

Vatican's Church is 'on the verge of capsizing'!

1. BREAKING: Pope Benedict XVI says Church is 'on the verge of capsizing'

Claire Chretien

July 15, 2017 (LifeSiteNews) – Pope Benedict XVI sent a sobering message at the funeral of Cardinal Joachim Meisner today, saying he was moved at the dubia cardinal's ability to "live out of a deep conviction that the Lord does not abandon His Church, even when the boat has taken on so much water as to be on the verge of capsizing."

The Church "stands in particularly pressing need of convincing shepherds who can resist the dictatorship of the spirit of the age and who live and think the faith with determination," Pope Benedict said in a message read by Archbishop Georg Gänswein, his personal secretary and head of the papal household. Because of this "pressing need," Meisner "found it difficult to leave his post."

"What moved me all the more was that, in this last period of his life, he learned to let go and to live out of a deep conviction that the Lord does not abandon His Church, even when the boat has taken on so much water as to be on the verge of capsizing," the pope emeritus concluded.

Meisner, who was 83, was one of the four cardinals who sent Pope Francis a dubia, consisting of five questions, asking if *Amoris Laetitia* is aligned with Catholic morality. He died still awaiting the pope's response. Although Pope Francis hasn't answered the dubia, he has given his approval to interpretations of the controversial exhortation that say those living in adulterous unions may receive Holy Communion.

Pope Benedict also mentioned in his statement that he had spoken to Cardinal Meisner on the telephone the day before his death.

Canon lawyer Kurt Martens said Pope Benedict's message was an "amazing yet diplomatic form of support for [the] dubia Cardinals."

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pope-benedict-church-is-on-the-verge-of-capsizing>

+ + +

2. Catholic Church 'on the Verge of Capsizing,' Says Former Pope

BY MICHAEL GRYBOSKI , CHRISTIAN POST REPORTER

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI recently stated that the Roman Catholic Church might be "on the verge of capsizing."

In a message delivered at the funeral of Cardinal Joachim Meisner on Saturday, the former head of the Catholic Church spoke about the time in which the late church official worked.

"We know that this passionate shepherd and pastor found it difficult to leave his post, especially at a time in which the Church stands in particularly pressing need of convincing shepherds who can resist the dictatorship of the spirit of the age and who live and think the faith with determination," preached Benedict XVI.

"However, what moved me all the more was that, in this last period of his life, he learned to let go and to live out of a deep conviction that the Lord does not abandon His Church, even when the boat has taken on so much water as to be on the verge of capsizing."

A theological conservative, the 83-year-old Cardinal Meisner was one of four cardinals who presented a "dubia" document requesting clarifications from Pope Francis regarding the Vatican document *Amoris Laetitia*, specifically its stance on divorce and remarriage.

Latin for "Joy of Love," the document was released in April of last year. But it drew controversy as some believed that it loosened the standards for divorced and remarried couples.

"It is important that the divorced who have entered a new union should be made to feel part of the Church," noted page 184 of the exhortation.

"The Christian community's care of such persons is not to be considered a weakening of its faith and testimony to the indissolubility of marriage; rather, such care is a particular expression of its charity."

The exhortation stated later on page 229, quoting an earlier church document, that baptized members "who are divorced and civilly remarried need to be more fully integrated into Christian communities in the variety of ways possible, while avoiding any occasion of scandal."

The online Catholic news publication Crux noted that Meisner and three other cardinals asked the current pontiff to clarify the Joy of Love's stance on the matter.

"Last year, he and three other cardinals — American Raymond Burke, Italian Carlo Caffarra, and fellow German Walter Brandmüller — sent five "dubia" (yes-or-no questions) asking clarification on Amoris Laetitia," reported Crux.

"Subsequently, the four cardinals attempted to gain an audience with the pope to discuss the issue, but were refused."

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/catholic-church-on-the-verge-of-capsizing-says-former-pope-192243/>

www.indleo.gr