

## Being called upon to spread Love

21.11.1992

December 8, 1992... Between the day of foundation and this commemoration day there have been eight years of banishment, isolation, struggle and suffering. As the basic theme for today's celebration I have chosen a testimony. The world shall not remain unaware of the way in which I want to bear witness to Him who has sent me and whose infinite love manifests itself in patience. For its own sake love does not use force; it excludes any sort of force or confrontation. It demonizes nothing. It claims that the world is no hell and suffering no punishment but the most precious gift of a love in which any punishment or sense of guilt is dissolved in justice.

God gave the world courage and hope when manifesting His will in an impotent human being. His love is critical, the more so as He forbids his creature to think highly of himself or to imagine his power to be the result of his own deserts or privileges. There must be no self-praise. The fatal judgement spoken by God himself over mankind set his love in motion, the more so as man – being in the grip of evil – had no way out.

Love revealed itself in Jesus Christ and made total impotence turn into new life. Our time has become doubtful and impenetrable. Jesus Christ makes everything transparent and resolves the problem of the abuse of power. Unmistakably, his spirit, alive in word and deed, is nothing but love. It cannot be ignored that in the world and in the individual's life love has become an empty word. It is surrounded by the power of the law; it is held captive. God keeps opening possibilities for its liberation and offers his help time and again. Anywhere you look you can detect aberration from the truth.

A Council cannot be realized if man is not guided back to his own reality. If he keeps exploring his self, constantly being confronted with his own insignificance, he might easily come to the point of rejecting God unless arriving at an explanation that may be given him. The belief in a kind and loving God could be endangered unless it is deeply founded in love.

What that means is: to recognize the Redeemer who took everything upon Himself for the sake of salvation. Free from guilt before God will only be a person who admits his weakness and impotence, at the same time testifying to them and attributing them to the justice of Christ. God can testify to the inconceivable measure only as far as our sincere admission of our guilt and shortcomings permits.

In the past eight years I saw no possibility to describe the Redeemer the way he revealed himself to me after December 8, 1984. Our time would be delivered from its disastrous lack of orientation, its unrest and confusion if it met a God different from a punishing God. The fear of the latter has grown so much that it seems better to disassociate oneself from him. And what was the consequence? Growing violence and brutality, religious hatred and hostility against God. It is only through re-orientation to love and mutual understanding

that this world can still be saved. The initiative for this change must come from the Church. Like all human beings her representatives depend on the spirit of truth and represent the Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Second Vatican Council, guided by the Spirit, has a single goal: to release love from the power of the law in order to let it act in its sovereign right as the fulfilment of the law.

God requested my sacrifice on December 8, 1984. And although my agreement was only an act of obedience, it became apparent in a foundation that “the Spirit of God blows where he wills” and that no power has proved strong enough to oppose this Spirit.

My fidelity leads to an incredible turn of events. The God of this story is the one that confirms the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, proving the power of His love to be the actual and only power. Such an intervention of God is a mystery, incomprehensible, not disposable. It isolates the person concerned from his contemporaries who regard him with fear and aggression. Such a charism seems uncanny to many because it is an indication of our being imperfect and unfulfilled. However, if the certainty of our being securely sheltered in God is growing and we realize that we have been permitted to meet the Saviour in person, if we furthermore delve into our souls and the “mea culpa” is turned into a “felix culpa”, making us joyously exclaim: I thank You, o Lord – the world would become Heaven and love would dispel all tension and emptiness.

God has promised the salvation of all, the new Heaven and the new earth. He is the God of this century and to give proof of it he once again descended in the foundation of the Communio in Christo.

May this commemoration day contribute its part to making many follow His invitation, so that love can reveal itself to those who are the victims of the abuse of power and of injustice, holding God responsible for everything.

We must not judge this world before we as Christians have judged ourselves. Our unloving attitude has induced many people to leave the Church. Our criticism, our rebellion and our abuse of power are the reason for her disintegration.

And yet, she cannot be overpowered because there are people who bear witness to Jesus Christ as the Redeemer. They are in the service of truth, and no matter what may happen, the Church will triumph even though the sufferings have become obvious.

Praised be this Church, praised the Redeemer who proves to be the Saviour time and again.

*Father*

*Imbued with the longing  
to give You something for a gift  
in reverential awe I am bowing before Your majesty  
in order to celebrate this commemoration day in loving devotion  
in accordance with Your will.  
I thank You, o Father, for the loving kindness You bestowed upon me  
and praise Your omnipotence  
which revealed itself to me.  
Glorified be Your all-embracing kindness  
in which everything is fulfilled and inspired,  
that means love, salvation, confidence and consolation.  
You have asked me  
to yield to Your longing  
and to submit to Your plan  
so that all that has reached a deadlock, all disintegration and division  
may feel Your presence and resolve  
to accept Your loving kindness in the certainty  
that – amidst this world – You grant help and solace.  
In the course of these last eight years You granted me the grace  
to discern Your will  
and to fathom it, firmly adhering to my word of consent.  
On this commemoration day, too,  
I profess to the unity of wills,  
which You requested,  
and express my thanks  
for trusting me, a weak creature,  
that can accomplish nothing,  
being fully aware of my impotence.  
I offer You my nothingness  
relying on being given Your strength,  
so that the promise I have given  
may be fulfilled in Your love,  
find expression in my life and spread.  
I promise You, o Father,  
not to abuse the grace received  
but – in accordance with the knowledge I received –  
to use it in order to bear witness  
to Your being a loving God  
who allied himself so closely with man  
that it deserves thanks and love.  
I promise You  
never to forget  
what You have done for me  
and to offer You all my freedom in return.  
which You have given me  
so that Your holy will may be fulfilled in me  
and I may be the passive agent of Your love,  
for which You have asked and called me.*

*Commissioned to help and to serve the Church,  
I am aware of the responsibility given me.  
I promise You my loyalty and devotion  
so that in my weakness  
the spirit of truth may become the centre of attention  
and Your might may become discernible for the obedient.  
Every moment of my life  
Your presence seizes my will and my heart.  
I am standing before You in awe of Your immeasurable kindness,  
which I am calling on  
wishing to pass it on as thanksgiving and testimony  
for the life and salvation of the world.  
The holy, unassailable Church  
I recognize in the many witnesses  
who represent Your spirit and truth.  
My heart, filled with the longing  
to bear witness to her as the true Church,  
is tortured by the pain  
of seeing her as a ruin.  
It grieves me to see her  
increasingly straying from the truth,  
with forces acting within her  
trying to capture Your beloved Son's mission  
in the confinement of the law.  
Called upon to spread the one commandment, love,  
I beg You  
to give my calling the grace of Your mercy,  
so that Your holiness may be my inspiration  
in order to serve You and bear witness to the Church  
in which Your spirit lives and reigns  
which I dearly love  
and whose truth I defend.  
Father,  
this commemoration day is the fulfilment of my word of consent  
giving to You eight years ago.  
Since that memorable day  
You have been my will, my strength and my hope.  
Since that day I have been Your servant  
imbued with Your longing,  
filled with Your strength,  
so that today I can praise, glorify and thank You,  
and be a witness to the Church.*

(Mother Marie Therese, I implore you o holy Church – In the name of the Spirit,  
Patris Verlag GmbH, 2015, p. 82 ff)

## **Renewal of the vows for priests and sisters**

For the glory of God, I make this promise:

I am determined to follow Christ lifelong as a member of the *Ordo Communio in Christo*.

Therefore, before the brothers and sisters present, I solemnly promise into your hands, Father Superior General, to lead a life of celibate chastity, humility and obedience, as well as utmost charity and in accordance with the Rule of the Order written by the Foundress Mother Marie Therese, the Statute of the *Ordo Communio in Christo* as well as the decrees and constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.

With all my heart I put myself at the disposal of *the Ordo Communio in Christo* in order to attain – through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the perfect love in the service of God and the Church.

## **Renewal of the vows for laity**

For the glory of God, I make this promise:

I am determined to follow Christ lifelong as a member of the *Ordo Communio in Christo*.

Therefore, before the brothers and sisters present, I solemnly promise into your hands, Father Superior General, to lead a life of utmost charity and in accordance with the Rule of the Order written by the Foundress Mother Marie Therese, the Statute of the *Ordo Communio in Christo* as well as the decrees and constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.

With all my heart I put myself at the disposal of *the Ordo Communio in Christo* in order to attain – through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the perfect love in the service of God and the Church.