



COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 19, December 15th 2022

Theme:

Unity of word and life

SEAT IN LIFE

Mother Marie Therese wrote the last chapter of the Rule of the Order “Unity of word and life” on 14 September 1992. The community in the Motherhouse can witness the following: “It was the time when our foundress was on her last and most serious sickbed which had started in May 1992. ... Unbearable pain and some disease in the back made it impossible for her to lay down in bed. She spent day and night sitting in an armchair in her room.” During this period of time the last five reflections of the book “The Imitation of Christ as the Rule” came into being



that were meant in the first place for the members, but in a broader sense can be a guide for all Christians who seek to live the love of God and the love of neighbor. Mother Marie Therese’s statement “The Communio in Christo is the image of the true Church” is indeed a proclamation addressed to all Christians.

Unity of word and life – this is the unity that Mother Marie Therese used to live herself and she gave an example of how to live it. In her writings she put a particular emphasis on this unity. She lived what she wrote, and she wrote what she lived. That way she noticed of course whenever something within the community did not go in the right direction which she then put on paper. To state an example, she wrote that it would never be possible to embrace the world in love unless love was not first lived in word and deed within the community(ies).

Jaison Thazhathil, Superior General



REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

14.09.1992

Communio in Christo is realized if word and life form a unity after Jesus' example. Every member must develop in Communio, but not after a certain cliché but into a clearly Christian personality in accordance with the will of God.

Determined and formed by special gifts and talents, a member of the Communio in Christo has to give Christ an answer who has called upon each one of us personally to spread his message worldwide.

It is our vocation to embrace the world which has been infiltrated with a kind of hopelessness that can only be overcome by a new orientation towards God and his love.

From my word of consent in which God fulfilled his love as a unity of word and deed, all of the members learn to find their own personal answers. The founders' willingness brought about the charism that – as a special call – has laid down the guidelines that are to be observed. Everything required of us must grow out of our own responsibility for our own lives.

The works that proclaim the magnitude of the charism open ways out of everything that seems hopelessly bogged down. They are evidence of the presence of God. They reveal the truth of love. It is our duty to face this questioning and searching world in the Imitation of Christ. He condemned no-one and did not seek the easy way of excluding the inferior and poor.

It is advisable to make oneself familiar with the writings of the founder in which God himself points out the way for a Communio in Christo to go.

The church of love and mercy has become obscured. The triumph of power thrust the practically-lived Christianity into the background. Coldness instead of love has become evident, overshadowing any orientation towards the kingdom of God. Nobody notices the fact or is willing to admit it. But the evidence is so clear that we Christians should be ashamed to keep silent any longer.

The Communio in Christo is the image of the true Church. Every day we encounter the poor and the sinners and are called upon to act as Samaritans.

God grants his grace as he likes. Abilities and talents determine in what way the individual can offer to help building the body of Christ.

God laid the charism of love into a weak human being so that the representative of the Church may sense the nearness of the Spirit for his own charism and accept it accordingly.



There is a strong tendency not to recognize this charism or to follow it improperly.

The authority of such a charism is assigned not by a human being but by the Holy Spirit himself.

The Evil One keeps playing his game and manifests himself particularly in fear and reserve. A founder's word cannot be felt to be hostile as long as his life reveals the truth.

Therefore conflicts of competence cannot arise. Due to the unity within the Communio nobody works for the sake of working or in order to be noticed or praised.

No, in the Communio everybody works for charity's sake because the other needs help.

Cooperation is the revelation of this movement in which God determines what Communio means. If there is no solidarity between different houses, it will never be possible to fulfil the special wish: to embrace the world in love.



In our life, the desperate or violent person, the tormentor and the murderer and everything that is hopelessly bogged down shall meet the practically-lived love and recognize it as his redemption.

We must not allow hypersensitivity or a negative attitude to gain ground in us.

We must not give way to lamentation and complaints.

We must always speak kindly and obligingly with our brothers and sisters in Communio.

The world is looking at us and the will of God in a special charism is waiting for our answer.

Our compassion for the sick shall never end in a condemnation. That would endanger the light of this movement.

We should serve the charism with all our hearts, the more so as God is offering this world salvation and peace. We should adhere to the Holy Spirit and not shrink from contacts.

We have been called upon to give luminosity to the rising light and to spread it in our own spheres of life – each one of us according to his special gifts. We shall be given no rest, for the Church and the world are in need and we can only find peace of mind in the will of God, who has won us for his plan.

This confidence shall not be frustrated. We have been chosen for a community of love. Let us begin to appreciate the value of this foundation and realize it in everyday life.

Love is the gift of life that shall be reality in us. It demands the total unselfishness in word and deed. It demands the whole truth for our life! Love, love, love for all.

Mother Marie Therese, The Imitation of Christ as the Rule, Pelplin, 2008, pp 226



COMMENTARY

By Linda Manzole Kunda, Lay member of Communio in Christo in Zambia

Our Journey of faith in the Catholic Church should make us realize that we need to say Yes to Jesus and his gospel values. We are called to proclaim his word by making known the power of the word of God to humanity and Christians for others in our service to the Church. We are to live in harmony and unity in the love of Christ our Saviour.

Mother Marie Therese's reflection states, 'Therefore conflicts of competence cannot arise. Due to the unity within the Communio nobody works for the sake of working or in order to be noticed or praised. No, in the Communio everybody works for charity's sake because the other needs help'. Our journey of life on earth is to work for God through charity and service to those in need. In my opinion, I believe that to make our faith grow towards service to humanity we need to look at Jesus as our Ideal. And embrace his paschal mystery in our calling to his service.

Living for God is not a matter of following a set of rules. God commanded the Israelites to follow a system of sacrifices, but Samuel said to Saul, „Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams“ (1 Samuel 15:22).

In order for us to live for God, we must know what He wants. Jesus, in His High Priestly prayer during His Upper Room Discourse (John 17:20-21), gives us insight into what He wants. He prayed, „I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me“.

He prays specifically for two things: 1) that all believers may be unified, and 2) that all believers will have an on-going relationship with Him. Living for Him means that we want what He wants.

He also said in John 14:15, „If you love me, you will keep my commandments“.

This implies that, if we don't keep his commandments, then it simply means we don't love him, we lack love for him. However, notice the order. We love Him and therefore keep His commandments. That we keep His commandments does not mean that we love Him. Our primary focus should be on what He wants: a relationship with Him and unity in the body, so that we may become unified with His people. In order to do these things, we should pray and read and study His words. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit to apply what we study to our lives and enable us to have the relationship with Jesus.

As a baptized Catholic Christian I believe in being sent to the World to proclaim his word, believing that he is with me at all times. The Holy Spirit has strengthened me in my journey of faith in reaching out to the Young in the Church.

Mother Marie Therese's commitment to the calling of Christ in her journey of faith inspires many to grow in faith. Her Spiritual richness should be emulated and shared to many Christians in our Church.

"I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:1-6).

Linda Manzole Kunda



Born on 12th April 1972 in a compound called Kaunda Square stage 2 under the Parish called Christ the King Parish, in the Archdiocese of Lusaka in Zambia. I am the Third born in a Catholic family of five. I am a personal Assistant (Secretary)/Social worker, married and have 2 children, a boy and a girl.

From childhood on I dreamt of reaching out in the world. Not the vocation that was meant for me mattered to me, but my God. I started my journey of reaching out in the Youth Ministry in 1997. Within me I felt a call to wholeness. I always feel satisfied in my faith reaching out to the youth and I will forever remain young at heart.

I learned about Communio in Christo through Fr. Thomas Banda, a diocesan priest, who in 2000, during a visit to Zambia by Spiritual Director Fr. Hermann Walch, took vows into his hands and thus joined the Communio. In the same year I came in contact with Sr. Lidwina. I committed myself to serve God through the Communio in Christo. I have always felt supported by their prayers and love their mission.



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