



## **Position Paper 2025**

### **Objectives for the Foundation Centesimus Annus pro Pontifice - German Section**

#### **1. Starting Position**

The new election of the board on February 13th, 2021 offers the opportunity to jointly analyze the status quo of the German Section, to determine priorities in the cooperation and to develop goals for the foundation's work by the end of the electoral period in 2025.

#### **2. Classification of the German Section (SCAPP-DS)**

In the statutes of the Fondazione Centesimus Annus - Pro Pontifice, which were revised in 2019, the background of the foundation in 1993 is remembered:

*..its inspiring idea and its purpose: a special endorsement of papal social teachings and committed support to the Holy Father's numerous charitable initiatives.*

According to Art. 3 this is specified:

*Its specific goal is to help promote the study and the diffusion of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church, as set out in particular in Pope John Paul II's Encyclical "Centesimus Annus".*

To achieve these goals, the Fondazione pursues the following objectives:

- a) Promotes informed knowledge of the special teachings of the Church and of the activity of the Holy See among qualified and socially motivated business and professional leaders;
- b) Promotes initiatives aimed at expanding the Church's effective role in all sectors of contemporary society;
- c) Promotes fund raising activities to help support the activity of the Holy See.



The German Section follows these goals:

- a) fördert fundiertes Wissen über die besonderen Lehren der Kirche und über die Tätigkeit des Heiligen Stuhls unter qualifizierten und sozial motivierten Unternehmern und Führungskräften;
- b) fördert Initiativen zur Ausweitung der wirksamen Rolle der Kirche in allen Bereichen der heutigen Gesellschaft;
- c) fördert Spendenaktionen zur Unterstützung der Aktivitäten des Heiligen Stuhls;  
expanded with the statutes of the German Section from 2016, by referring to the fundraising activities in § 1 (2):
- d) "The purposes of the Fondazione ... consist in the promotion and support of church tasks and concerns including the promotion of science and research in the field of Catholic Social Teaching and are realized in particular through the implementation of scientific events and research projects."

### 3. Members of the SCAPP-DS

#### 3.1. Focus of the Members

Four groups of motivations can be derived from the analysis of the member profile sheets. These are in the order in which they are mentioned under the headings

• "Christian Social Teaching"	43 mentions
• "Like-minded people"	10 mentions
• "Science and knowledge transfer"	08 mentions
• "Pro Pontifice"	05 mentions

The following statements by the members can be found under these headings:

#### "Christian social teaching"

support the Catholic Social Doctrine ..., spread the Christian Social Doctrine ..., ... help spread ..., ... strengthen ..., promote ..., put into practice ..., ... put into practice in my company ... in my network.

#### "Like-minded people"

dear people ..., get to know interesting and wonderful people ..., like-minded people in a good community ... , .. people from all over the world ..., ... circle with a common Catholic value foundation ..., global composition of members from companies ..., very interesting circle of more open interlocutors of the same spirit ..., ... wonderful platform for exchanging experiences.



### **"Science and Knowledge Transfer"**

different contexts ..., clever ideas ..., scientific contribution ..., different cultures ..., scientific backgrounds ..., educational work ..., scientific debate ..., regular exchange with other members

### **"Pro Pontifice"**

Adoration for the Pope ..., help for the tasks of the Pope ..., .. to serve the Pope, ... to support the Holy Father in his work.

### **3.2. Network of Members**

In addition to intensive contacts in the Catholic Church, the German Section and its members have a broad, professional and entrepreneurial network and diverse contacts to other Catholic organizations in Germany. These include:

- Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem (OESSH)
- Order of Malta
- Malteser Werke gGmbH
- Association of Catholic Entrepreneurs (BKU)
- KKV - Catholics in Business and Administration e.V.
- Caritas Germany
- KfD - Catholic women's community in Germany
- Catholic Social Science Central Office (KSZ)
- Kolping family
- Spiritual orders (Cistercians, Dominicans, Jesuits)
- Catholic universities (University of the Jesuits Munich, Cologne University for Catholic Theology (KHKT) etc.)
- Student associations such as Cartellverband (CV), Unitas (UV) etc.

## **4. Self-Image and Goals of the SCAPP-DS**

### **4.1. Self-Image**

Although our most important goal is to spread Catholic Social Teaching, we must state that other Catholic organizations in Germany are also committed to Catholic Social Teaching. That does not have to be a disadvantage for us, it should encourage our cooperation with them. What makes our foundation unique, so to speak as a Unique Selling Position (USP), is the fact that we are a

**Papal Foundation based in the Vatican  
guided by lay people for the good of the Holy Father**

This should not result in elitist behavior, but the obligation to close ties to Rome, to the Fondazione, the Holy Father and the world church orientation.



In this sense and not to step into opposition to other organizations, not to engage in wing battles in Germany and not to get caught up in operational issues of the Catholic Church in Germany, we stand for the common house.

To this end, we try to take up and translate the accents from the papal encyclicals of John Paul II further on Benedict XVI and Francis and to carry Christian Social Ethics into society and the economy in a dialogue with science.

The development of the encyclicals from "*Rerum Novarum*" with the differentiation of capital vs. work(er) to the entrepreneurial perspective and the merit of the market economy in "*Centesimus Annus*" to the socio-ecological tensions and economic experience in "*Laudato Si*" and "*Fratelli Tutti*" already have enough fuel for discussion and pose challenges that we would like to share with other interested people and would like to combine with the expansion of the German Section.

#### **4.2. Focus in the Next Years**

The Board of the Fondazione established a Commission 2030 in October 2019, which presented its results to the Board in July 2020. The results have not yet been fully approved and communicated. Nevertheless, it does not seem absurd to anticipate some results and to think ahead with priorities.

Special focus will certainly be on Pope Francis' concerns to rethink economy, politics, society and progress. Here "*Fratelli Tutti*" gives us orientation.

In disseminating Christian Social Doctrine, we must pay special attention to reaching young people, professionals and students. In the new edition of the "FCAPP Course for Christian Social Teaching of the Church" from 13.2.-16.5.2021 "with ... special attention to young people ..." there is an offer that we will have to 'market' more in the future. In addition, we should strengthen cooperation with universities and schools. We also have to increase the proportion of YIN members in the German Section. For this purpose, young talents from families of members and friends are also recommended.

Cooperation with other Catholic organizations should be strengthened. To this end, we should also make a targeted acquisition of well-known representatives from KKV, KfD, Caritas, BKU, Malteser and Kolping.

We can use our broad entrepreneurial network in Germany to present practical examples of successful companies and initiatives in which Catholic Social Teaching is actually implemented. A stronger network with business associations or similar associations could support this, too.

The development of the German Section must also be accompanied by a significant increase in the number of members and the financial contribution for the Holy Father. To this end, we want to create a balanced mix of face-to-face meetings and networking with digital media in order to create common



ground, enrichment and bonding. The greatest possible participation of members and guests of the German Section at the International Conference in Rome ensures emotional closeness. Proximity and identification are also created by including all members in order to win interested persons and candidates for the Fondazione.

In our sponsorship for the Dutch Chapter of the Fondazione, we can develop further similarities and keep the exchange lively. In addition, we should expand the opportunities to network virtually, digitally or physically with international representatives of the foundation.

#### **4.3 Our Goals until 2025**

Following the implementation of the priorities outlined above and with special attention to quality, we can achieve with active commitment and a fresh spirit in the sense of THINK BIG by 2025:

##### **a) Perception as a Think Tank in Germany**

With the background of the work of the Roman Fondazione and the debates on these issues by the German Section, we want to make the work of CAPP known and participate as a think tank in social, societal and economic ethical discussions.

To this end, the tasks of communication and PR work must be significantly strengthened.

##### **b) Acquisition of Fellow Campaigners**

We are all on the move as "apostles" and are looking for like-minded fellow campaigners on a level of leadership and active responsible work in business and society, anchored in the Catholic Church and in solidarity with the Holy Father.

It should be possible to double the number of members by 2025.

##### **c) Management of Donations and Fundraising**

If we make an effort to increase the raising of donations and membership fees and, in particular, to supplement our company memberships and individual members in the categories "Supporter" and "Benefactor", as well as breaking new ground in fundraising, we should succeed in a significant increase in annual contributions for the work of the Holy Father.

By doubling the number of members, we should also be able to double the financial contribution to the Fondazione by 2025.

Mönchengladbach  
US/CW/11.3.2021

The Board