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Zurich. The New Apostolic Church publishes a series of articles on the "Testimony". On 20 October the third of five articles appears in the German edition of the official church periodical "Unsere Familie". Here we will publish important source material and annotated versions of the articles in English, distributed by the Working Group History of the New Apostolic Church.

The third part

In this article on the Great Testimony we sum up some more teachings contained in that document. The authors of the Great Testimony believe that in baptism the Holy Spirit is given for regeneration. They expect a future dispensing of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of apostles' hands. This is defined as a complement and "confirmation" of water baptism.

It is an open question if the apostle ministry is to continue until the return of Christ or if it is considered an unrepeatable end-time event which will take place shortly before that return.

The doctrine of the four-fold ministry is based on a particular interpretation of Ephesians 4.11 combined with typological interpretations of other biblical passages.

After the death of the first apostles the remaining ministries act in diminished strength. At some future date their bearers will have to decide if they want to follow the apostles or become ministers of Antichrist.

Before that time arrives, a church “not having spot, or wrinkle”, able to resist Antichrist, is to be erected through apostles. It will be the refuge in the time of the great tribulation. The bishops are called upon then to lead their flocks into it. The statements about the time of the end are open to interpretation.

Faithful Christians are advised to practise obedience towards existing authorities, even if those authorities sap the foundations of their rule by acknowledging the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people. The expected overthrow of all existing authorities will be accomplished by the followers of Antichrist.

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[Article 3: The Great Testimony](#)

20 October 2006

A crucial document of the Catholic Apostolic Church
(Part 3)

In this article we continue our survey of some important statements contained in the "Great Testimony". We concentrate here on the biblical prophecies which have direct eschatological and the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, the apostles and other members of the church as well as the New Apostolic Church, was both at which they had to see themselves.

Inner discipline and the dispensation of the Spirit

The authors of the Testimony followed the Protestant tradition in which they had grown up in assuming that there are no sacraments in the Christian church. Besides the Lord's Supper. In addition, they were critical of taking on of church by apostles as something equivalent to the Roman Catholic Church. The "Dispensation of apostles" or "testimony" was a new method, was first proposed in 1847, ten years after the Testimony had been made public.

In the Great Testimony one of the statements in which we are requested to give in obedience with water. It also in paragraph 25, that the sacrament of baptism in the washing of repentance, whereas God of great mercy sends us His Spirit, it is for who were saved. It is the name of God, and by the consecration of the Spirit we become holy and become members of the true Lord Jesus Christ. In 1847, "Against the background we also understand the statement that in all the centuries in which apostles were not active, "members of the true church have been represented with God" (paragraph 42).

One of the main of apostles, is to make the Holy Church to the glory of the Father, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to be obedient to the will of the Father of God" (see paragraph 27). The Kingdom of heaven for making and enduring the unity of the church in the keeping the gifts of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit which to divide them in every man according to paragraph 27. The meaning of the Testimony is interpreted as a development and further growth of the church.

The apostles' commission

To all who, we have to point out that in the Catholic Apostolic Church apostles were not intended. For Jesus' children's 17 was regarded as the Holy Spirit, that those of them that he is the apostles, which of them, neither he the Holy Spirit, and God had Father" (see paragraph 40). The Holy Spirit who could provide us with the "Testimony" in the "great energy" that the Apostolic will "testimony" but "the number of those who should participate in the office" was not limited. To all Scripture and the unbroken