



# COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -  
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 11, 15 August 2021

*Theme:*

The cross - no class related piety

SEAT IN LIFE

Generally Mother Marie Therese' reflections are based on an experience. Those who know about the experience understand more deeply the meaning of her texts.

The following situation describes what today's reflection is about: Under the intellectual guidance of a highly educated and respected person, several fellow Christians repeatedly expressed harsh criticism of Mother Marie Therese and especially of her reflections, which she had published in her books.

In various reflections she reacted in all publicity to such a wave of criticism. The following reflection is another example. She raised the then made experience to a biblical New Testament level and compared it with the struggles of the Apostle Paul in Corinth. She classified the attacks on her theologically.



Thereby it is noticeable that she benevolently understood the person opposing her with criticism as her „friend“ and as a place where God was acting.

She looks for faithful who notice her deep attachment to God and who let themselves be inspired by her.

**Karl-Heinz Haus, Superior General**



## REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

Dear friends!

A few more weeks to go and we will be right in the Holy Week. Everyone should hear the call of the cross these days. I want to address all who believe that the cross is an individual matter or the piety of a certain class.

You already know that all of my reflections are based on an experience. They explain the event in words that are an expression of the loneliness of man and then bear the chance to offer help. With each experience I try to understand how such insults and doubts might be taken. It is difficult to defend yourself. The person who judges or questions another person assumes that his own sinful behavior is not of harm to that other person.

It does not go together with faith, when people think of their fellow brother only when they are about to die. If man wants to be open for his fellow brothers and sisters, he must first submit to them.

Knowing that God gives and reveals himself endlessly, particularly through our fellow men, makes man holy and rich. But how can an arrogant person turn to others if he or she is not subject to God's discipline? Freedom and independence is what today's world wishes for and presently people talk about it everywhere. Just as the person in need begs for help feeling his existence being threatened, the cry for freedom and independence bears the risk that it happens without voluntarily turning to God. The inner freedom is being refused as it implies responsibility and consequences and is therefore considered as a burden, however not without remorse. If someone considers himself righteous, he probably cannot help but condemn the one sent by God as a crank and a liar. The story of the Cross has lost its meaning for some, whereas for others it has strengthened their call for mercy. Whoever wants to know the highest value of their personal freedom, will turn towards the cross and the presence of Christ.

For some Saints there is a shortcut which is in surrendering to the will of God. Not many chose that way, as there is a condition linked with the will of God: That is humility. And as we - priests included - are but average believers, at one time strong and the next time totally weak, we do not live to the will of God. We instantly rebel against God's interference, when we feel personally addressed and when his omnipotence found a place in the most hidden corner of our existence. If we then still try to resist, it is natural that we face distress and dissatisfaction. When stubborn people make jealousy and arrogance a habit in their lives that they do not want to give up, God often asks for something that puts the human mind to a hard test.



Christ wants us all to lightheartedly and courageously submit to the will of God. Even if the encounter with the visible Christ in man poses a risk, it is always better to take the risk.

And therefore I wish to speak to those who raise questions when it comes to me as a person, to those who resist each word of my writings thus challenging the love of God and the love of neighbor.

My friend, do you desire great things for yourself?

Does it bother you to find God in me? If nothing great happens with you it is just because you are afraid of losing your freedom. Do you believe only when God is coming your way without making the first step into uncertainty because that might be the will of God?

Dear friend, by judging me you judge God in me. What made you stumble is your irreverence of God in a human being.

I see God in you. I recognize the connectedness of your person with God, and therefore I do not judge you. It is your judgment on me that I condemn.

For I become aware that I totally depend on God's mercy, despite being totally certain that God is in me. As this is what I believe, I am compelled to show reverence for God in you.

The Cross of Christ is Good News as long as I see in it the door to eternal life. His resurrection is Good News, as it tells me that God has the power to give life to me poor sinner.

The meaning of the Cross is the everlasting glory for you and for me. Let us therefore rejoice over our future: the eternal life.



Christ Risen is the one to allow us here to understand what his teaching is about. If you and I open up for his words, it will become so clear to you that still this day you would be surprised over your failing to understand and your judgment on me. Christ does also not hide his wisdom from you. You cannot bear it yet, because you must have a humble condition. May happen in you what his Cross stands for. That is my wish for you and for all who are close to you.

(Taken from: **Mother Marie Therese**, Das Wort Gottes als Offenbarung – Meine Erfahrungen (The Word of God as revelation - My experiences), Aschaffenburg 1980, pp 64 f)



## COMMENTARY

### From Padre Rudolf Ammann

From the numerous topics addressed in this reflection three will be commented on:

Mother Marie Therese talks about man's longing for freedom. Thus she writes: „Whoever wants to know the highest value of their personal freedom, will turn towards the Cross and the presence of Christ.“ Here she assumes her deep emotion and attachment to God. To someone who is „in God“ like she is, freedom means to be totally open and available for the will of God, even if God expects us human beings to give our consent to what is unintelligible and painful. In following Jesus this could mean to say with his words: „Not my will but yours be done“ (Lk 22,42). It is the expression of the deepest understanding of humility: To serve God and his wish and will.

The second striking statement of Mother Marie Therese in this reflection is deeply connected with the before mentioned: „God often asks for something putting the human mind to a hard test, if a stubborn person has made jealousy and arrogance habits in their life.“ On the one hand God has given us human beings a spirit, intelligence and a free and independent will; God wants us as his self-confident partners of his Covenant, who as his daughters and sons are aware of their dignity given by him and who are wasteful with their talents (ref. Mt 24,14 ff). We all are called to join Mary, the Mother of Jesus in singing the Magnificat:

„From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name“ (Lk 1,48 f).

On the other hand our talents, our knowledge and abilities, the success in our job may become a stumbling block and a danger if we are tempted to attribute those merits to ourselves instead of God.

If we think that we have achieved greatness and great things by our own efforts, we fall into self-deception and self-overestimation. Then we become stubborn, arrogant and act jealous with regard to others. We then overlook the fact that everything is gift and grace: „Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given“ (John 1,16).

Thirdly, Mother Marie Therese then becomes very concrete: „Dear friend, by judging me you judge God in me. What made you stumble is your irreverence of God in a human being. ... I can see God in you, I recognize the connectedness of your person with God, and therefore I do not judge you. It is your judgment on me that I condemn.“

Mother Marie Therese addresses one person in particular but also all others who criticize her statements, warmly and honestly as „friends“. But she confidentially sticks to her

experience and conviction that God is speaking in her soul and that he acts in and through her. She doesn't allow for others to destroy this conviction. However, God does not act in her soul alone, but also in the soul of her critics. Therefore she recognizes God and his works in them.



*Father Rudolf Ammann ISch is a padre of the Apostolic Movement of Schoenstatt and an advisor of the Superior General. He is also a member of the Chapter and belongs to the executive committee of the Ordo Communionis in Christo. Photo: Manfred Lang/pp/ProfiPress agency*

She sharply distinguishes between the critic, whom she respects and loves and the person's criticism that she opposes. In a similar way Saint Augustine advocated that we should love the sinner and hate the sin. Even in the confrontations with her harshest opponents, for Mother Marie Therese it is not just about the love of God and being at his disposal, but also about the love of all people that outshines everything.

## **Imprint**

Publisher: Ordo Communio in Christo

Address: Bruchgasse 14, 53894 Mechernich, Germany

Website: [www.communio.nrw](http://www.communio.nrw)

E-Mail: [info@communio.nrw](mailto:info@communio.nrw)

Phone: +49-2443 9814823

Fax: +49-2443 9814824

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

Coworkers:

P. Rudolf Ammann ISch, Mechernich/Germany

Sarah Winter, Agentur ProfiPress, Mechernich/Germany

Tilj Puthenveettil, Mechernich/Germany

Hilde Bouschery, Mechernich/Germany

Ewa Bochynek, Mechernich/Germany

Deacon Manfred Lang, Mechernich/Germany