



Sisters and brothers in Christ, bishop Samiec,
dear Halina Radacz, President of the Synodal's Women Commission,
especially dear sisters who have now been ordained in this festive celebration.

I am pleased to congratulate you on behalf of the German Theologinnenkonvent, its President Margit Baumgarten and all its members. We are very happy your enduring struggle for ordination came to an end last autumn. It's a great honor for me to participate today as a representative of my association at this historical event for the Lutheran church in Poland and especially for all of you dear women pastors.

I well remember the effort and struggle I had to fight before my own ordination in Bavaria in 1982. There was allowed ordinating women six years earlier – as second-last church in Western Germany. So I can empathize with you very well what a big progress is this first ordination of women for all of you in the protestant church A.B. in Poland. In Berlin, my nowadays homeplace, I am in close contact with an female pastor of my parish, who has already been ordained in 1962!

So I suppose, now you all feel relieved your fight for ordination of women was successful – in German there's a saying: "Mir fällt ein Stein vom Herzen!". You felt a heavy weighing stone sitting on your heart and now you're getting rid of it. That reminds me of Easter morning when the women came to Jesus' grave and found it open and empty. New hope could take place which nobody could have expected. These women were the first witnesses of Christ's resurrection. Therefore female roman-catholic theologians in Germany are fighting for ordination of women nowadays, perhaps you heard about.

Back to Easter: Without these women probably none of us had ever heard about resurrection. This should always strengthen you whenever people are sceptic of women pastors or criticize ordination of women. But as all of you are experienced deacons, you'll succeed anyways.

I would like to give you 10 specimens of a magazine from last November wherein I informed Bavarian women pastors about the decision of your church ordinating women. Perhaps you would like to read it as I know many of you understand German.

Me and all female German pastors wish you and your church and its parishes and facilities God's blessing, leadership and assistance – especially in these terrifying times and their hard challenges. Thank you for your attention.

Excuse me, I have to add something:

With best wishes I shall give you a gift from Rosemarie Barth, Helga Taeger and Susanne Wahl, all members of Evangelischer Bund. This assembly had organized 4 Polish-German theological conferences in Poland together with your Synodal Women Commission and Gustav-Adolf-Werk-Frauenarbeit in 2000s and 2010s. It is a book written by Angela Standhartinger about Philippians. Perhaps you remember her as speaker at our last theological conference in Szczecin 2014, when to the greatest surprise of all of us – Germans as well as Poles – bishop Samiec announced his support for women ordination. Unfortunately, it took some more years, but today it becomes real for the first time. Thank God!

Sabine Ost