



COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 28, June 18th 2024

Theme:

Witnesses of love

SEAT IN LIFE

The idea for the name „Communio in Christo” had come to Mother Marie Therese, respectively had been given to her by the Holy Spirit already on 30 July 1984, namely a few months before the order foundation on 8 December. In the course of 1985, she wrote her Rule of the order for the Communio in Christo with the title “The Imitation of Christ as the Rule”, which she finished in 1991 and in 1992. The following reflection is taken from this Rule (pp. 222 ff) and dates from 17 August 1992.



Mother Marie Therese’s work is not actually a prescription, but a book of meditation, a guideline for a Christian life in love. In the present text “The testimony of a common life in love” Mother Marie Therese describes the world of today as a place of godlessness and disbelief. Prosperity has led to egoism and distancing from God. Men have become slaves of consumption and are about to exchange their democratic freedom for self-imposed subjugation to nationalist despots who despise human beings.

Also globally a catastrophe is looming: War. At the same time Mother Marie Therese sees how God is constantly striving to meet this time with special love. “This message of salvation shows its dynamic effect,” said the first Superior General Karl-Heinz Haus. We are to believe that only love can change everything and we should live and pass on that love...

Jaison Thazhathil, Superior General



REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

17th August 1992

The testimony of a common life in love

The modern world tends to atheism and unbelief. The development of prosperity has produced egoism. In every respect a distance to God becomes evident. Man seeks freedom because the present world has become a world of slavery and captivity. You can sense that God wishes to approach our time with special love and kindness.

The message of salvation produces a dynamic effect; faith, however, has got bogged down amidst law statutes. In discussions and conferences a way out is being sought in order to avoid an imminent catastrophe... for the purpose of which, however, certain laws will have to be amended or annulled.

And no-one dares to still believe that only in love everything can change for the better. As a foundress I observe this world and thanks to divine grace I have been able to discern the great sign in the Communio in Christo.

It is an admonishing appeal to the conscience of all.

It is the model for the realization of the Council.

It is the initiative for the spiritual renewal of prayer.

It is the testimony to a common life in love.

What I have noticed and what God has revealed to me is the increasing distance in the communal life of the religious orders in which more time is being spent on spiritual exercises and the observance of the proper attitude and form than on the realization of the love that should radiate outwards so noticeably that the world can be seized and carried by it.

The nobleness of this order moves the Second Vatican Council. I have been requested to interpret my foundation of 8 December 1984 as a religious order and have committed myself to call the Communio in Christo as a religious order in accordance with the request of a supreme power, in order that the Second Vatican Council may prove to be a dogmatic one.



God gave me the gift he treasures most: His love, in which everything means salvation and peace.

Since its foundation, the Communio in Christo has been an order of a specific character. For its members there is but one consequence: to live up to that love using the resources and means given to all of us. That is to say: dedicating oneself to God and obeying his will.

Weaknesses we might observe in ourselves should not discourage us. They serve humility and self-knowledge.

Let us carefully watch our life together so that it might not endanger the bonds of the love for one-another we are especially endowed with.

The words of Jesus shall penetrate our hearts: I am leaving you peace as my bequest. I am giving you my peace.



In obedience and poverty we find the realization of the love to which we have committed ourselves.

The world receives the gift of the Communio in Christo, which has only one ideal: to make the love come alive that it has been gifted with. It confirms the truth of Jesus' message and proves his presence in the Church.

All of us bear a heavy responsibility: Success and fruitfulness demand solidarity and love among and for one another any minute of our life.

It is the plan of God to let his presence and love flourish in this world so that we all may come to realize once again that a world without God is a dead world.

The more we open ourselves to the will of God, the more effective the power of love will prove for our time.

We must regain the childlike dependence because relinquishing one's own wishes and observing obedience towards the will of God binds the love to us and we can be true witnesses to his loving kindness.

That is our responsibility: loving one another in Communio, without distrust, without oversensitivity or irritability. In us God's loving kindness must be in evidence, radiant and strong, so that it may be present as truth and peace in Church and world.

So, let us love one another in order that God on earth may become a common act of faith. That is our responsibility.



COMMENTARY

By Padre Rudolf Ammann, Spiritual Director of the Communio in Christo

Mother Marie Therese does not tire to remind herself and all who listen to her over and over again of the love that God is constantly giving to us. Love is the basic chord of his being and his revelation. Love is the basic sound of his story of mankind that has become a story of salvation: God is love and whatever he does he does out of love, through love and for love; he hopes for our loving answer.

Mother Marie Therese is convinced that her life and the work of her life including her founding activities are meant to make again heard this basic law of Christianity especially in our times. Man's greatness, his talents, his abilities and performances should be an invitation to thank God for all we are and all we have, for the origin of all is his love for us. The human frailties and the experience of failing should be understood as a perpetual invitation through which he wants us to give room to his love for us and trust it so that he may answer with his love and mercy.

As a devout Jew, Jesus knew the 613 commandments, we can find in the 5 books of Moses, and which were to help organise Jewish life and the Jewish society. In the Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 22, 35-40) we read: One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

And what have the "Jesuanians", the Christians made of it in their churches over the centuries? Christian laws, Church laws, even a "Codex iuris Canonici" which is valid all over the world. Moral instructions en masse, exceeding the number of 613 regulations by far! And throughout her life, Mother Marie Therese endlessly repeated the main Jesuit commandment of love of God and neighbour, which is more important than all other commandments and which fulfils them.

When love becomes effective and tangible - as a "childlike dependence" on God or by „loving one another in Communio“ - it is the most attractive form of the new evangelisation, even if it comes without words. "So, let us love one another in order that God on earth may become a common act of faith. That is our responsibility."

Padre Rudolf Ammann, Spiritual Director of the Communio in Christo



P. Rudolf Ammann is the Spiritual Director of the Communio in Christo. He belongs to the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Fathers and worked for many years as a chaplain to students and men. He was the editor-in-chief of the magazine "Basis" and the managing director of the publishing house Patris in Vallendar/Germany.

This July, he will celebrate his diamond jubilee as a priest in the Motherhouse of the Communio in Christo in Mechernich/Germany.



Imprint

Publisher: Ordo Communio in Christo
Address: Bruchgasse 14, 53894 Mechernich, Germany
Website: www.communio.nrw
E-Mail: info@communio.nrw
Phone: +49-2443 9814823
Fax: +49-2443 9814824

Responsible in the sense of the German press law: P. Rudolf Ammann ISch, Mechernich/
Germany

Editorial: Henri Grüger and Manfred Lang, Agentur ProfiPress, Mechernich/Germany

Layout: Henri Grüger, Agentur ProfiPress, Mechernich/Germany

Coworkers: Sr. Lidwina, Mechernich/Germany

Tilj Puthenveettil, Mechernich/Germany

Hilde Bouschery, Mechernich/Germany

Ewa Bochynek, Mechernich/Germany