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Annette Schavan
Having Presence of Mind
The Claim of Christianity

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- For a new diversity
- Against fear
- To the point

"The Church began on the day of Pentecost. On this day, it chose cultural diversity." This quote by Pope Francis mentions an important attribute of the Catholic Church: Diversity is not a danger, but an enrichment. It helps raise the previously undiscovered potential of the World Church. For what is Catholic cannot be discovered only in the past. Those who always just look back to see what everything once was will miss the signs of God's presence in the future.

The era of the pandemic represents a turning point, which also applies to the World Church. This requires a new presence of mind: 1. We need to look at the life of Jesus. Then we will also develop a feeling for what still remains undiscovered or can be rediscovered in the Church. – 2. We must overcome the fear of dangerous discoveries. The only dangerous thing is the assumption that everything has already been discovered. – 3. The World Church, the world's oldest global player, can be a role model of how respect for cultural diversity is lived. This would be a rejection of arrogance and small-mindedness, as well as a great service to the future.

About the author

Annette Schavan was the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See. She worked for many years in German state and federal politics, including from 1995–2005 as the Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports in Baden-Württemberg and from 2005–2013 as the Federal Minister for Education and Research. From 1991–1995, she was the director of the Cusanuswerk Bishops' Office for the Promotion of Studies. She teaches as a visiting professor at the Shanghai International Studies University.



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