

Kiev, July 27, 2021

Reverend Dariusz Oko,

Dear Professor!

It is with great sadness and pain that we received the news today that a German priest, Father Wolfgang Rothe, reported to German law enforcement agencies. For what reason? Because you spoke the truth about the human nature! A denouncement of a priest representing the Christian vision of a man by a priest who supports the LGBT ideology is a real scandal! Similarly scandalous is the verdict of the court in Cologne, which has already imposed a fine or 120 days in prison on you and prof. Johannes Stöhr, also a priest and editor-in-chief of *"Theologisches"*, in which your article was published. The court does not stop there, but wants to impose a prison sentence of up to 5 years in the absence of financial compensation.

This kind of accusation of priests of speaking the truth is nothing new in the history of the Church. Many men of God have given testimony to the truth, also at the expense of their suffering and their lives. John the Baptist, St. Bishop Stanislaus, St. Thomas More and many other heroes who defended the truth about man, marriage and family, about the beauty of life in the grace of God. However, the fact that a Catholic priest who advocates an anti-Christian ideology is standing behind this persecution is certainly something new and burdensome for the whole Church. Such behavior of Wolfgang Rothe violates all gospel principles. The actions of the court in Cologne are threatening to the freedom of speech in Europe

In the face of these painful events, we wish to express our support and thanks for your Christian courage. We gratefully remember your lectures for our priests in Ukraine. We entrust you to the maternal protection of the Mother of God. We are well aware that such actions are not only political derailments, but also have a spiritual dimension, so we are engaged in a spiritual battle.

May St. Stanislaus, Defender of the Truth and Patron of the Church of Krakow, in which you serve, be Your Patron in this difficult time.

Please accept our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Cordial greetings,

Bishop Radosław Żmitrowicz OMI,
Chairman of the Family Affairs Committee
The Episcopal Conference of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine

Father Waldemar Pawelec SAC, regional chaplain for the family.

Members of the Family Affairs Committee at the CEU
Grateful pastors and families who had the opportunity to listen to the lectures of prof. Dariusz Oko