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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ..., the letter sent by the 5 cardinals

ECCLESIA

02_10_2023



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We, members of the Sacred College of Cardinals, in accord with the duty of all the faithful “to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the

good of the Church” (can. 212 § 3) and, above all, in accord with the responsibility of Cardinals “to assist the Roman Pontiff ... individually ... especially in the daily care of the universal Church” (can. 349), in view of various declarations of highly-placed Prelates, pertaining to the celebration of the next Synod of Bishops, that are openly contrary to the constant doctrine and discipline of the Church, and that have generated and continue to generate great confusion and the falling into error among the faithful and other persons of good will, have manifested our deepest concern to the Roman Pontiff.

By our letter of July 10, 2023, employing the proven practice of the submission of *dubia* [questions] to a superior to provide the superior the occasion to make clear, by his *responsa* [responses], the doctrine and discipline of the Church, we have submitted five *dubia* to Pope Francis, a copy of which is attached. By his letter of July 11, 2023, Pope Francis responded to our letter.

Having studied his letter which did not follow the practice of *responsa ad dubia* [responses to questions], we reformulated the *dubia* to elicit a clear response based on the perennial doctrine and discipline of the Church. By our letter of August 21, 2023, we submitted the reformulated *dubia*, a copy of which is attached, to the Roman Pontiff. Up to the present, we have not received a response to the reformulated *dubia*.

Given the gravity of the matter of the *dubia*, especially in view of the imminent session of the Synod of Bishops, we judge it our duty to inform you, the faithful (can. 212 § 3), so that you may not be subject to confusion, error, and discouragement but rather may pray for the universal Church and, in particular, the Roman Pontiff, that the Gospel may be taught ever more clearly and followed ever more faithfully.

Yours in Christ,

Walter Cardinal Brandmüller

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

Juan Cardinal Sandoval Íñiguez

Robert Cardinal Sarah

Joseph Cardinal Zen Ze-kun

Rome, 2 October 2023