

## Wurm, Theophil

(1868--1953), German Protestant theologian who was appointed bishop of Wurttemberg in 1933. At the very beginning of the Nazi regime, Wurm was a supporter of the "German Christians," a Protestant group that endorsed the Nazi Party. However, in late 1933 the Nazis began the process of *Gleichschaltung*, meaning Coordination under Nazism. For the churches, the gist of this process was to put their institutions under the control of Nazi organization and subject them to Nazi ideology. Wurm strenuously opposed the notion that the Nazis would officially be in charge of what the church could say and do, so he joined the anti-Nazi Confessing Church. He also strongly protested the appointment of Nazi supporter Ludwig Mueller as "Reich bishop" of the Evangelical (Protestant) Church---a move that would make sure that the Protestant church would back the Nazis and oppose the Confessing Church. Because of his strong views and outspokenness, Wurm was placed under house arrest in 1934. However, the Nazis could not keep Wurm down. After a public protest, Wurm condemned the Euthanasia Program and the persecution of Jews at the hands of the Nazis.

After the war Wurm helped author the "Stuttgart Confession," an admission that the church had not done enough to fight the Nazis.