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Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò , former nuncio in the USA, is not one of the sedevacantists who claim that the See of Peter has been vacant since Benedict XVI. Nor is he one of the traditionalist bishops who have criticized and continue to criticize Pope Francis publicly or anonymously for his decisions, for example on the traditional rite or his private curia in Santa Martha. One example is Cardinal George Pell , who, under the pseudonym "Demos", has circulated a merciless reckoning with the current pontificate, but for whom it was always clear that Francis is the legitimately elected and legally incumbent pope .

An anarcho-vacantist

With Viganò, things are different again: Roberto de Mattei, historian, critic of the Council and chairman of the conservative Lepanto Foundation, calls Viganò an anarcho-vacantist who assumes that Francis became Pontiff legitimately, but that his exercise of office is invalid. For Viganò, the Chair of Peter is

occupied by a usurper who is not Pope because he clearly intends to destroy the Church.

Francis is deceiving [Catholics](#) because he is actually working for the enemies of the Church, claims the former nuncio in the United States. And Roberto de Mattei sums up Viganò's anarchy as follows: " [Monsignor](#) Viganò admits that Francis materially occupies the throne of Peter and therefore denies that he is a sedevacantist, but at the same time he is convinced that Francis is not formally a pope because he lacks the intention to do the good of the Church, which is the form and essence of the papacy."

Causes of Vatileaks

Now, much could be said about the past of Archbishop Viganò, who was a troublemaker in the Vatican even before his time as nuncio in the USA. Viganò worked in the Curia for the administration of the Vatican State and wanted to become head of the governorate. But Benedict XVI distrusted the ambitious curial and sent him away from Rome and to the USA as nuncio, which was the trigger for Vatileaks. Some of Viganò's confidants reacted indignantly and persuaded the Pope's valet to pass documents from the papal apartment into foreign hands in order to draw attention to the chaos in Benedict's inner circle.

“Itinerant clerics”

But that is history. The reason why the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has now opened criminal proceedings against Viganò for the crime of schism can be traced back to the work of the extremely wealthy archbishop in the Catholic swamp and underground of recent times.

The floor is again taken by the unsuspecting Roberto de Mattei, who cannot really be accused of being a progressive or a fan of Francis. For him, Viganò is a danger because "he secretly ordains a multitude of priests and perhaps also some bishops, who become part of that elusive fog of 'clerici vagantes' (itinerant clerics) which is unfortunately constantly growing, without them being able to provide any proof of their ordination, at least until they emerge from obscurity. In this respect, Monsignor Viganò's network is a structure that can be described as anarcho-vacantist rather than sedevacantist... Some of those who answered his call to arms are beginning to open their eyes, but unfortunately the damage has already been done".

<https://www.die-tagespost.de/kirche/aktuell/viganos-netzwerk-im-geheimen-art-252591>