

# The Spiritual Family The Work

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## Press Statement

Bregenz, February 9, 2019

Mrs Doris Wagner, now Reisinger, was a member of our Spiritual Family from 2003 to 2011. In 2008, she had a consensual sexual relationship with a Father with whom for the following three years she maintained a cordial and friendly contact, both in writing and in person. There was no word of rape, and there could not be a word of it. In 2012, she filed a charge for rape, first with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Erfurt (Germany), which did not find evidence for rape, then with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Feldkirch (Austria) which considered it a consensual sexual relationship among adults. A court investigation led to the same conclusion.

Also the accusation against a member of our community who until recently worked at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is false. It is not true that during confession or in the context of confession or anywhere else there was sexual assault. While saying good-bye after confession in an anteroom the priest attempted to touch her cheek, without any sexual connotation. This seemed to be unpleasant for Mrs Reisinger and he apologized in writing a week later. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith investigated the case and concluded that this gesture was "imprudent". A canonical process is in course to come to a final clarification.

During her membership in our community and afterward Mrs Reisinger voiced concerns and suggestions concerning our spiritual family, which were partly justified and led to some changes we introduced in the meantime. For this, we are grateful. The campaign, however, which Mrs Reisinger has been leading since 2012 with untrue accusations against these two confreres is unfair and has caused severe human damage.

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