

COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 9, 1 April 2021

Theme:

**The Bearer of Light,
even in times of the pandemic**

SEAT IN LIFE

The following reflection was written by Mother Marie Therese on 9 February 1994 two months before she died. At this time she was not able to lie down in bed for already 19 months because of her wound and pains. Day and night she had to hold out sitting in a recliner, as otherwise she could not breathe at all. The bleeding wound hidden for outsiders caused enormous pain to her. Day by day anew she said yes to the fellowship of the crucified Jesus. At the same time Mother Marie Therese experienced a bad period of darkness in her faith. All of a sudden she doubted whether she was a foundress at all. We read her deep sigh: "I am not a foundress. I have failed." Thus she existentially follows Jesus in his life that from a human point of view failed on the cross when the dying Jesus cries out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

At the same time Mother Marie Therese testifies to what was going to happen to the Crucified: The "seemingly failed" is being resurrected to be the risen one... In a vision he stands before her with his cross calling himself "Redeemer of the World". Jesus calls himself her savior and the "savior of mankind". The redemption of all human beings happened in the resurrection and is being testified again and again in the Holy Spirit.

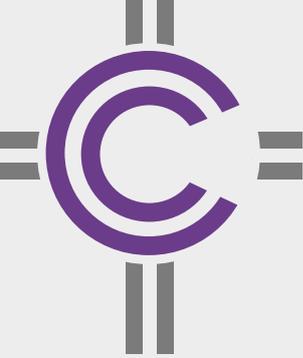
It was that Spirit of God that guided Mother Marie Therese and by which she was driven to found the "Communio in Christo" as an "order". In the foundation the words of the dying Jesus und his redemptive mission are repeated:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And, "Today you will be with me in paradise."



So Mother Marie Therese summarizes the renewal impulse of the Second Vatican Council in the mission that gives salvation to all men and that consists in loving God and men to the extreme thus preparing the world for the redeemer to return, to put it in old words "to arm" it. Through his death and resurrection Jesus has opened the door to paradise for all men.

Karl-Heinz Haus, Superior General



REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

THE CHARISMATIC AS THE BEARER OF LIGHT (9 FEBRUARY 1994)

An inner energy carries my soul to God. The contact with the world is so painful that I am forced to totally commit myself to the care of my Redeemer. In the 19 months in which I have been confined to my reclining chair day and night, without any hope of recovery, the distance to a sinful, immoral world has steadily grown. I am thinking of a promise I made before God on December 8, 1984, a promise that – at that time – did not yet bring about the full enlightenment.

We all used to rely on science, which was so successful. We had so much confidence in its power that the existence of God seemed superfluous. It promised a future and the hope of a liberation from captivity.

And suddenly there appears a charism that confronts the scientists with the question: You promise such wonderful things but how do you think you can realize all that? You will admit that you, too, sometimes wonder: Who actually has the power over our world? You try to assert your power by force, which produces hatred and will end in a catastrophe.

God, who guides and encourages his creation, established a charism in its midst, full of love, full of mercy. No scientist, a simple human being, impotent and incapable, was asked to become an instrument of divine grace. This human being is to carry the image of Christ as the only existing power before herself. Through my voluntarily given word of consent my conscience was aroused. With all my heart I was forced to love Him who had revealed himself as the Saviour of mankind. The word of consent I gave God is the expression of his love and of his plan, a mirror reflecting the image of God back to Him.

Since December 8, 1984 the Holy Spirit has been demanding that I tell the chaotic world of the Redeemer and let Christ appear as attractive as in fact I found him to be.



Speaking in my soul he chooses severe words of admonition when he finds that we turn his earth into artificial “paradises”, in which immorality counts for more than morality. He causes my heart to be in a state of constant disturbance in which I experience a radical destruction. He is the unspeakable thirst for a revelation, in which I must admit my being far from a true love. I experience the permanent pain of knowing I have failed and see the seemingly frustrated Christ, who is standing before me with his Cross, consoling me:

“I am the Saviour of the world who gives you the assurance that your efforts to pass on this message to the Church and the world will be crowned with success. And as at this point nobody will still be able to save the world, I make the words of the Council come true in the impotence of a human being, so that the Church and the world will be forced to realize my words.”

A great charism is growing and blossoming in my soul, full of hope and full of the spirit of Christ. He called it the “Order Communio in Christo” and revealed its goal and future. He elevated his foundation and called his Church Communio in Christo. Very powerful and insistent is Christ’s appeal to humankind to be mindful of the final judgement. He instructs me to counteract the evil of immorality and to stress the importance of chastity in accordance with his will. He demands that I as well as my followers live the communion with the Redeemer as the highest of our goals, which is to find its expression in a special manner in the service to the poor and needy as a testimony to the Communio. He calls this charism “Bearer of Light”, whose glorious word contains the obligation to realize the ultimate love. The world is waiting for the return of Christ because it longs to be redeemed.

I have been called and commissioned to bear witness to the Redeemer. I have been sent to communicate my experiences by exemplarily living their substance. I have been commissioned to gather those who have withdrawn from God in communion with Christ, so that the message and the teachings and the life of Jesus Christ may once again form a whole and the worries and burdens of the day may dissolve in the hope of being freed and redeemed.

Since December 8, 1984 I have been familiar with hunger and poverty. I know what it means to be ill. I know the daily worries. I have experienced weakness because I am



a weak human being who depends on her Saviour's help, a human being who has never been disappointed by God.

My appeal to you is very simple: Trust in God and seek the communion with Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit

*The will that moves my soul,
the only power behind my thinking and workings,
delving in my heart as passionate love.
Nothing belongs to me, everything belongs to You,
o ardent longing of my word of consent.*

*O Holy Spirit, I beg You,
who raised me above the world,
who ordered me to talk about him, our Saviour.*

*I bow to Your infinite kindness
by which I am deeply moved.*

*Divine grace touched my soul
telling me of God Almighty.*

You have chosen me, the ever so insignificant one.

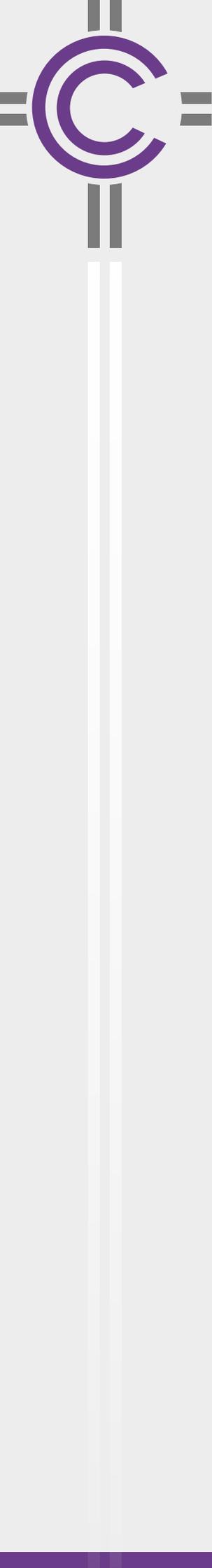
*I got to know of a transient world,
in which ungodliness and atheism
reveal misleading signs
and evil deceives us with illusory phantoms.*

*I beg You, o Holy Spirit,
to take the world off its fatal course
and to call its attention to the beyond, to Your kingdom
where love, justice and righteousness reveal the presence of God.*

*You instilled my soul with love,
wishing to see it grow.*

*I am aware of my dependence on Your mercy.
Experiencing a lot of suffering You make me humble,
aware of my own impotence.*

*Evil and hatred interfere with God's plan of salvation.
Man ignores the message of love,*



*being engrossed in luxury and egoism.
O Holy Spirit, You are the fire of my soul.
I thank You for letting me know of You.
In awe I am bowing to You
who triumphs over me
and so completely takes up my heart
that it spends itself in honour of Your love
for the glory of God now and for ever. Amen.*

(Taken from: **Mother Marie Therese**
'I implore you o holy Church – In the name of the Spirit',
Patris Verlag GmbH, Vallendar, 2015, pp 451ff.)



COMMENTARY

by Father James Mpili

“My appeal to you is very simple: Trust in God and seek the communion with Jesus Christ, our Savior.” These are the words of Mother Marie Therese in her reflection two months before her death on April 11, 1994. She was sick and unable to lie on her bed. She was, so to say, in a hopeless situation. What a painful experience! Usually, under such a situation, one would quickly end up complaining and uttering words of despair. But like Job, Mother Marie Therese remained calm and managed, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to witness Christ to the world.

Her authentic and spirit-filled teaching is necessary in that it brings light to the current world that is under the darkness of the Corona Pandemic. The great fear of contracting the virus, the pain of losing a close relative or a friend, and above all, the fear that a dead friend or relative whom you have been taking care of might have infected you with the virus, can cause darkness that cannot be comprehended. Moreover, science, on which we all rely, just as it was during the time of Mother Marie Therese, seems not to be capable of answering all the questions about this pandemic. Darkness and insecurity increase daily as the number of people affected by the pandemic keeps rising.

A close observation of the current situation characterized by the pain of sickness, the feeling of failure, and the uncertainty of the future is not far different from the experiences of Mother Marie Therese. Desperation and hopelessness are all over! We can no longer freely travel or walk in our towns or our streets (unless with face-nose masks). Mother Marie Therese’s experience of being confined to a sick bed, locked up on her reclining chair, and the unspeakable pain of a big wound with no hope of being cured, shades light to us on what we should do now. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement she found in her own suffering, she appeals to us that we should trust in God and seek communion with Jesus, our Saviour. She was compelled by God to love with all her heart and soul the One who had specially revealed Himself to her as the Saviour of all humanity.

The words of Mother Marie Therese underline the words of the great theologian Pope Saint Leo the Great, who said, “If we are steadfast in our acknowledgement and our love of him, in him we will win the victory he won, and we will receive the reward that he has promised... To help us do what he asks and endure our trials in patience, we must have always ringing in our ears these words of the Father, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased,



Father James Mpili from Tanzania is a *Communio in Christo* priest since 2016. He studied master's degree in Church History from the Gregorian university (Rome) from 2013 to 2016. Currently he is both a Vice Rector and a Lecturer of Church History at Peramiho Major Seminary in Tanzania.

listen to him” (cf. Sermon 51,3-4.8 as quoted in the Liturgy of the Hours on the second Sunday of Lent). This was always done by Mother Marie Therese, a charismatic lady who, with the help of the Holy Spirit and with her own life experience, listened to the voice of the Lord and shared it with the world.

Mother Marie Therese, like other mystics, after listening to the voice of the Lord, was filled with an extraordinary power – a charism in her soul. This is confirmed in her own writing on page 304, “A great charism blossoms in my soul, full of hope, full of the Spirit of Christ. He calls it the Order *Communio in Christo* and reveals the goal and the future... He demands me and my

followers to live communion with the Saviour as the highest goal... and in a special way to the poor and the needy. He calls this charism Bearer of Light, whose glorious word implies the obligation to make the most extreme love a reality.”

I have no doubt: Mother Marie Therese would have been very much concerned with the people troubled by the Corona Pandemic. She would have risked her precious life to save the sick people's lives just as she had already done with the HIV/AIDS patients, a great threat too that had terribly troubled humanity in the late 80's and the beginnings of the 90's. She always saw such challenges as a chance to serve God by helping the helpless! Yes, with the help of the charism of Mother Marie Therese, we can all be bearers or bringers of light to our current troubled world.

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Publisher: Ordo Communio in Christo

Address: Bruchgasse 14, 53894 Mechernich, Germany

Website: www.communio.nrw

E-Mail: info@communio.nrw

Tel.: +49-2443 9814823

Fax: +49-2443 9814824

Editorial Responsibility: Superior General Karl-Heinz Haus, Mechernich/Germany

Coworkers:

Father James Mpili, Peramiho/Tanzania

Deacon Manfred Lang, Mechernich/Germany

Thomas Schmitz, Agentur ProfiPress, Mechernich/Germany

Tilj Puthenveettil, Mechernich/Germany

Hilde Bouschery, Mechernich/Germany

Ewa Bochynek, Mechernich/Germany

P. Rudolf Ammann ISch, Mechernich/Germany