

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 804806; Fax: +49 / 4106 / 804807

E-Mail: bq@bucer.de; <http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

Released for free complete or partial reproduction

BQ 503 – Nr. 42/2017

Role Models of Faith: Freely Offering their Lives out of Christian Love

Understanding of Christian Martyrdom Sharpened through Apostolic Letter

(Bonn, Cape Town, Leuven, 16.10.2017) According to the opinion of the evangelical theologian and mission scholar Christof Sauer, the new Apostolic Letter of Pope St. Francis with the title “There is no greater love (*maiores hac dilectionem*) – on the offer of life” is to be welcomed, as far as it concerns the definition of a martyr.

The free offering of one’s life out of Christian love has been declared a new possible way of discerning the exemplary character of deceased Christians by the Roman Catholic Church on 11 July 2017.

This positive assessment by the director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) is mainly concerned with understanding martyrdom from a Christian perspective. The debate on confessional differences is explicitly excluded.

Below we provide the full text of the comment.

Sauer, who is 54 years old, hails from Germany and lives in South Africa. He is also Professor at the Evangelische Theologische Fakultät Leuven in Belgium. He has completed extensive research on the understanding of martyrdom in the different Christian traditions for a post-doctoral thesis. In 2010 he also edited the “Bad Urach Statement – Towards an evangelical theology of suffering, persecution and martyrdom for the global church in mission”.



IIRF staff in ecumenical conversation with catholic Bishops (right: Christof Sauer) © BQ / Warnecke



A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwoonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.de

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/ilfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirrmacher.net

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

Bonner Querschnitte *Bonn Profiles – Press Reports*

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)

Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06

Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07

E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



Downloads and Links:

- The complete comment by Christof Sauer ([pdf](#))
- [Photo 1](#): IIRF staff in ecumenical conversation with catholic Bishops (right: Christof Sauer) © BQ / Warnecke
- [Photo 2](#): Christof Sauer speaking at a congress on the persecution of Christians © Arnold, Dettingen
- Apostolic Letter in English: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20170711_maiorem-hac-dilectionem.html
- Report by Radio Vatikan (11.07.2017): http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/07/11/pope_francis_makes_new_beatification_category_oblatio_vitae/1324398
- Interview with the Rector of the Papal Lateran University, Enrico Dal Covolo (12.07.2017 in German only): http://de.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/07/12/motu_propriu_„maiolem_hac_dilectionem“_ein_fachmann_erklaert/1324533
- Report in Osservatore Romano (11.7.2017): <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-creates-new-category-for-beatificatio>
- Christof Sauer (ed.). Bad Urach Statement. Towards an evangelical theology of suffering, persecution and martyrdom for the global church in mission. The WEA Global Issues Series. Vol. 9. Culture and Science Publishing: Bonn, 2012. 91 pp. ISBN 978-3-86269-062-6: <http://iirf.eu/journal-books/global-issues-series/bad-urach-statement/>

A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.de

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/ilfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirrmacher.net

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

Released for free complete or partial reproduction.

DOWNLOADS OF GRAPHICS AND OF COMMUNICATION

<http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

SUBSCRIBING OR UNSUBSCRIBING BONN PROFILES

If you want to begin receiving or no longer wish to receive the Bonn Profiles, please send us an email.

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSDP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de