



# COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -  
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 12, 15 October 2021

*Theme:*

I am the way, the truth and the life

## SEAT IN LIFE

At the time the following reflection came into being Mother Marie Therese was plagued by a severe illness and heavy pain. At the same time and already for quite some while she was busy establishing a hospice „in order to open up to seriously ill persons an alternative to Euthanasia“.

However, she feared the risk that similar houses one day could become places where Euthanasia was offered to people.



Therefore she attached great importance to shape her hospice by the Christian image of God and of man showing clearly that God alone and not man is the Lord of life and death of a human being.

Due to her the third hospice on German ground came into being. Earlier, the first one had been opened up in Halle upon Saale and a second one in Aachen.

**Karl-Heinz Haus, Superior General**



## REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

„When I can't bear the pain and when there is no hope for healing anymore, when I become a cripple not being able to do anything anymore, I ask you to end my life by giving me the appropriate medicine.“ This is the statement of a seriously ill person.

If I understand the before cited sentence correctly, there is no doubt about the necessity of a house giving aid in dying by making an effort to open up alternative ways to Euthanasia.

Already for a very long time I am concerned with the question of how such a situation can possibly arise. Knowing about God's holistic grace, also this somewhat difficult question allows for an encounter with God and I invite you to follow me. You must be able to understand that the grace of recognition which I feel being granted to also strongly implies the grace of recognizing our sins. Many people only take from God's grace what eases their sorrow. Love is understood as not being all-encompassing, as if it meant to consent to unbelief, or as if it ignored the cross.

The nature of love is totally different when we look at this mystery in the confession of our own guilt. To me personally it is the humility of the Son of God who renounces prerogatives and his divinity in every encounter with me, and who wears oneself out in a way that he becomes one with me. Union with God results in looking deeply into this love and also fathoming the refusal of love till its resistance as the worst consequence.

It is striking how thoughtlessly we handle life, God's possession. The way we take to reach our goal is different for everyone, however it is predesigned. My way is a way of serving others. God made me his tool. I felt his request being grace which made me consent and focus on my vocation. First I had to get to know the cross and experience its bitter taste. I had to get to know about God's mercy, to be able to turn my will into love.

My way is a way of desperate darkness through which the light of mercy flows. My path knows but blockages that sometimes make me ask: Is there still a sense to the effort?

The eternal life is the goal, forever being without suffering and obstacles. Then salvation waits for us. Salvation is total redemption. Salvation is the union with the one, who in his unimaginable love and so full of humility proved to be the only one who I can love in this world. On my way I experience suffering from bad health as well as the struggle with the question of "why". However, life is waiting for me where no impurity can be tolerated.

Already here (on earth) I have to fight against all impurity, and God rushes to help me by allowing the sufferings that enable me to turn my eyes to the cross. Only when I can no longer accept the cross and do not take to heart the redeeming word for my guilt before God: „Father, forgive her, for she did not know what she was doing.“

I must not wish for the end or ask others to release me from my sufferings. This individual way that arises but from God's love and kindness is God's providence. For, the aim of everything is salvation and the energy for every station of my way comes from the grace to reach the destination. It is of crucial importance that an answer is found to this very question, that particularly concerns the present time, and that this answer has an important positive impact. Attentively I follow how ideas develop that are being realized in each reflection.

What are the decisive points and how can we counteract the evil of despair? What is important for us is to realize that life is not ours and that we cannot create it. It belongs to God and it is up to him alone to end it.

I came to recognize this parallel in my reflection and everyone may understand a bit why there is no excuse for any form of Euthanasia or suicide. If you own a house you will get furious if someone sets fire to it.

The decision to bear the suffering is made in the encounter with the cross. A contemplative look, the question of „why“?, entering this life that so greatly humbled itself for my sake, confessing to my own guilt and a look into his mercy would be enough to make no one believe anymore, that our sufferings were not a testimony of God's love or that our life was senseless if it was nothing but a way of sufferings.



You cannot imagine how much I wish that this reflection will become your own experience. I fail to find the right words. God himself reveals to my soul the contradictions of our life that almost every moment escape God's grace. Impatiently I want to show the reality. But my poor health condition hinders me to live according to what I know.

What matters is to learn again to have hope and to fathom it. What lacks our time is the confidence that our life is heading towards a goal where there is no suffering and no chagrin and that every minute of this life has an enormous value before God, for it is to his honor - as a testimony for his grace - and for the sake of salvation. How much more valuable would it become, if we made it richer with a personal intention. The good will always be stronger.

What distinguished Christ, was his gentleness, his patience and his devotion. What distinguished him was a human life that used to live in total harmony with God and that fulfilled. And what he put into the light was the revelation of God that already now lets us in all certainty enjoy the prophecies of an eternal life. But is it still ok to take into consideration Euthanasia or suicide when there is love that guides us to be gentle and devout?

God is worthy of being loved. And we can testify to this love by accepting our way and by walking for the glory of God.

In the commandment of love the revelation of the Spirit is fulfilled. I thank God that he chose me for this answer.

The life of truth  
is what I look into.  
Hit with grace, I oversee the world,  
where so much contradiction darkens the truth.  
The revelation of your grace exceeds my understanding.  
Deep emotions lighten up my view,  
that guides me to worship your love.  
The limit of reason is crossed  
where I test your love.  
I rise and enter and recognize this time  
and the power that sin exerts.  
Your presence intensifies  
and allows me to enter your love,  
no, rather to seize your love,  
so mercifully poured on  
the burden of my sins.  
O, how the freedom of my will  
becomes the consequence of being obedient,  
causing me to not take for granted  
all things, the world, love and life.  
How my heart being gifted by such fullness,  
is compelled to no longer keep anything for itself,  
but only to give away  
what in the amalgamation of love  
shone to solve the contradiction.  
How my soul is being filled with gratitude  
for recognizing redemption in it,  
being freed from ones own ego.  
And how humbleness grows  
from the encounter with love



Making all creation brothers and sisters,  
humbleness that respects life,  
revealing the love of the creator.  
And how it brings reconciliation,  
how it calls for universal humanity,  
peace and happiness.

And how mercy  
turns into obedience and devotion,  
saying yes to life, suffering and death  
and to every difficult step,  
to communion with Christ,  
even yes to a tender touch with freedom.

O, God's grace,  
to him the Fiat shall be given  
so that mercy will be answered,  
and grace be given,  
so that only his will be done  
and be it in the battle of our life.

He is the truth,  
that in times of contradiction  
reveals as a distinctive power.

He is the way,  
the redeemer, who frees us,  
he is the life,  
authorized to decide  
to take it back,  
to honor him,  
for his love  
in all eternity. Amen.

**Mother Marie Therese** „Die Passion der Liebe – Ursache – Konsequenz – Intention“ (The passion of love - the source - the consequences - the intention), Pattloch 1989, pp 68)



## COMMENTARY

### **By Mother Superior General Maria Goretti Kabakaali, DST**

First of all, Jesus defines himself as “the only way” worthy to be followed in order to have access to the Father. Only in him salvation can be found (Acts 4:12). Other paths may mislead us! Secondly, Jesus emphasizes that he is “the only truth”, the only law of God which is the authoritative standard of righteousness. As the incarnate Word of God (John 1:1), Jesus is the source of all truth. Thirdly, Jesus declares that he alone is “the life” and the only source of life. He alone laid down his life for his sheep. He spoke of his authority over life and death as being granted to Him by the Father. In the Gospel of St. John (14:19) Jesus promises that “because he lives, we also will live.”

Yes, from Jesus’s words, Mother Marie Therese, through her foundation of the Religious Order “Communio in Christo” and its institutions, confirmed that indeed Jesus is the only path to heaven, the only true measure of righteousness, and the source of both physical and spiritual life. Mother Marie Therese identified herself with the disciples that had been prepared by Jesus to be able to face the dark days ahead and to carry on the mission of declaring the gospel to the world. Although it was not so obvious for the disciples to immediately believe in Jesus, but once they understood the truth of His words, they became changed people, and the world has never been the same again!

Mother Marie Therese just as the other disciples of Jesus participated in the great apostolic mission of serving others, first of all by following Jesus and then showing us how to follow him. The current challenges posed by Euthanasia, suicide, economic crisis, Covid19 and so on, could only be addressed through love. This is the challenge of all of us, “how do we follow Jesus today”? We could follow him in the same way that both the disciples and Mother Marie Therese did: they heard the words of Jesus and believed them. They obeyed Jesus and confessed their guilt. They believed that Jesus died to take the punishment of their sins and rose from the dead to give them new life.

The source of sin and its consequences to humanity can only be understood through passionate love. There is no short cut! May we all be sources of comfort to the afflicted, hope to the hopeless, healing to the sick, and finally turn our own will into love. Then we shall be assured of salvation, since salvation is nothing more than union with love itself. With gentleness, patience and devotion, we can counteract the evil of despair. Life is not ours, we cannot create it, but we can only better it for the glory of God.



### **About Sr. Maria Goretti:**

I am Sr. Maria Goretti Kabakaali, DST, a second born in a family of ten children. All my parents passed on. I am a Catholic Nun in the Institute of the Daughters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus locally known as Banyatereza Sisters, in Fort Portal Diocese Uganda. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and I have attended many short courses. At my early age I told my father how I wanted to join religious life and since then my parents nurtured my vocation.



At an appropriate time, my father accompanied me to the Mother House of the Institute of the Daughters of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (Banyatereza Sisters) and I stayed with the sisters for two years as an aspirant. In 1972, I went to start my religious formation which lasted 3 years leading to my first profession of religious vows in January 1975.

I served in many offices, to mention but a few, I was a general Secretary for our Institute, I worked as administrator in Virika Pharmaceutical Ltd. I was a principal in Rosa Mystica Institute of Business and Vocational Training, I have served two terms in our Institute as a Superior General. My second term will end next year 2022 in September.

I thank God for calling me to religious life, and my motto is: "The grace of God will guide me where the will of God will take me".

The grace of God has guided me to know the Association of the Communio in Christo in Germany. I am happy to be a member of this association.

## **Imprint**

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