburg, Hamburg, Cologne, Munich and Freising, Paderborn).

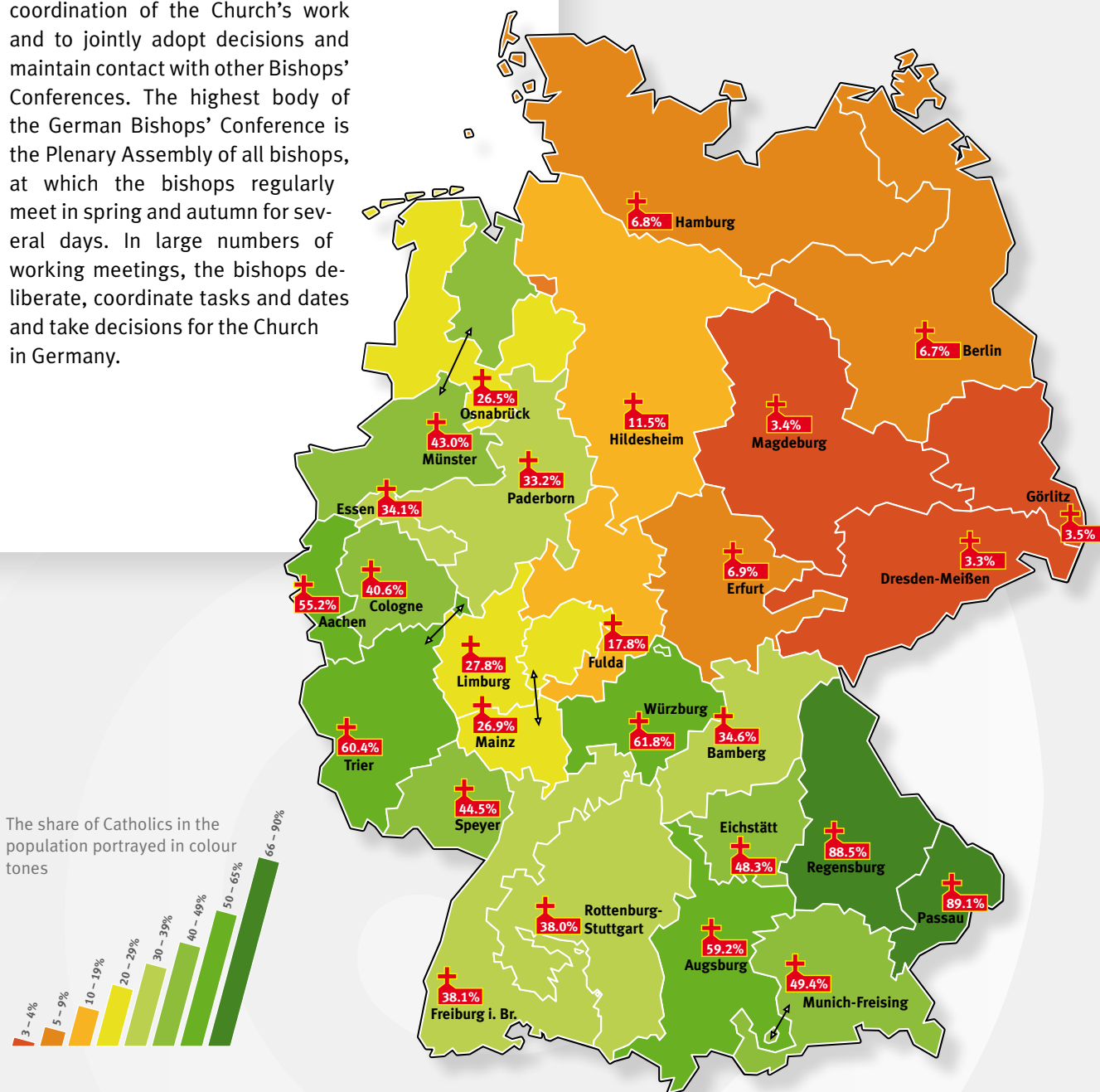
The smallest unit within the Church's forms of organisation is the **parish**, in which Catholics live together. The **parish priest** leads the parish. He works together with full-time and honorary staff. The parishes of an area are combined in a deanery. This is led by the **Dean**.

The **German Bishops' Conference** is an association of the Roman-Catholic bishops of all dioceses in Germany. It currently has 70 members (as per: August 2011) from the 27 German dioceses. The German Bishops' Conference was established to promote



joint pastoral tasks, to advise one another, to promote the necessary coordination of the Church's work and to jointly adopt decisions and maintain contact with other Bishops' Conferences. The highest body of the German Bishops' Conference is the Plenary Assembly of all bishops, at which the bishops regularly meet in spring and autumn for several days. In large numbers of working meetings, the bishops deliberate, coordinate tasks and dates and take decisions for the Church in Germany.

### The share of Catholics as a percentage of the population by (arch) bishoprics 2010



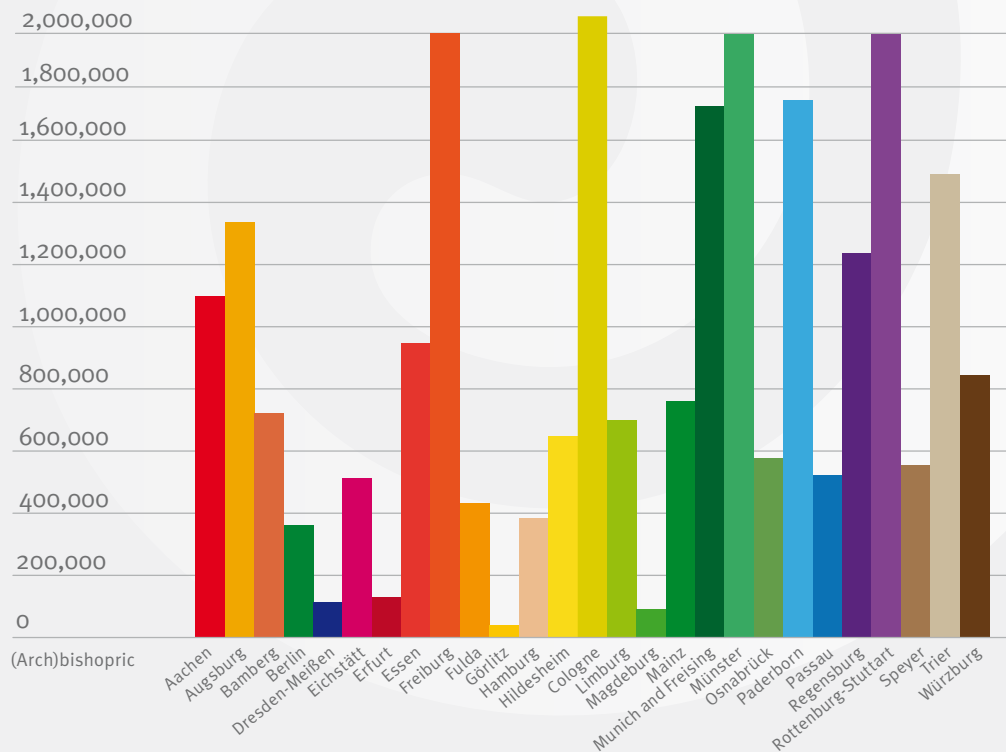
### 3. Views from the inside: The structure of the Catholic Church

To support its activities and to carry out its tasks, the German Bishops' Conference maintains the Secretariat of the German Bishops' Conference in Bonn, as well as the Liaison Office of the German Bishops' Conference (or Catholic Office) in Berlin, which maintains contact with the political institutions. The President of the German Bishops' Conference is the Archbishop of Freiburg, Dr. Robert Zollitsch.

#### *The relationship between the Church and the State in Germany*

- ... is based on constitutional and statutory provisions, as well as on State Church Treaties (e.g. concordats)
- ... freedom of religion enjoys special constitutional protection
- ... the German legal system guarantees to the religious communities autonomy to look after their own affairs (e.g. ecclesiastic labour law)
- ... there is no State Church, but there are many instances of cooperation between the State and the religions (e.g. religious education, military chaplaincy).

**Catholics by (arch)bishopric in 2010**



## 4. Benchmarks: Life in the bishopric



Stefanie Prescher, YCW,  
Essen Diocesan Association:

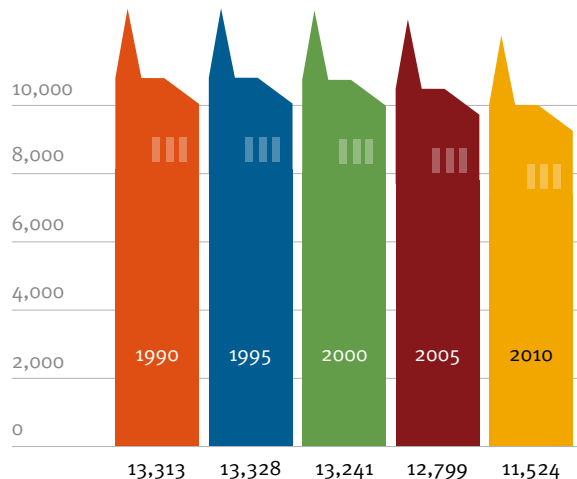
“Each person is worth  
more than all the gold  
in the world because  
he or she is a son or  
daughter of God.”

(Cardinal J. Cardijn, Founder of the  
Young Christian Workers (YCW))

**Church life in Germany is diverse.** It takes place in parishes and associations, in Caritas, religious education and universities, at kindergartens, in schools, hospitals and academies. Correspondingly, Christians pursue careers in many fields for their Church. Whether as doctors, journalists, kindergarten teachers, school teachers, lawyers, managers or janitors, with a total of roughly 1.2 million workers, the Catholic and Evangelical Churches in Germany are the second-largest employer after the public service. The Catholic Church employs roughly 650,000 people on a full-time basis, approximately 150,000 of whom in the institutionalised Church; more than 500,000 work for Caritas. According to estimates, in excess of 600,000 people do volunteer work for the Catholic Church.

### Parishes and other pastoral care units

1990 – 2010



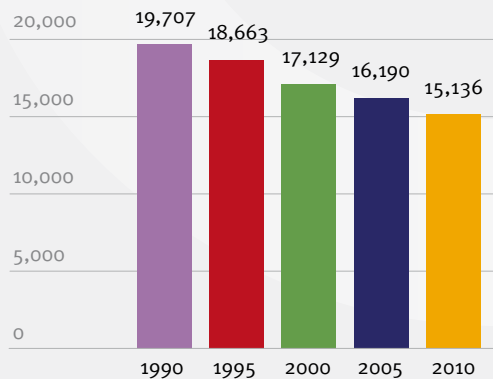
### 4.1. Priests and pastoral services

The pastoral structure of the 27 German bishoprics has been changing for more than ten years: Parishes are being combined and thus the pastoral areas enlarged. This means that a priest is responsible for many more faithful than was previously the case. Falling numbers of priests are hence being counterbalanced, whilst at the same time the laity are also being given greater responsibility. The rights and duties of the parish members in helping to proclaim the faith are being stressed here, and other institutions of church life, such as spiritual communities, orders, associations and church schools, are being more closely involved in the everyday life of the parishes.

After the structural reform, there are a total of 11,524 parishes and other pastoral care units in Germany in 2010, as well as special pastoral care, which for instance takes place in hospitals. The number has

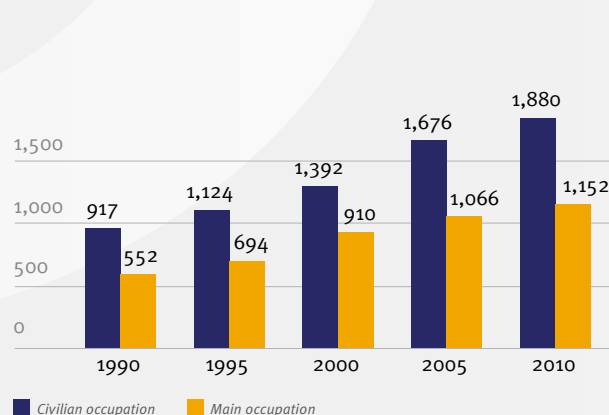
fallen by 13.4 percent in comparison to 1990 – at which time there were 13,313 parishes. There are 15,136 priests, including 2,205 priests within orders (as per: 2010). Moreover, there are 3,032 permanent deacons, 4,481 parish and 3,071 pastoral expert workers. The number of lay people in the pastoral service is increasing continuously: For instance, the number of pastoral workers has almost doubled since about 1990. This means that more men and women in Germany are working in the pastoral service than ever before. At the same time, however, the number of candidates for the priesthood is falling. 120 new entries were recorded at the end of 2010 for the German (arch)dioceses. This was 41 fewer men in comparison to 2009, a reduction of 25.5 percent. The number of new priests fell from 99 in 2009 to 80 in 2010. Also the total number of seminarians fell from 842 (2009) to 798 (2010). Similar developments can be observed in training for the priesthood at the communities belonging to the German Conference of Superiors of Religious Orders (DOK).

**Secular priests and priests belonging to an order in parish pastoral care\***



\*not including those living outside the bishoprics.

**Permanent deacons**  
Developments 1990 to 2010, absolute



## Foreign priests

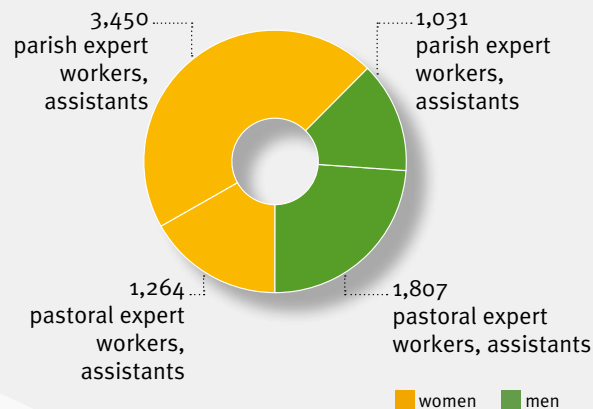
According to the latest numbers from 2009, 1,599 priests from abroad were working in Germany, including 760 secular priests and 839 priests within orders. The main countries from which the foreign priests come are India and Poland. Since the Catholic Church understands itself as a “Universal Church” – in other words as an international Church – mutual contact and exchange between Catholics (be they laity or priests) from different nations is to be a matter of course, and is also promoted by the Pope (e.g. the establishment of “World Youth Day”). Just as foreign priests come to Germany, therefore, German priests also go abroad (to German parishes abroad or to foreign parishes, cf. Chapter 6).

## Laity in the pastoral service in Germany

Developments 1990 – 2010, absolute

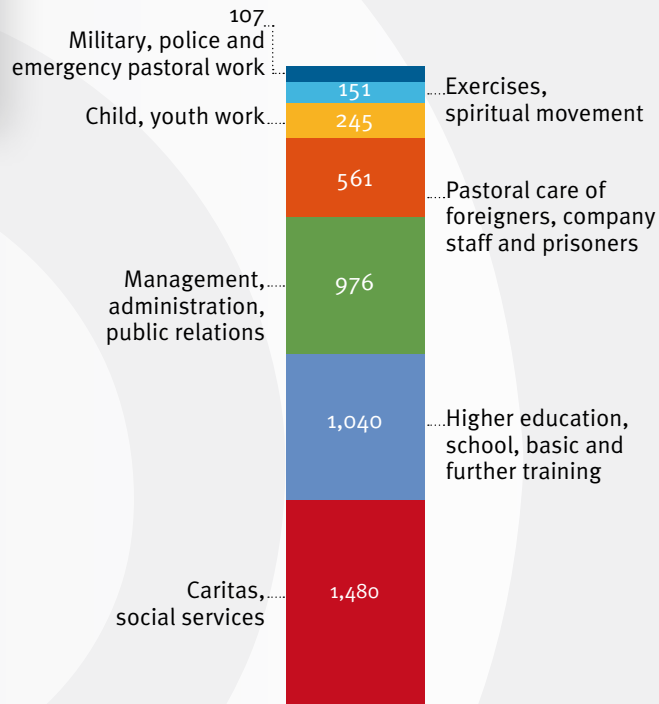


## Women and men in the pastoral service 2010



## Selected fields of pastoral work 2010

Portrayal of those working in these fields on a full-time basis



## 4.2. Baptism, first communion, confirmation

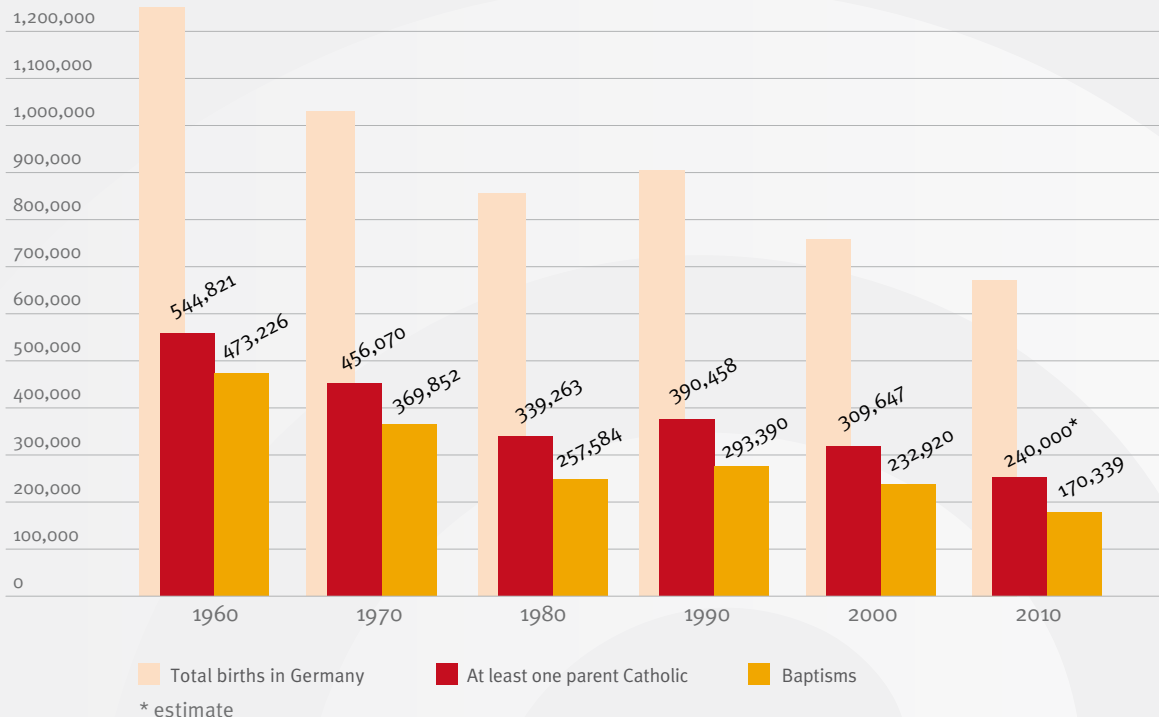
### Baptism

Through baptism, people become “children of God” and members of the community of faith of Christians – the Church. The sacrament originates from the baptism of Jesus by John in the river Jordan. 170,339 people were admitted into the Catholic Church through baptism in 2010, including 3,033 adults (from the age of 14), most of whom (almost 90 per cent) came from the old Federal Länder. The signifi-

cance of adult catechumenate is increasing, but baptism is nonetheless carried out in the first year of life in most cases.

If both parents belong to a Christian Church, they seek the baptism of their child in most cases. The same applies if at least one parent is Catholic: For every four children born with at least one Catholic parent per year, almost three Catholic baptisms take place. This number has been stable for almost three decades.

**Catholic baptisms in Germany 1960 – 2010**  
and births of children who have at least one Catholic parent



### First communion and confirmation

According to the statistics, almost all Catholic-baptised children go to first communion. This ceremony has a special meaning for most children, with its preparatory time, the actual celebration and guests. At first communion, which in most cases takes place at an age of roughly nine, children experience the inviting community with God, that is they are taken into the table fellowship with God and the parish. As a rule, children go to first communion in third grade. The ceremony traditionally takes place on the first Sunday after Easter, “White Sunday”. There were 224,932 first communicants in 2010.

Between four and six years later, these children have the opportunity to renew their baptismal promise and to strengthen their faith and their connection with the Catholic Church in the sacrament of confirmation. 185,086 young people were confirmed in 2010. According to a statistical survey, therefore, seven out of ten children who took first communion are confirmed.

### 4.3. Marriage

Many couples are still opting to give their love a public, binding character through marriage. It is important for Christians to know that they are accompanied by God on their path together. Catholic marriage is one of the seven sacraments. The number of Catholic marriages has nonetheless been falling considerably since 1990: It fell from more than 110,000 at the end of the 1980s to 48,524 in 2010. The long-term development shows that, whilst the downward trend in comparison to past decades has not accelerated in recent years, remaining relatively constant (2008: 48,841, 2009: 48,765), there is nonetheless no change of direction so far.

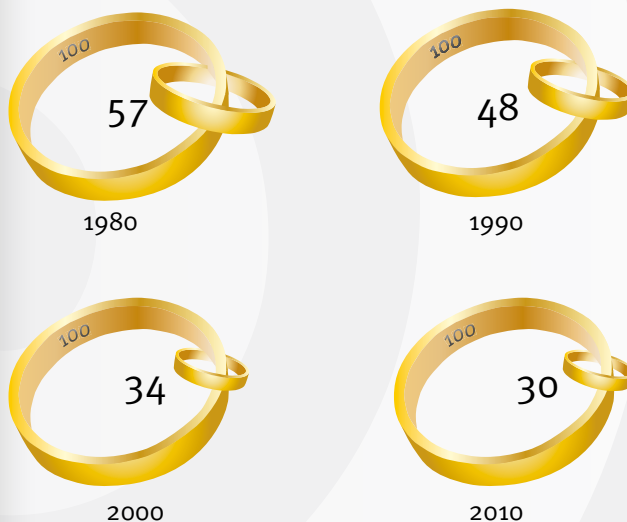


Marta Schreiber,  
First communicant 2011:

“I think it’s nice that I can go to communion now because God is then very close to me.”

### Catholic marriages in Germany 1980 – 2010 \*

“Marriage rates” per 100 civil marriages,  
at least one partner Catholic



\* Until 1990 former federal territory, not including marriages with a dispensation from the Catholic form of marriage.

#### 4.4. Burials

In addition to earth burials as the traditional form of burial, cremation is becoming increasingly common; anonymous burials and scattering ashes into the seas or in the forest are no longer a rarity. Christian faith makes a major contribution towards a culture of bereavement and dealing with death by keeping alive the question concerning the deceased and their fate. There were 252,965 Catholic burials in 2010. This accounts for almost 30 percent out of a total of 858,778 deaths in Germany.<sup>1</sup>

The significance of the Church, the parishes and officials sharing in the forming of the burial culture and of the process of bereavement has hence declined over time. Mourning speakers and undertakers have taken their place in some cases. We find at the same time that in many parishes, pastoral carers

as well as women and men in the service of the Church, make exemplary efforts for the burial of the dead and pastoral care of relatives.

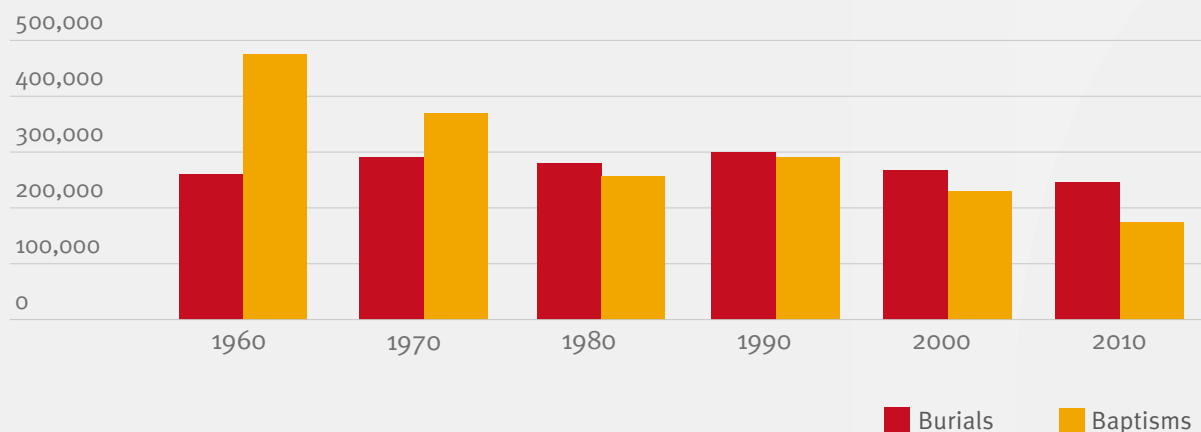
#### 4.5. Taking up, renewal and renunciation of membership

The number of people returning to membership of the Catholic Church increased since the beginning of the 1990s until 2005: Whilst it was somewhat higher than 4,700 in 1991, more than 11,000 Catholics renewed their membership of the Catholic Church in 2005. The number was 7,403 in 2010.

This however contrasts with a much larger number of people who left the Catholic Church: This number has been over 100,000 per year since 1990; these were 181,193 Catholics in 2010.

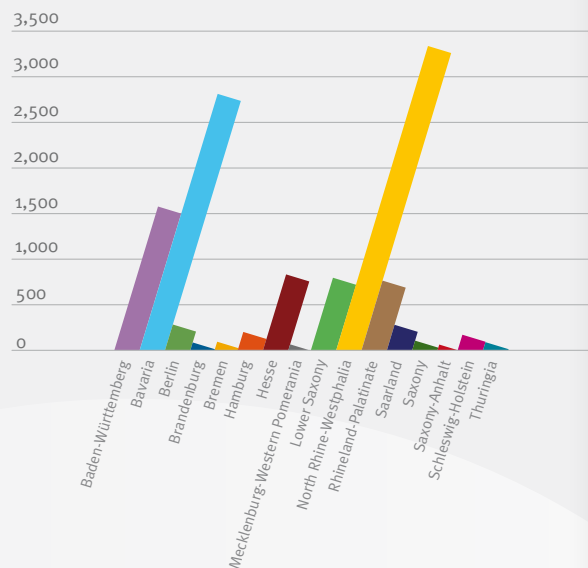
<sup>1</sup> Federal Statistical Office, Wiesbaden: as per 17 June 2011.

**Catholic burials in Germany 1960 – 2010**  
Absolute numbers, comparison with baptisms

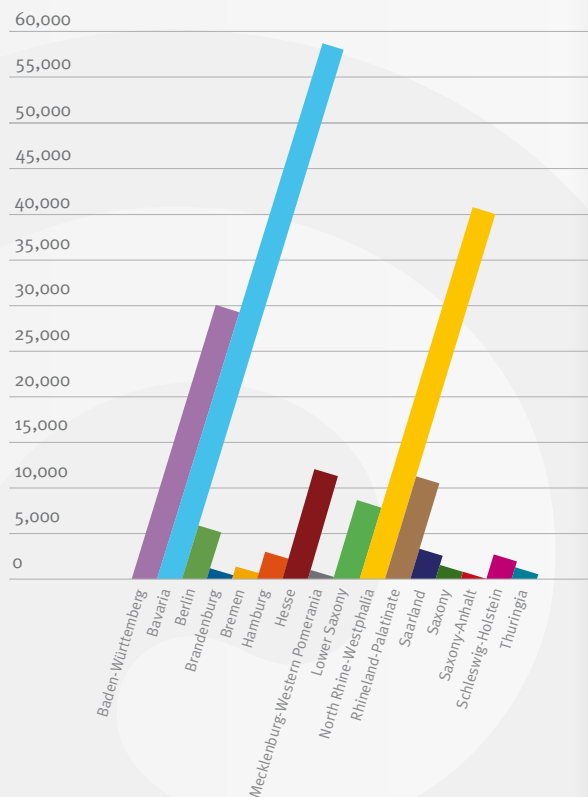




## Taking up and renewal of Church membership in 2010 by Federal Länder



## Renunciations of membership 2010 by Federal Länder



## 4.6. Attendance at religious services

Attendance at religious services on Sundays and the celebration of Holy Mass are a central element of the Christian faith. In both counts taking place annually in all parishes and pastoral care agencies, about 3.1 million attendees were counted for 2010 and roughly 3.2 for 2009. The count is carried out on each second Sunday in Lent and on the second Sunday in November, that is as far as possible on “normal” Sundays of the Church year.

Despite the constant decline, 3.1 million churchgoers is still a large number of people coming to Church every Sunday. This is a number which deserves respect when compared with the numbers of people attending other events such as sport or museum visits.



Katharina Pryzbilla,  
Trainee at Adveniat:

“Faith plays a very important role in my life. If I am unable to go to Mass in a particular week, I feel that something is missing.”

#### 4.7. Special pastoral care

##### **Whether at airports, on motorways or on cruises:**

The Catholic Church offers special pastoral care for people on the move. Furthermore, there are pastoral services which are tailored to specific groups of individuals, such as in hospitals, in the military or in prison, but also in the form of Catholic pastoral care in circuses and for actors, the Stella Maris sailors' mission, pastoral care for Sinti, Roma and related groups or pastoral care for emigrants in the Raphael Agency. Moreover, there is special pastoral work on the Internet, with virtual houses of prayer and religious services, religious fora and chats.



Dr Siegfried Schnauß,  
Principal of the Edith Stein  
School in Erfurt:

“For me, God’s gift to us is the loving acceptance of each individual in his/her uniqueness in all circumstances, over and above death. Believing means saying yes to this gift and forming a true relationship.”

##### → *Emergency pastoral care*

Emergency pastoral care is an ecumenical stand-by service provided by the Churches, which for instance offers pastoral assistance to accident victims and witnesses or to members of the emergency services so that they can cope with their frequently strenuous work. All 27 bishoprics have a commissioner for providing pastoral care in emergency situations.

##### → *Telephone pastoral work*

Divorce, mobbing, addiction, illness or loneliness: Roughly 8,000 voluntary workers – more than 80 percent of whom are women – are available to advice-seekers in 105 telephone pastoral units. There were roughly two million calls in 2010. The institutions running telephone pastoral work are the Evangelical and the Catholic Churches.

##### → *Military chaplaincy*

The jurisdiction of the Catholic military bishop (military ordinariate) includes all active Catholic soldiers and their relatives. The jurisdiction of the Catholic military bishop is not tied to any place. It applies worldwide, wherever German soldiers serve. Germany has 91 Catholic military parishes; three fixed units have been established abroad. Furthermore, in the context of the international deployments of the Federal Armed Forces, Catholic priests are working for instance with the ISAF in Afghanistan and the KFOR in Kosovo.

### → Pastoral work at airports

The establishment of pastoral work at German airports started in 1970 in Frankfurt/Main. Nine airports now offer this possibility for contemplation, including Munich, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Dresden and Berlin.

### → Pastoral work in circuses and among carnival workers

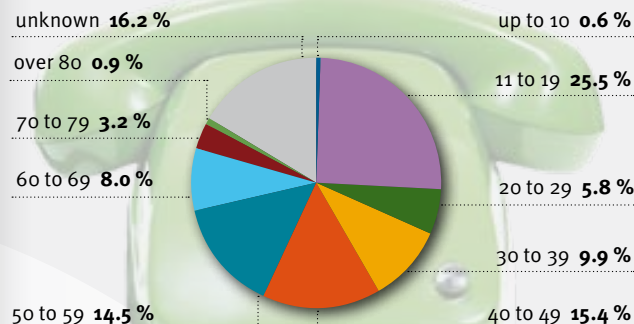
The responsible national pastoral worker travelled more than 43,000 kilometres in 2009 on his way to visit carnival workers and circus people. He baptised 27 children, administered communion 19 times, married two couples, buried four people and blessed two rides.

### → Virtual pastoral care

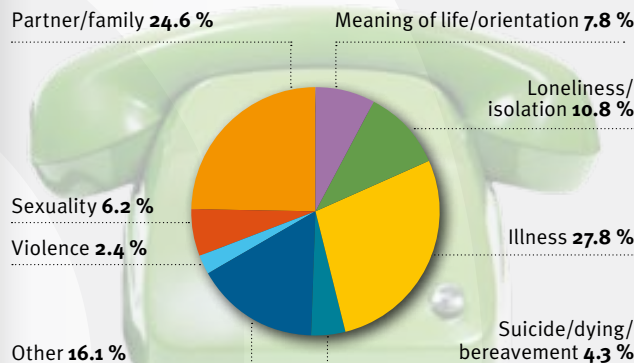
Almost three-quarters of the 12,000 parishes in Germany can be reached by e-mail; more than one-quarter have a homepage. Searching for “katholische Kirche” in Google Germany shows about 7,530,000 hits in 0.10 seconds. These include links to local parish offices, Catholic news portals, bishopric sites, as well as the Wikipedia entry on the Catholic Church. Freiburg Archdiocese has become engaged in the “Second Life” virtual world, and initiated St. George’s Church, which is a reproduction of St. George’s Church on the island of Reichenau.

### Statistics of telephone pastoral work in Germany in 2010

#### Age of callers



#### Frequent topics of the discussions



#### 4.8. Church statistics of the (arch) bishoprics in Germany

Annual survey 2010 – benchmarks

|                                   | <i>Catholics<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Persons attending religious services<br/>in percent<sup>2</sup></i> | <i>Baptisms</i> | <i>First communion</i> | <i>Confirmation</i> | <i>Marriages</i> | <i>New members</i> | <i>Renewals</i> | <i>Renunciations</i> | <i>Burials</i> |                |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aachen bishopric                  | 1,122,038                    | 108,838  | 9.7             | 6,933                  | 10,203              | 5,144            | 1,820              | 104             | 352                  | 5,961          | 12,157         |
| Augsburg bishopric                | 1,360,575                    | 215,580  | 15.8            | 10,550                 | 14,595              | 13,861           | 3,114              | 136             | 345                  | 12,073         | 14,577         |
| Bamberg Archbishopric             | 717,329                      | 98,142   | 13.7            | 4,646                  | 6,073               | 5,737            | 1,434              | 88              | 160                  | 5,807          | 7,550          |
| Berlin Archbishopric              | 390,997                      | 42,576   | 10.9            | 2,154                  | 2,119               | 1,265            | 592                | 113             | 174                  | 5,907          | 2,219          |
| Dresden-Meißen bishopric          | 139,890                      | 28,748   | 20.6            | 1,110                  | 920                 | 581              | 355                | 33              | 33                   | 1,075          | 1,191          |
| Eichstätt bishopric               | 420,399                      | 78,106   | 18.6            | 3,067                  | 4,207               | 4,380            | 898                | 40              | 79                   | 3,180          | 4,206          |
| Erfurt bishopric                  | 154,406                      | 32,765   | 21.2            | 1,337                  | 1,160               | 763              | 401                | 18              | 25                   | 748            | 1,393          |
| Essen bishopric                   | 866,823                      | 81,631   | 9.4             | 4,953                  | 6,343               | 3,946            | 1,250              | 141             | 251                  | 5,296          | 9,954          |
| Freiburg Archbishopric            | 1,984,647                    | 217,887  | 11.0            | 13,433                 | 18,157              | 13,972           | 4,679              | 220             | 512                  | 15,279         | 20,014         |
| Fulda bishopric                   | 409,121                      | 68,935   | 16.8            | 2,706                  | 3,451               | 3,036            | 829                | 70              | 92                   | 2,783          | 4,181          |
| Görlitz bishopric                 | 28,702                       | 6,431  | 22.4            | 233                    | 187                 | 115              | 97                 | 8               | 2                    | 136            | 256            |
| Hamburg Archbishopric             | 389,872                      | 39,966   | 10.3            | 2,402                  | 2,632               | 1,936            | 632                | 124             | 191                  | 5,116          | 2,342          |
| Hildesheim bishopric              | 619,388                      | 60,984   | 9.8             | 3,479                  | 4,470               | 3,710            | 978                | 175             | 237                  | 5,809          | 5,888          |
| Cologne Archbishopric             | 2,090,806                    | 218,842  | 10.5            | 14,782                 | 18,526              | 10,500           | 3,797              | 334             | 915                  | 15,163         | 21,281         |
| Limburg bishopric                 | 655,564                      | 76,356   | 11.6            | 4,237                  | 5,185               | 4,502            | 1,220              | 125             | 242                  | 6,291          | 6,762          |
| Magdeburg bishopric               | 88,584                       | 14,058   | 15.9            | 489                    | 426                 | 233              | 178                | 13              | 15                   | 573            | 1,019          |
| Mainz bishopric                   | 759,624                      | 81,368   | 10.7            | 4,835                  | 6,306               | 4,686            | 1,462              | 137             | 320                  | 6,968          | 7,755          |
| Munich and Freising Archbishopric | 1,772,434                    | 217,626  | 12.3            | 13,707                 | 17,671              | 17,280           | 3,576              | 307             | 886                  | 21,585         | 17,653         |
| Münster bishopric                 | 1,974,850                    | 227,852  | 11.5            | 14,531                 | 19,996              | 15,709           | 3,931              | 310             | 473                  | 8,063          | 20,342         |
| Osnabrück bishopric               | 572,062                      | 80,103   | 14.0            | 4,439                  | 5,681               | 5,146            | 1,134              | 133             | 121                  | 2,740          | 5,249          |
| Paderborn Archbishopric           | 1,624,965                    | 203,197  | 12.5            | 10,531                 | 15,438              | 12,363           | 2,968              | 241             | 367                  | 7,942          | 17,196         |
| Passau bishopric                  | 490,336                      | 73,998   | 15.1            | 3,831                  | 5,198               | 5,441            | 1,084              | 33              | 101                  | 2,571          | 5,357          |
| Regensburg bishopric              | 1,242,447                    | 246,809  | 19.9            | 9,483                  | 12,470              | 13,005           | 2,750              | 118             | 269                  | 6,658          | 13,243         |
| Rottenburg-Stuttgart bishopric    | 1,900,886                    | 217,551  | 11.4            | 13,459                 | 18,546              | 15,021           | 3,625              | 288             | 512                  | 15,653         | 17,737         |
| Speyer bishopric                  | 575,379                      | 62,636   | 10.9            | 3,508                  | 4,576               | 4,254            | 1,107              | 73              | 145                  | 3,848          | 6,431          |
| Trier bishopric                   | 1,484,726                    | 169,936  | 11.4            | 9,850                  | 12,791              | 11,291           | 2,741              | 123             | 423                  | 7,386          | 17,955         |
| Würzburg bishopric                | 814,151                      | 129,556  | 15.9            | 5,539                  | 7,605               | 7,152            | 1,806              | 57              | 155                  | 6,455          | 9,050          |
| military chaplaincy               | –*                           | –*   | –*              | 115                    | –*                  | 57               | 66                 | 14              | 6                    | 127            | 7              |
| <b>Bishoprics total</b>           | <b>24,651,001</b>            | <b>3,100,471</b>   | <b>12.6</b>     | <b>170,339</b>         | <b>224,932</b>      | <b>185,086</b>   | <b>48,524</b>      | <b>3,576</b>    | <b>7,403</b>         | <b>181,193</b> | <b>252,965</b> |

<sup>1</sup> The number of Catholics according to information from the parishes and bishoprics.

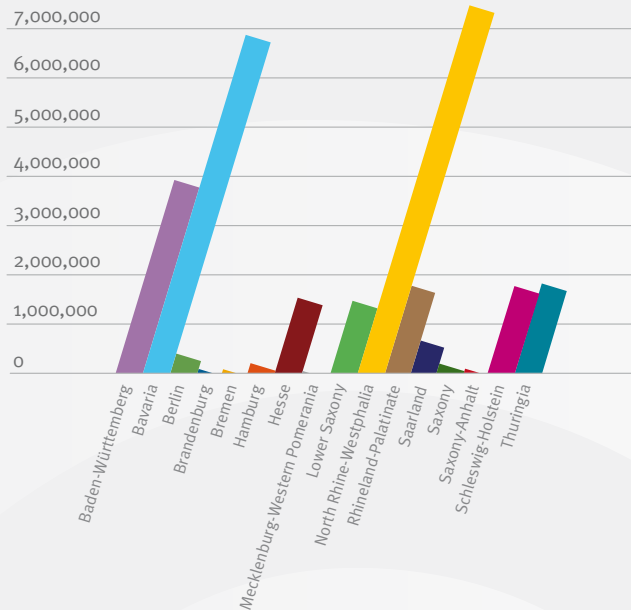
<sup>2</sup> Slight deviations are caused by rounding.

\* Not recorded or not registered.

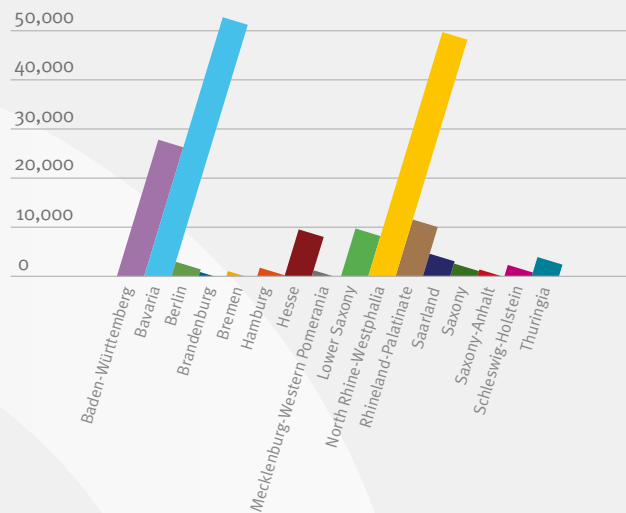
## Dispersion by Federal Länder

**24,651,001 Catholics**

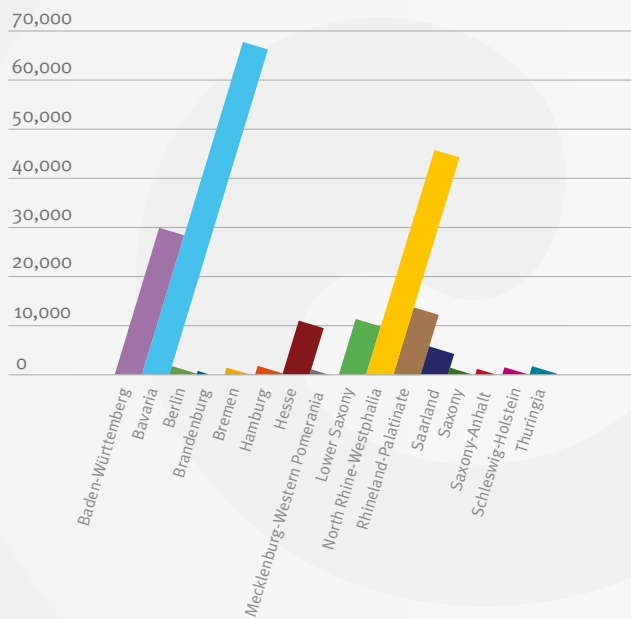
(according to information from the parishes and bishoprics)



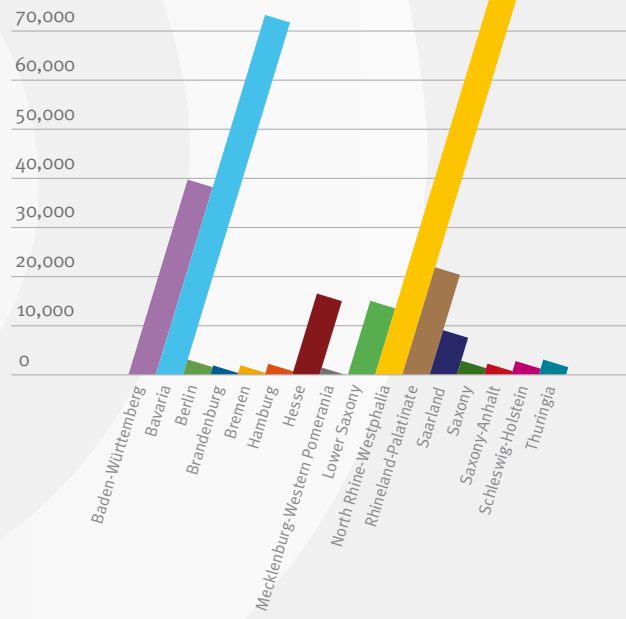
**170,339 baptisms**



**185,086 confirmations**



**252,965 burials**



## 5. Orders and spiritual communities



Salzotten Franciscan Nun Stefanie Müllenborn is responsible in the “House of Cultures” in Herten for caring for asylum-seekers and refugees:

“Love is  
the only thing  
that grows  
if you waste it.”

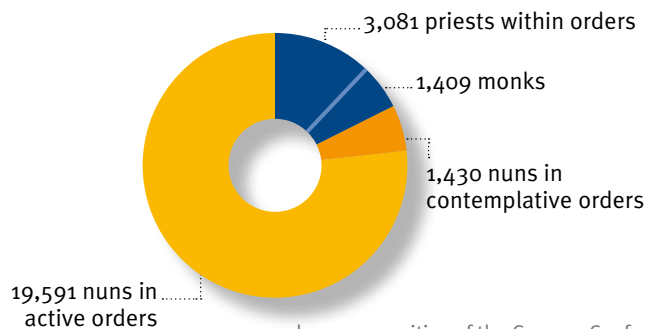
(Richarda Huch)

**Living in an order is being a committed Christian in a community; it is consistently “following Christ”.** It frequently stems from a long spiritual tradition and seeks ever new links to the present. For instance, religious can be found working in large numbers of very different areas, such as in teaching, in hospitals run by orders, in old people’s homes, in addiction assistance facilities and in kindergartens, but also working as missionaries all over the world or as hermits.

Among the male orders and congregations in Germany there are 113 independent order provinces, abbeys and priories from 57 different orders, with almost 4,490 monks in 448 monastic establishments.

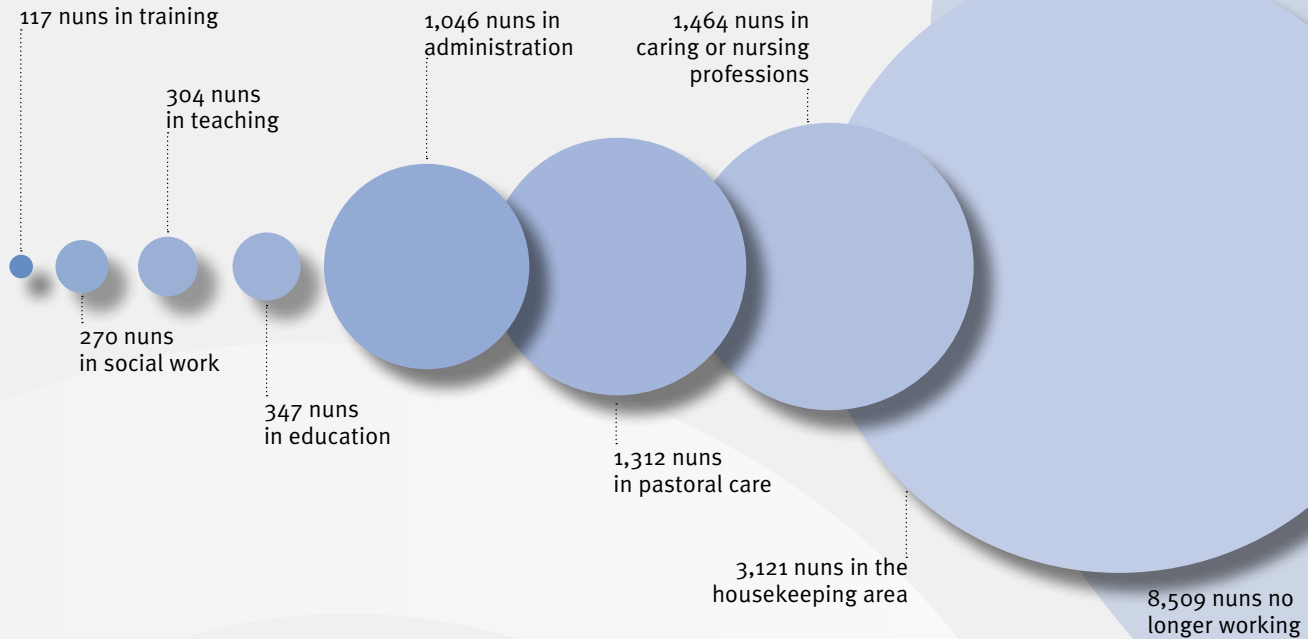
The number of communities and members is much larger in the women’s orders: There are 331 generalates, provincialates, abbeys and independent individual cloisters with 21,021 nuns, who live in 1,739 monastic establishments. The largest groups are formed by the Benedictine, Franciscan and Vincentian communities. In addition, there are more than 80 spiritual communities with roughly 100,000 members.

### 25,511 members in monastic communities<sup>1</sup>, 2010

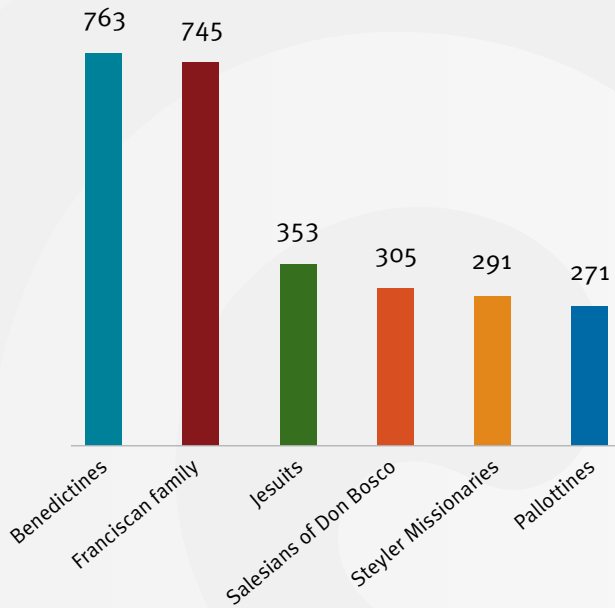


<sup>1</sup> member communities of the German Conference of Superiors of Religious Orders (DOK) in Germany.

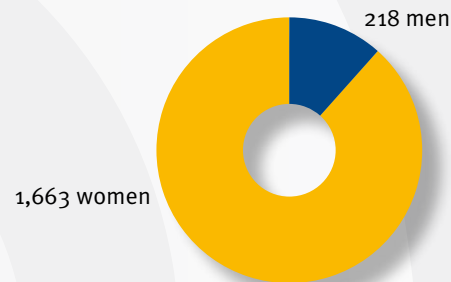
### Selected areas of work of nuns in active communities, 2010



### Number of members of the major male orders, 2010



### 1,881 members in secular communities<sup>2</sup>, 2010



<sup>2</sup> Working party of the secular communities in Germany. The members of secular communities live their vocation of poverty, celibacy and obedience in the midst of the world. This means that they do not enter a cloister, but live alone, in a living community of the community or in their own families. They earn a living through work and do not distinguish themselves from the people around them through their clothing.

## 6. The Church worldwide: Pastoral care abroad and universal church commitment



Michael Bauer,  
Priest for the  
German-speaking  
Catholics in Beijing  
and Shanghai in  
the People's  
Republic of China:

*‘He set me free in the open;  
my God brightens my  
darkness.’ (Psalm 18)*

“Our faith knows no borders,  
is worldwide, truly catholic  
and nonetheless gives us a  
home. I experience this  
every day working in the  
uprising Middle Kingdom.”

### 6.1. Parishes abroad

The task of the Catholic Office for German-language ministry abroad (*Katholisches Auslandssekretariat*) of the German Bishops' Conference is to offer pastoral care to German-speaking Catholics who live abroad for the most varied reasons, sometimes only for a matter of weeks, sometimes permanently. In addition to the celebration of the sacraments, the possibility of being able to live one's own faith abroad in one's native tongue plays an important role. The Office for German-language ministry abroad has been in existence since 1921. Originally only established for emigrants, it now caters to various other groups of people, such as tourists or the so-called expatriates, that is people who are frequently sent abroad with their families by their companies.

The Catholic Office for German language ministry abroad is represented in 138 places in 67 countries worldwide, including parishes in Shanghai, Sydney and Mallorca. Roughly 140 full-time or part-time secular priests and priests belonging to an order serve as contacts in the parishes worldwide, plus 14 pastoral and parish expert workers, three deacons and nine nuns in orders. There are also pastors on cruises and for tourists.

### 6.2. Aid agencies

Germans donate roughly Euro 2.9 billion per year to charitable organisations. Most people decide here for a donation serving “charitable purposes”, including particularly frequently for development aid (source: German Donations Monitor 2009). After the Second World War, Germany experienced to what

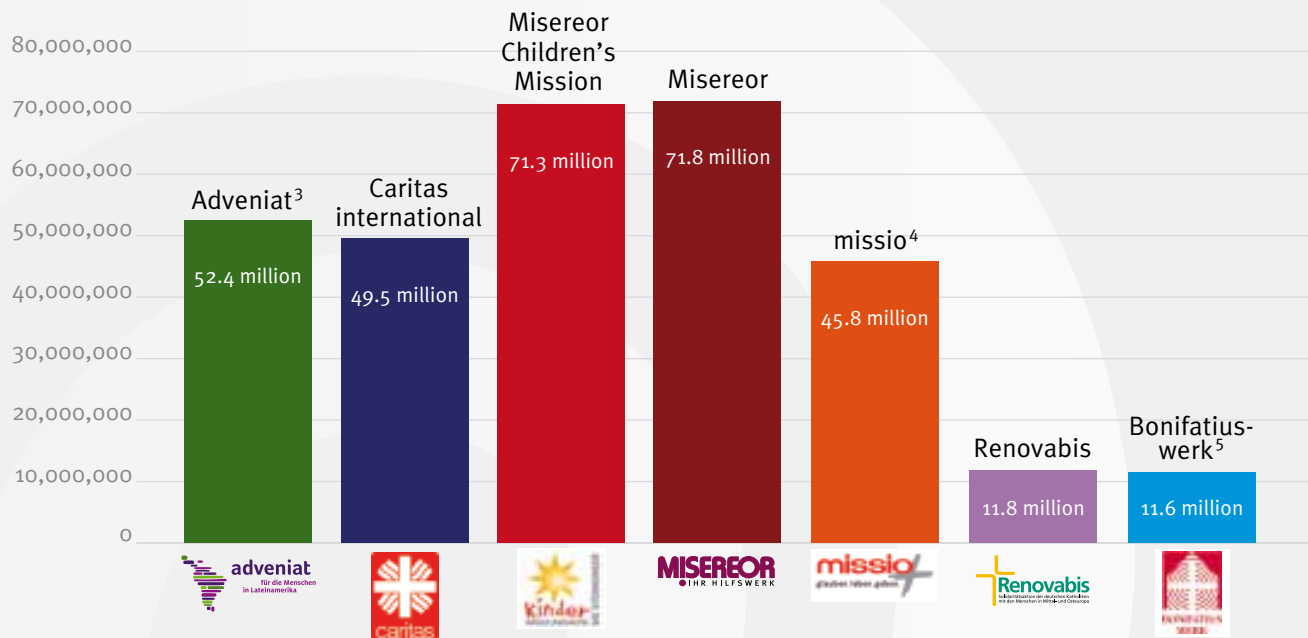


degree this aid from other nations was necessary and took note that it was given despite historical guilt. Particularly from this, the German bishops in the fifties developed the concept of offering cooperation in a spirit of partnership to the poor countries of the southern hemisphere in order to alleviate people's existential hardships and reduce or eliminate social injustices. Church development work was therefore added to the traditional support for pastoral work in the mission countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania.

In order to raise donations and to use these funds in

line with the respective task and with the intentions of the donors, the German Bishops' Conference, supported by the Central Committee of German Catholics, established aid agencies with a variety of structures. These include the Episcopal Adveniat campaign, the Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics, Caritas international, Misereor, missio, Renovabis, as well as the Children's Mission "Epiphany Singers (*Sternsinger*)". Independent audits confirm every year that the Catholic aid agencies have particularly low administration costs. Their work includes awareness-creation among German Catholics of their solidarity with the poor in the One World.

### Income in Euro from donations<sup>1</sup> and collections<sup>2</sup> of the church aid agencies in Germany 2010



1 including subscriptions and inheritances.

2 including special collections.

3 The numbers at Adveniat relate to the 2010 budget year, which started on 1 October 2009 and ended on 30 September 2010.

4 Together, missio in Aachen and missio in Munich constitute the "Internationales Katholisches Missionswerk" in Germany, which belongs to the more than 100 pontifical missionary societies worldwide.

5 Bonifatiuswerk: survey 2009.

## The worldwide commitment of the Catholic aid agencies

The numbers for the Bonifatiuswerk and the Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid\* come from 2009, and for Adveniat from 2009/10; for the Children’s Mission “The Epiphany Singers” as well as for Caritas international, missio, Misereor and Renovabis from 2010.

Adveniat – promotes the work of the Catholic Church in Latin America and the Caribbean for the benefit of poor and disadvantaged people.

**adveniat.de**

Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics – is tasked by the German Bishops’ Conference with the promotion of Diaspora pastoral care.

**bonifatiuswerk.de**

Caritas international – is the Catholic aid agency for emergency and disaster relief and a part of Caritas Germany. **caritas-international.de**

Children’s Mission “The Epiphany Singers” is committed as the children’s aid agency of the Catholic Church worldwide for children in need.

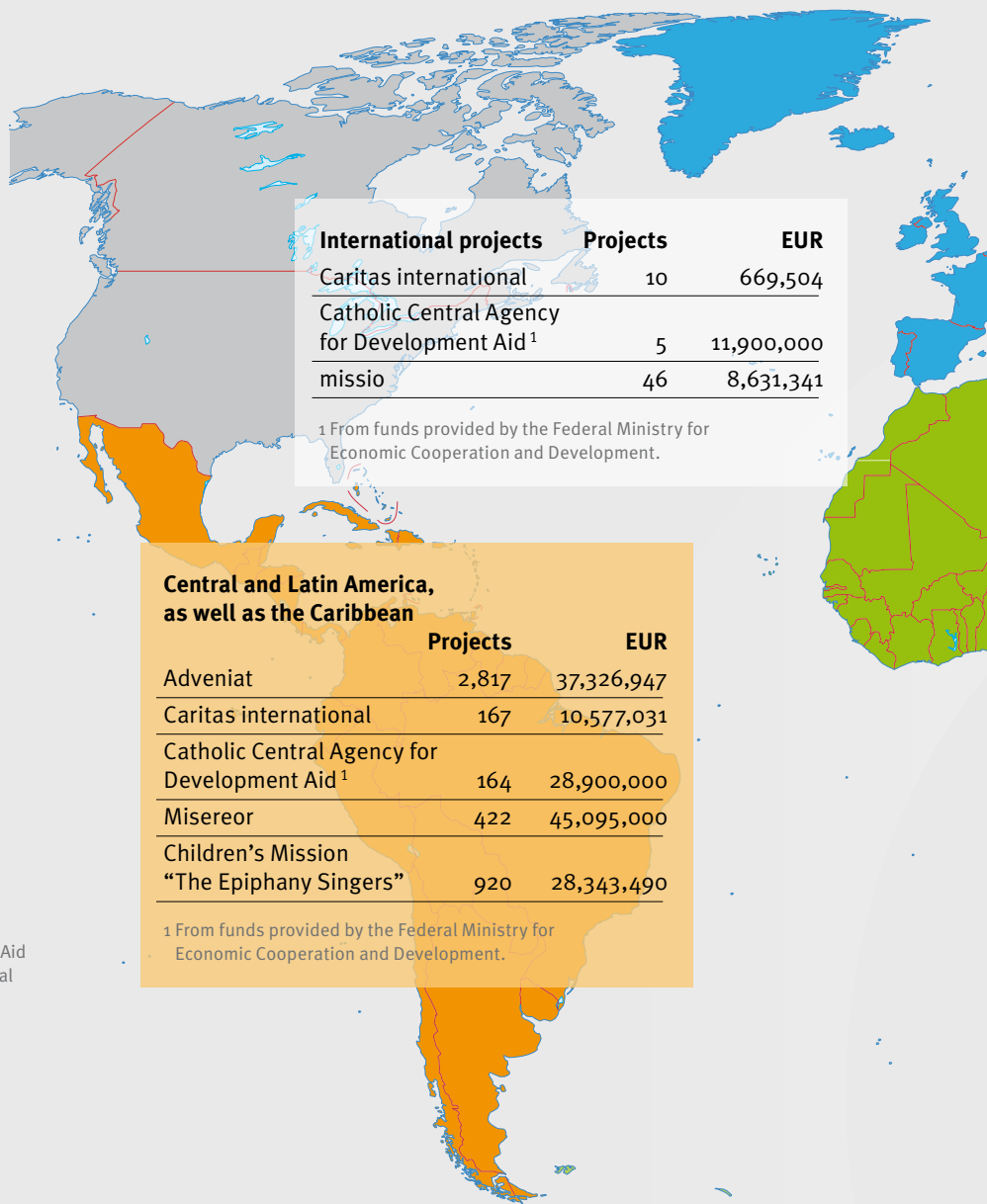
**sternsinger.org**

Misereor – is the aid agency for development cooperation in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. **misereor.de**

Missio – is tasked with supporting the local churches in Africa, Asia and Oceania and the church workers in their environment. **missio.de**

Renovabis – was established by German Catholics in order to help people in formerly Communist countries of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. **renovabis.de**

\* The Catholic/Evangelical Central Agency for Development Aid is the body of the Evangelical and Catholic Churches to deal with development policy cooperation.





Prelate Bernd Klaschka,  
Director, Adveniat:

“Anyone who belongs to the Catholic Church is part of a community spanning the entire world, actually a kind of a global organisation.”

| Europe                                       | Projects | EUR        |
|--|----------|------------|
| Bonifatiuswerk <sup>1</sup>                  | 231      | 10,800,000 |
| Caritas international                        | 125      | 5,524,582  |
| Children’s Mission<br>“The Epiphany Singers” | 227      | 3,584,798  |
| Renovabis <sup>2</sup>                       | 843      | 29,485,090 |

1 incl. aid in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden.

2 incl. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

| Asia and Oceania  | Projects | EUR        |
|---|----------|------------|
| Caritas international                                     | 285      | 16,271,904 |
| Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid <sup>1</sup>  | 151      | 29,100,000 |
| missio  | 1.011    | 23,989,182 |
| Misereor <sup>2</sup>                                     | 328      | 40,928,000 |
| Children’s Mission<br>“The Epiphany Singers” <sup>3</sup> | 797      | 10,573,865 |

1 From funds provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

2 incl. Georgia.

3 incl. Armenia and Georgia.

| Africa  | Projects | EUR        |
|---|----------|------------|
| Caritas international                                     | 209      | 14,803,081 |
| Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid <sup>1</sup>  | 126      | 29,100,000 |
| missio  | 1.011    | 28,615,766 |
| Misereor <sup>2</sup>                                     | 370      | 40,341,000 |
| Children’s Mission<br>“The Epiphany Singers” <sup>3</sup> | 931      | 13,528,355 |

1 From funds provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Including projects in the Middle East.

2 incl. Israel, Lebanon, Middle East, Palestine, Syria, Turkey.

3 incl. Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria.

## 7. Focus on:



Dr Rainer Löb, Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology, St. Barbara's Clinic in Hamm, and Federal Physician of the Malteser:

“For me, faith is the source of our strength in our families and leisure time, in the community of believers and at work. Giving and receiving brotherly love means doing God’s work with our hands.”

### 7.1. Kindergarten and school

#### → Kindergarten

The Catholic Church is the institution behind a large number of facilities in education: There are roughly 9,400 day-care facilities for children in which more than 76,400 staff members take care of about 600,000 children. The facilities are deliberately also open to non-Catholic children. 27 percent have a migration background, including many Muslims. In addition to the Churches, independent institutions of child day-care centres are the charity associations, as well as associations and parents’ initiatives.

#### → School

Catholic schools are very popular among parents, given that they stand for education and a Christian life orientation equally. The Catholic schools include various forms of school, from primary schools through to grammar schools, vocational schools and boarding schools. They are run by roughly 350 different school institutions, including dioceses and communities within orders, which operate schools, in some cases already with a tradition spanning several centuries. Independent Catholic schools are primarily funded from three sources in differing proportions, depending on the Federal *Land*. The largest share is accounted for by state funding. Added to this are own funds of the organisations and donations (and depending on the Federal *Land* also school fees) from the parents.

Religious instruction in schools is entrenched in the Constitution in Germany (Art. 7 Para. 3 of the Basic Law [*Grundgesetz*]). The content of the program of study is a matter for the Churches; Catholic religion teachers are required to have the *missio canonica*.

### Catholic day-care facilities, 2010

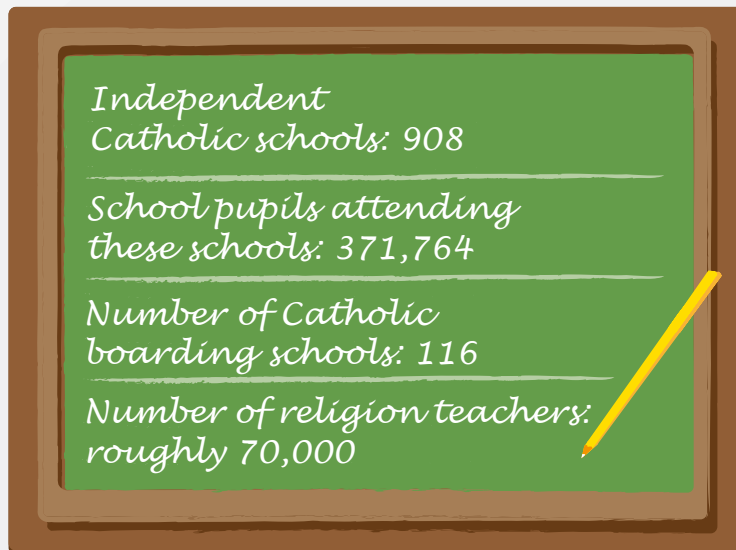


Simon Rapp,  
BDKJ-President:

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

(1 Peter 3:15)

### Catholic schools 2010



## 7.2. Youth

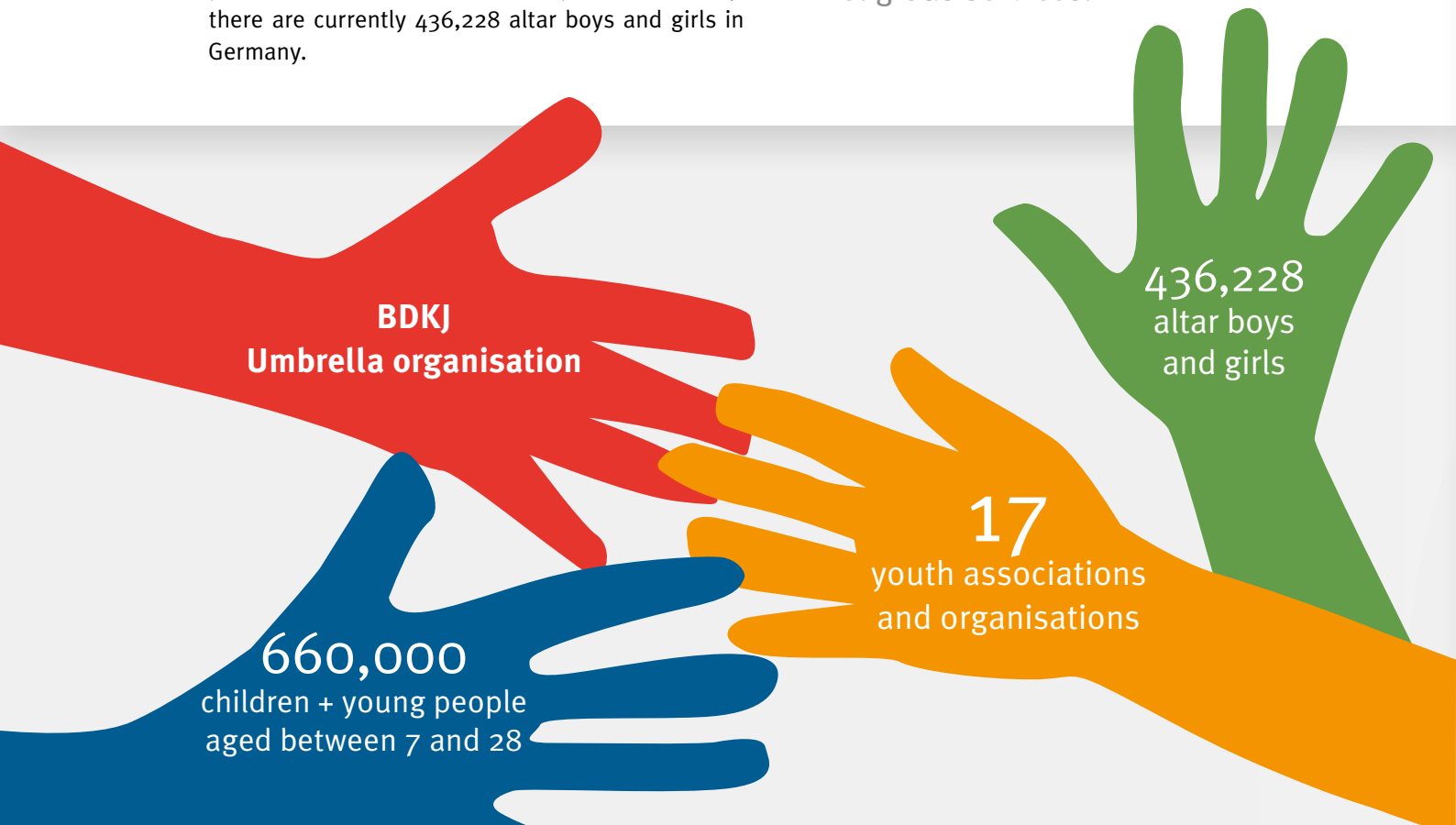
The German Association of Catholic Youth (BDKJ) is the umbrella organisation of 17 Catholic youth associations and organisations. Its most important task lies in the representation of the interests of its members in the political arena, in Church and in society. Roughly 660,000 children and young people aged between 7 and 28 are organised in the 17 youth associations and organisations.

Many children and young people are also involved in religious services. Thus, the number of girls and boys who contribute towards the liturgy as altar boys and girls has been at a constantly high level for years: According to the latest survey from 2008/2009, there are currently 436,228 altar boys and girls in Germany.



Laetitia Hober:

“I am an altar girl because I like to take an active part in the religious services.”



### 7.3. Institutions of higher education and adult education

There are Catholic Theological Schools at twelve state universities, plus 30 Catholic Theological Institutes, one Catholic University (Eichstätt), three independent Theological Schools, as well as six higher education institutions linked to an order. There are also eight Catholic specialist colleges, as well as two specialist college courses for religion teaching and for social studies.

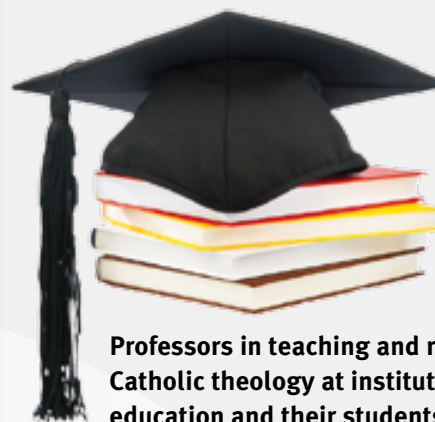
A total of 21,549 students were enrolled at the schools in the winter semester 2009/2010. There were 378 professors. The theological training centres are integrated into the general higher education system. This is in line with the shared responsibility of the State and the Church for academic theology that is enshrined in the law on the relationship between the State and the Church..

#### Scholarship programmes

##### → Catholic Academic Service for Foreigners (KAAD)

The KAAD is the scholarship agency of the German Catholic Church for postgraduates and researchers from (developing) countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, as well as Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

It promotes its scholarship students through scholarships, educational events, as well as personal and spiritual care, with a view to their acting as multipliers in their home countries. 8,100 students have received support since its establishment as a separate institution in 1958.



**Professors in teaching and research in Catholic theology at institutions of higher education and their students, 2010**

| <b>Federal Länder</b>  | <b>Professors</b> | <b>Students</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Baden-Württemberg      | 48                | 3,757           |
| Bavaria                | 111               | 4,414           |
| Berlin                 | 3                 | 74              |
| Hamburg*               | 1                 | –               |
| Hesse                  | 39                | 1,459           |
| Lower Saxony           | 17                | 748             |
| North Rhine-Westphalia | 97                | 7,608           |
| Rhineland-Palatinate   | 39                | 2,787           |
| Saarland               | 4                 | 290             |
| Saxony                 | 3                 | 105             |
| Saxony-Anhalt          | 2                 | 67              |
| Schleswig-Holstein     | 1                 | 42              |
| Thuringia              | 13                | 198             |

\* Federal Armed Forces University

→ *Cusanuswerk*

The Cusanuswerk is the agency of the Catholic Church in Germany for promoting highly-talented people and grants state subsidies to specially-talented Catholic students of all disciplines. It aims to strengthen the willingness to assume responsibility in the debate on science and faith, society and the Church and to enhance the scholarship students' dialogue skills. 1,087 students received scholarships from the Cusanuswerk in 2010; 268 were supported in their doctoral studies.

→ *Adult education*

The Catholic Church provides adult education in order to enable Catholics to continue enjoying personality development and general education after finishing school or vocational training. It is the second-largest funding institution nationwide in the field of adult education. More than 5 million people per year attend one of the diverse further and ongoing training courses offered. In total, more than 200,000 events, seminars and further training courses are offered per year, comprising more than 3 million course hours. There are approx. 750 Catholic-run facilities nationally. These facilities employ roughly 3,000 full-time plus about 50,000 part-time and honorary staff.

**Adult education**

More than

200,000

events, seminars and further training courses are offered per year, with more than three million course hours.

Roughly

3,000

full-time, plus about 50,000 part-time and honorary staff members work in Catholic-run facilities.

More than

5

million people per year attend one of the diverse further and ongoing training courses offered.

There are approx.

750

Catholic-run facilities throughout Germany.



## 7.4. Art, culture and the media

The Catholic Church is one of the largest organisers of cultural events in Germany, along with the State and the municipalities. It is only the honorary work of millions of Christians that makes it possible to offer church-run cultural events free of charge. Above all in rural areas, the cultural work of the Church parishes provides an attractive possibility to take an active part in cultural life.

### → Music

Music is the largest segment of Catholic culture. 417,800 lay musicians have come together in 18,100 Catholic choirs and musical ensembles. The Catholic choirs on the one hand are also attractive as a leisure activity for those who are less active in the Church, but at the same time they also contribute towards the liturgy on a regular basis. The fact that this church culture concept is a complete success is shown by today's record level of more than 5,000 Catholic children's and youth choirs with more than 100,000 members. Of these, in turn 11,000 young singers are active under the umbrella of the German Pueri Cantores federation of choirs. The largest organisation of Catholic choirs is the General Association of St. Cecilia (ACV).



Joshua Leskien,  
member of the  
Würzburg Cathedral  
Boys' Choir:

“I like singing with the Würzburg Cathedral Boys' Choir. I get a lot of fun from the music and the community there. I find joy in touching other people in their faith by singing together.”



Dr Elvira Steppacher,  
Journalistic Director of the  
Institution for the Promotion  
of Trainee Journalists (ifp):

“And if I have the gift of prophecy  
and comprehend all mysteries and  
all knowledge; if I have all faith so  
as to move mountains but do not  
have love, I am nothing.”

(1 Corinthians 13:2)

### → Literature/books

There are currently almost 3,600 public Catholic libraries in Germany, largely run by the individual parish associations. They offer roughly 17 million books and media. The books offered focus on spirituality and sophisticated popular fiction. A total in excess of 31 million items are lent per year. More than 36,000 honorary library workers form the backbone of the Catholic libraries. Supradiocesan basic and further training is provided by the two major specialised library associations St. Michael's Society (St. Michaelsbund) for Bavaria and the Association of St. Borromeo (Borromäusverein) for the rest of Catholic Germany.

### → Architecture and monument conservation

There are approx. 24,500 Catholic houses of God throughout Germany, of which roughly 23,000 are listed. Together with the other listed properties, such as presbyteries, residential homes, convent buildings, etc., the Catholic Church in Germany owns roughly 60,000 listed buildings, plus 821 listed cemeteries.

Roughly 1.7 percent of Catholic Church buildings are currently no longer being used for liturgical purposes. Only 0.4 percent have been sold or demolished. It is anticipated for the coming years that roughly 3 percent of the Church buildings will no longer be used to celebrate the liturgy. It should not be forgotten that more than 50 new Catholic churches have been built in Germany since 1995, and that many of these buildings have received international prizes.

## → Fine art

The 43 museums of the Catholic Church, and the more than 100 museums with its conceptual or financial participation, have one million visitors per year and thus continue to be in high demand. 18 bishoprics have separate art commissions established by the bishop which advise the parishes and the Episcopal Construction Office in aesthetic matters. Fine artists are combined in six Catholic artists communities across the nation. Ten dioceses have their own artist's chaplain. The dialogue between the Church and art is also served by the "Ash Wednesday of artists", which takes place annually in 27 German cities and towns.

## → Cinema films and audiovisual media

A central concern of Catholic film work is to lend support to films which are of artistic value and whose content is worthy of discussion. A critical review of what is available on the film market is carried out by the Catholic film commission. The statements regarding all recent feature films – more than 53,000 since 1947 – are published in the Catholic "film-dienst" magazine. At international film festivals, ecumenical juries select the best productions from a Christian point of view. The "Church and cinema" campaign supports cooperations between church institutions and public cinemas. The AV media agen-

# Art and music activities in 2010, excerpts

**43 museums**  
run by dioceses or orders

**18**  
diocesan art commissions

**6 artists' communities**

**100 museums**  
with conceptual participation of church cultural organisations

**1 million visitors**

**39**  
artist scholarship recipients promoted by the Cusanuswerk

**9 Catholic cultural prizes**

**1,400**  
full-time church musicians  
**16,658**  
honorary church musicians

**15,700**  
choir groups  
with **394,000**  
members

**5,601**  
children's choirs  
with  
**108,670**  
members

**Music activities**

**Instrumental music**  
**2,400 groups with**  
**23,800 members**

cies for audiovisual media in the 27 German bishoprics hold far in excess of 10,000 titles. These facilities lend out films and other AV media for youth and adult education, school, catecheses and special pastoral tasks. They also organise mediapedagogical, communication pedagogical or journalistic basic and further training events.

#### → Cultural awards

The Catholic Church regularly awards cultural prizes in all sectors of art. Works are acknowledged in which high artistic quality goes hand in hand with existential symbolism and moral sensitivity. The most prominent prize of the Catholic Church is the Art and Culture Prize of German Catholics. Further church awards for culture are the Catholic Children's and Young People's Book Prize, as well as the Catholic media prize. They are awarded once every year.

#### → Media

There is an extensive range of periodical Catholic publications. A total of 124 different titles are published in every possible genre: from bishopric newspapers, via women's periodicals, associations' periodicals and daily newspapers. With a circulation of roughly 780,000 copies, the bishopric press reaches active Catholics above all. However, the circulation of the church publications has been falling for years as the number of church-goers drops. Parish newsletters have a total circulation of 6,750,000 with an average number of 20 pages.

The Catholic News Agency (KNA) disseminates an average of 90 texts per day. It supplies roughly 60 percent of German daily newspapers and their Internet editorial teams. Its customers include the news and church editorial teams of all public television and radio stations, as well as the editorial teams of all Catholic newspapers and magazines in Germany.



Tankred Dorst and Ursula Ehler-Dorst,  
Recipients of the “Art and Culture Prize  
of German Catholics 2008”

The recipients also include the Federal Government, the Land Governments, as well as the political parties. The KNA provides texts, photographs, graphs, audio contributions and news videos for further dissemination in print, on the Internet, on the radio and on television.

#### → *Catholic Medienhaus*

The *Medienhaus* in Bonn, established by the German Bishops' Conference in 2011, offers the possibility for the supradiocesan media enterprises (KNA, *katholisch.de*, *Katholisches Filmwerk*, etc.) to bundle their content and technical strengths, and hence to meet the challenges posed by the media transformation. At the same time, the *Medienhaus* is a close cooperation partner for the bishops' media activities.

#### → *Catholic journalist training*

The Institution for the Promotion of Trainee Journalists (*Institut zur Förderung publizistischen Nachwuchses – ifp*), headquartered in Munich, is a journalism school run by the Catholic Church. It was established in 1968 on behalf of the German Bishops' Conference. It concentrates on hands-on training for journalists. The ifp emphasises the teaching of fair, responsible journalism, and its courses of study underline journalists' particular ethical responsibility in their everyday editorial work. Today, the roughly 2,000 graduates who have undergone one of the ifp's training courses work largely as permanent staff or freelance journalists in all sectors of the media (press, radio, television, the Internet), as well as staff of press agencies, ministries and associations.



Monsignor  
Wolfgang Sauer,  
Spiritual Director of  
the Institution for the  
Promotion of Trainee  
Journalists (ifp):

“How bold must a heart be which dares to pray in earnest: ‘Spark in me the fire of your Spirit!’”

(Ida Friederike Görres)

## 8. Charity Towards one's Fellows: Caritas



Birgit Müller, staff member of the Pregnancy Counseling Agency of Caritas in Gladbeck:

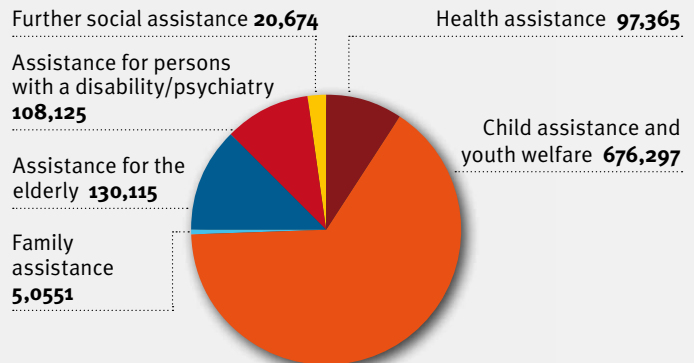
“Deus caritas est – God is Love. I would like to enable all people to experience this love of God in my service for Caritas.”

The name Caritas refers the world over to the arm of the Catholic Church which supports all people in need of assistance on the basis of Christian brotherly love. Caritas Germany was established in 1897 so that this can take place as quickly and effectively as possible. It understands itself as an “advocate for the poor”, and stands for building a social society.

This takes place in Germany in 27 diocesan Caritas associations, 636 deanery, regional, local and district Caritas associations and social counselling agencies, in 18 specialist charitable associations such as in the Malteser relief service aid agency and in 262 order communities and associations. There are a total of roughly 520,000 full-time staff in the more than 25,000 Caritas facilities for health, youth,

### Caritas' Catholic social services\* Specialist fields and type of facility

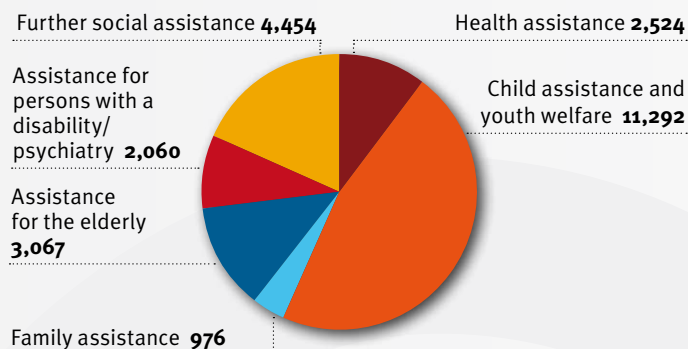
Specialist fields: 1,037,631 beds/places



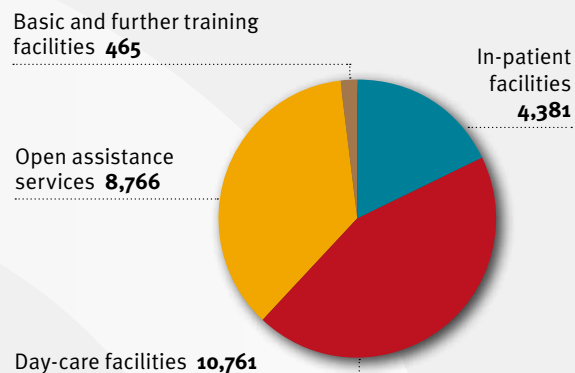
\* Caritas: survey 2008.

family, old-age and assistance for persons with a disability, as well as in the facilities offering assistance for those in social need, in the groups of helpers and self-help groups, in basic and further training. Moreover, another 500,000 people do honorary work in the services and facilities of Caritas. They guide, care for and advise more than 9.7 million people per year.

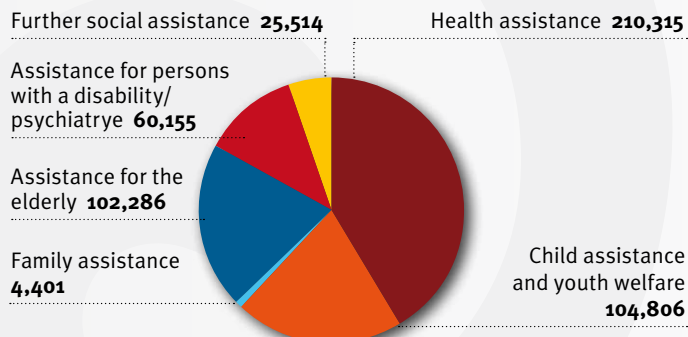
**Specialist fields: facilities (total of 24,373)**



**Specialist fields: types of facility (total of 24,373)**



**Specialist fields: beds/places (total of 507,477)**



## 9. Associations and organisations

Jerry,  
Catholic Youth  
Organisation,  
Pettstadt:



“We are together, linked by faith. We conclude a new covenant with God day by day, but also with the other members of the association. That is what makes us Catholic Youth associations so profiled: we believe.”

**In the Working Group of Catholic Organisations in Germany** – *Arbeitsgemeinschaft der katholischen Organisationen Deutschlands (AGKOD)*, roughly 120 Catholic associations, spiritual communities and movements, secular institutes as well as campaigns, specialist associations, occupational associations and initiatives are united which operate at supradiocesan level. The organisations combined in the Working Party represent roughly 6 million members.

### → Associations

The Catholic associations are major institutions of the Church’s educational work. They contribute towards shaping society and are involved in the Church, in politics and in the economy. The members of their associations are committed to ensuring a sustainable future, worldwide justice, peace and the conservation of the Creation. They work in actions, projects and campaigns with alliances, civil initiatives and social players. Additionally, they represent the interests of the people in the country in the media, in various political bodies, in parties and in administrations. The largest association is the Catholic Women’s Community in Germany (kfd) with roughly 600,000 members in 5,700 parish groups. Further major associations are for instance the German Youth Power Sports Association (DJK), the Catholic German Women’s League (KDFB), the Kolping Society, the Catholic Movement of Christian Workers (KAB), the German Association of Catholic Youth (BDKJ) and Caritas. The members of the AGKOD however also include smaller associations, such as the Pax Christi movement or the Association of the Catholic Rural Population (VKL).



### → Central Committee of German Catholics

The Delegates' Assembly of the AGKOD Working Group elects 97 representatives to the Plenary Assembly of the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK). Together with the 84 representatives of the diocesan councils and 45 individuals, they constitute the Plenary Assembly of the ZdK. It represents the Catholic women and men who are actively involved in the shaping of society and the Church in Germany in the laity councils, in associations, movements, initiatives and organisations. In the more than 150 years of the ZdK's history, its members have helped to shape social and church life in Germany and set the course in the political arena, industry and the social system, in the media, art, culture and research.



Ingrid Fischbach,  
President of the Catholic  
German Women's  
League (KDFB):

“Women live their faith with conviction and truly stand up for it in society and in the Church. They are witnesses and shapers of the message of Jesus Christ, and hence indispensable for living Christianity.”

#### 10 joint work areas of the AGKOD:

- 1 Basic pastoral issues
  - 2 Basic issues related to the law, the State, the international community and political ethics (basic political issues)
  - 3 Basic issues related to work, industry, finance and the social system (basic social issues)
  - 4 Basic issues related to education, research and culture (basic cultural policy issues)
  - 5 Marriage, family, generations (basic family policy issues)
  - 6 Migration/integration
  - 7 Publishing and media policy (publishing tasks)
  - 8 Environment and technology
  - 9 Universal church solidarity and development cooperation
  - 10 European cooperation
- “Jews and Christians” discussion group  
“Christians and Muslims” discussion group

**6 million members**  
**120 Catholic associations**

## 10. Budget and Finance

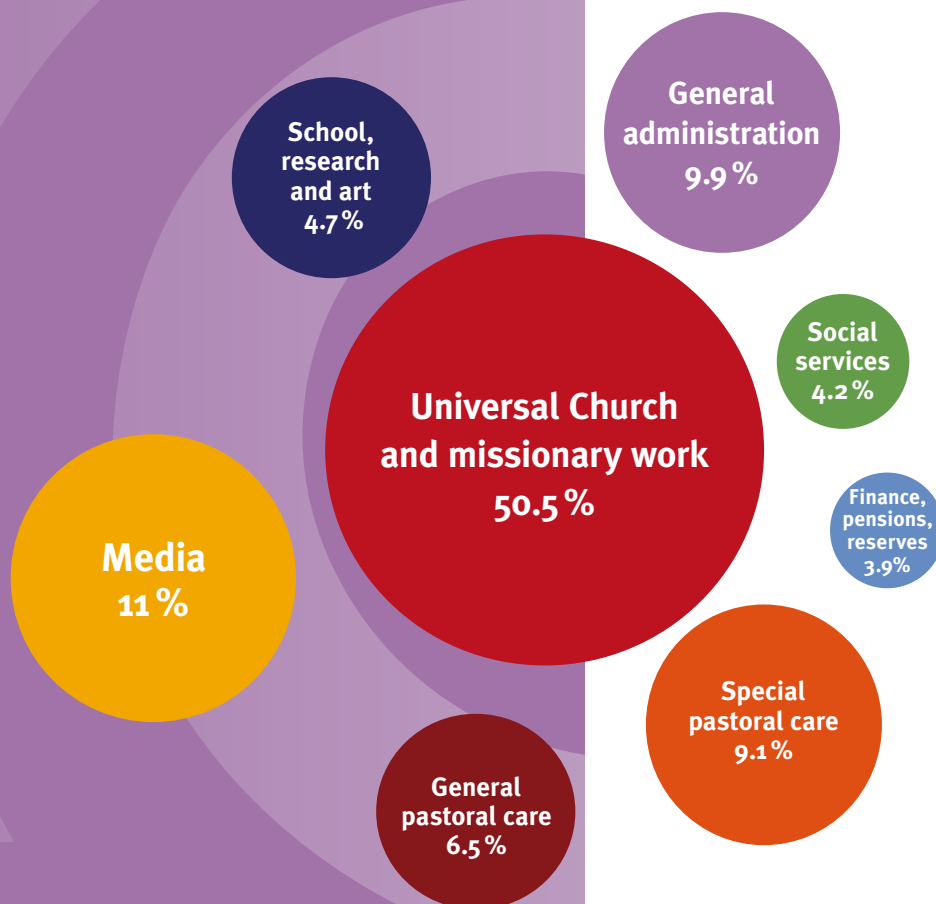
### **The Catholic Church has various sources of income.**

These include donations, fees for providing specific services (e.g. child day-care centres), state subsidies, income from rent and leases and the church tax. The church tax is the most important source of income – it covers by far the largest part of the budget. The Church however naturally also has reserves. It is for instance obliged to ensure the old-age pensions of priests and other staff. Furthermore, it must ensure the maintenance of its buildings (some of which are listed) and be prepared for a drop in income.

### **Budget expenditure of the association of German dioceses in the budget year 2011**

Total volume Euro 129,512,095

The body within a bishopric that is responsible for the church tax (e.g. the church tax council) decides for which interests the church tax is spent. One item always refers to supradiocesan tasks. The money is passed on to the association of German dioceses (VDD) and distributed from there.



## The church tax...

- ... dates in historical terms from the expropriation of the Church's assets at the beginning of the 19th Century (secularisation)
- ... is the most important source for funding ecclesial tasks today
- ... is calculated from the wage and income tax (depending on the Federal *Land* 8 or 9 percent); people not paying wage and income tax are hence also not church taxpayers, so that ultimately only roughly 30 percent of Catholics pay the church tax
- ... is collected via the state tax office; the State in return retaining three percent of the tax revenue
- ... goes to the dioceses, the diocesan church tax councils are responsible for the use.

## Use of the church tax

The bishoprics have various task areas which they need to fund. The most cost intensive in all dioceses is the parish work, followed by the social services and kindergartens. Further areas are: school, education and culture, pastoral work in hospitals and old people's homes, administration, supradiocesan tasks such as development aid and fees to the State for the collection of the church tax.

### Catholic church tax 1990 to 2010

Developments in the entire national territory (net revenue)



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