

German Catholic Clergy Back Mosque Construction

Catholic clergy gathering within the framework of the German Bishops' Conference have stated that they back mosque construction in the country. A post-conference declaration issued by 67 bishops called for the matter not to be a political issue. Part of the declaration read: **"Religious freedom includes Muslims constructing mosques worthy of themselves...** Since we Christians oppose restrictions being placed on the building of churches in Muslim countries, we also defend the rights of Muslims living here."

The fact that Christians are to the forefront of all non-Muslim communities in terms of closeness to believers is revealed in the Qur'an:

You will find the people most affectionate to those who believe are those who say, 'We are Christians.' That is because some of them are priests and monks and because they are not arrogant. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 82)

All Christians, Jews and Muslims worship the same Allah (God). Worship of Allah of the purpose behind all human beings' creation. It is of course impossible for any sincere Christian aware of this common purpose to engage in any restriction of worship performed for closeness to Allah.

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