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World Church and World Society

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Is there a Global Community?

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Introduction

Vatican II and the term „communio“ - „community“:

There is an interesting conflict of interpretation of the term „communio“ which is equally important, interesting and problematic. Many ecclesiastical models depend from the results of the interpretation.



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The World Church's contribution to the World Community

- The church's biggest contribution to the world civil society would be to include the world's poorest in a theologic discourse
- Small Christian Communities („Basisgemeinden“) can act as a corrective in a civil society where the poor are neglected and where God is absent
- Small Christian Communities can thus be an ideal where the believer experiences solidarity and fights poverty
- Small Christian communities help civil society gaining a human face



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The World Society's contribution to the World Church

- The model of the civil society shaped the discussion about the democratization of the church right after Vatican II
- Church needs more democracy – but how?

Best practice: Small Christian Communities



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1. All members feel responsible
2. Laypeople vote for their spokesperson. They are active subjects of the evangelization
3. Laypeople do voluntary work in their communities
4. All members share the word of God but also their fortunes as and when required
5. There is a clear understanding that the church of Jesus Christ builds itself from the bottom up.



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Pope Francis: paradigm shift or new paint for an old building?

- Reform of the Curia = biggest challenge of his Pontificate
- Curia should represent not only an international but a modernized church
- Will he support the regional integration in Latin America?
- Will he walk the talk and transfer his love for the poor into organized actions?
- Will he support the Small Christian Communities?