



COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 13, 15 December 2021

Theme:
Christmas

SEAT IN LIFE

For Mother Marie Therese it was important to actively follow the cycle of the liturgical year. At Christmas she describes particularly clearly that God as the Bethlehem child came very close to us humans.

God became one of us in Jesus and thus is no longer the unknown, strange and distant God. The mystery of Trinity has been revealed to us in God Incarnate.



Jesus is the image of the Father in Heaven, turned towards us recognizably and he is also the gift of the Spirit of God working on us always anew.

Jesus will always be present in every human being where he acts out of love. Mother Marie Therese wrote the reflection for Christmas herself and personally read it out at Mass on Christmas Eve.

Karl-Heinz Haus, Superior General



REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

„Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.“
(Lk 2,14)

Dear friends!

25 December 1986

A child is born for us, it will be called Jesus, it is the Son of God. Do not be afraid.

The sentimental feelings around the Christmas atmosphere do not account for the problems of our time. A little child attracts the attention of the people. Mysteriously, and yet having great understanding for us. He reaches out his small hands to us. He looks at us with eyes from a foreign world. His eyes seize our soul as if he wanted to say: 'Don't be afraid. I am the one who has come to ennoble you. I am poor, for my kingdom is not of this world. My bed is a king's throne. I am the judge of this world. I am God but at the same time a human being full of understanding and love. I am concerned about sins. I do not break a bruised reed'. "Don't be afraid." I am God and became man in order to free you.

Here my meditation came to a halt and a vision began. I am now in the cave that God was born in. Take a look at that family:

Mary, the chosen one, the mother whose womb gave birth to the source of the eternal. In her the flame of the absolute blazed, from her arose the love for a dead world. Mary, who in her Magnificat praised God for the great that she gave her "Yes" for. Wherever we enjoy the miracle of the creation and where we cannot get any scientific proof, we are being forced to relate to God.

And then there is Joseph, the silent, unremarkable observer of the divine event, ready to take the responsibility for raising that child. "Do not be afraid, Joseph, to accept Mary as your wife!" Do not be afraid... We hear it again and again on the roads of our life. It echoes through the countries of this earth, where war and unrest, persecution and hunger threaten. Do not be afraid, for your human existence is connected with God's incarnation.

And look at that child, helpless, exposed to the bitter cold, totally dependent on human care. It was his very own decision to leave his happy protected area, his kingdom. What tremendous love must glow in God, what thirst must torment him to be loved in his creatures, that he longed for becoming man and take upon him the terribly normal, the ordinary, the poverty, and the unremarkable.

Here lies God as a human being, incomprehensible and unapproachable. Already in the manger he revealed himself as love. What we believe to recognize in this reflection is not what this love really is. It is the charm of a child that attracts the people to go into the church....however, just on Christmas? What we all long for deep down in our hearts is to share. And yet, the distance to God has grown bigger.

Are we afraid of these words: „Do not be afraid?“ Does this child give us the feeling that he acts radically or that he exerts his power? Or does God remain the one who is totally different, whom we cannot fathom, who is distant, or does this vision allow for recognizing that he is close and approachable? Won't the words: "Do not be afraid" lift the barriers between God and us? Does this Holy Night not point the way, not let the light of recognition light our darkness? Behold this child who in the midst of all the storms of our time makes visible to us the goal of his birth, who offers us his total devotion, who completes the renewal in us, if we set it in motion with our faith, our trust and our love. Today he asks us once more again that we submit to his love with our heart and soul.

In this child, who is one of us, the infinite God is present. In him we are given all beauty that one can imagine, all unimaginable kindness, wisdom and lovingness. God's hunger made him descent. Here his entire nature is being revealed. Who does not recognize the Father in this child? And who will still keep saying: Where is the Holy Spirit? Or who will be able to claim: He is not the Son of God?



In my vision I experience the closest possible relation, the unspeakable life of the Trinity. So simple! Each one is God and yet there are three persons, different and still consubstantial. The Father sends the son who completely attires with the human nature – soul and body – thus becoming man through the working of the Holy Spirit.

Here is the child whose name is Jesus, whose birth we celebrate tonight, the child who tells us: Do not be afraid! He takes away from us the fear of the unapproachable, he encourages us to trust, he takes our guilt so that we, too, may find our salvation. It opens up our eyes when we have gone blind with doubts. He takes away our fear when laws prevent salvation. "Do not be afraid" is meant for all of us. We are a part of him.

Let us now take a look at our own lives... Don't we feel our own ingratitude towards such love? What does our daily life look like? The world, the pleasure, the comfort, the selfishness – it all burdens us. We have no time to always think of the birth of that child. Do we still believe in true love? As concerns this child we seem to be sure, but elsewhere?

That child has descended to us, has neared man, has chosen to be in the lowest of all places. He will shape us and help us, so that we, too, live his life. His presence radiates in man, his nature has revealed in man. That deepest part of our existence, as incomprehensible as it may be, makes visible man's future and wealth.

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people!" Do not be afraid, who are homeless and outcast. Do not be afraid, who are sinners. I have come to bring you salvation. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will." Amen

*Be welcome, little child,
be welcome in my fragility,
be welcome in my poorness,
ennoble my soul
where you found a home.
Your power is my Yes
to your birth.*

*In me you reach out your hands;
you welcome the crowds.*

*Do not be afraid,
in my broken nature I am your power.
I have come to renew
what lies down in labor.
Because of a human being saying "yes"
I am free to emphasize the glory of the Father,
to share his love,
being one with his nature,
intoxicated by the Holy Spirit,
finally born
to offer love to man.*

Your soul united with what is transient

*grants the praise for God.
My anger evaporates in my love.
I have come to help you,
who out of doubts wanted to remove me.*

*I am born as a human being
to be God for your sins.
I descended to the world,
to unite with you.*

*My kingdom is communion in love.
A heavy storm has hit the immaculate bride, the Church.
I have come to be recognized in her.*

*I spread my arms
to embrace you all.*

*I am the love that is constantly in motion,
that does not find peace unless everyone
has turned back home.*

*I am the jewelry that ennobles your stand,
my birth is the revelation of my humbleness,
it is trinity.*

*I praise you, o God of endless wisdom,
I praise you, who in the Holy Night
makes visible his love.*

*I praise you,
who takes away my fear,
who turns my grief into joy,
who makes me say in awe:*

*Glory to you, o God, in the highest,
peace on earth to all of good will.
Glory to you, o God, forever. Amen*

Mother Marie Therese, „Ein Charisma in der Kirche – Die Hoffnung für schwere Zeiten“
(A charism in the Church – Hope for difficult times), Pattloch 1988, pp 308 ff



COMMENTARY

Commentary on the reflection of Mother Marie Therese on Christmas from Fr. Markus Mjokonti, Tanzania

Mother Marie Therese expressed her deep joy at Christmas. She shared her visionary experience about the Incarnation and nativity of the Messiah to all faithful. Her great message was - Do not be afraid, came from the Song of the Angels, Lk 2, 14.

The Angels glorified God who has brought love and heavenly peace to the Shepherds in the fields and all people in the world.

In the society of the Jews, the Shepherds had no permanent homes. They were always preoccupied with the security, green pasture and enough water for their sheep. They wondered, feared (were afraid) and felt themselves inferior and unconcerned to it. However, the Angels repeatedly encouraged them to visit Emmanuel and the Eternal and good Shepherd. At Bethlehem, the Shepherds met a new and humble family that welcomed everybody. This Holy family consisted of Jesus, the prophesied Savior of all, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of all and Joseph, the just and righteous Father. Indeed, they met the first Church whose existence depended only on the power of the Holy Spirit.

The visit of the Shepherds accelerated another visit of the three Magis (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar). The Magis represented all Kings who were not Jews.

The newly born male Child was the center of attraction to the entire world. He led the Magis with his bright Star to his humble home. He protected the Magis from the evil plans of King Herod. Ultimately, they went to Bethlehem where they found the King of the new Israel laid in a manger.

The Magis celebrated the first feast of Epiphany. They then offered their gifts [gold, incense, and myrrh]. In fact, their gifts summarized the dignity and mission of Jesus Christ.

The nativity of Jesus attracted many events of witness. King Herod killed the innocent children whose blood witnesses that Jesus is not the King of this world. These children are the witnesses of Christmas of whom the Church which is the bride of Christ celebrates this event on 28th December annually. Furthermore, the nativity of Jesus has united different parts of the world. Joseph fled to Egypt with the Child Jesus and the Blessed Mary to escape the massacre of King Herod.

The Christmas event is still alive in our time. Mentioning few examples, St. Francis of Assisi built and honored the Christmas Crib to remember and honor the Child in Bethlehem.

This spirit has spread in the Roman Churches and homes. Likewise, St Nicholas [Santa Claus] established the Christmas Tree to show that the nativity of Christ is the beginning of a new life of forgiveness and not of condemnation.

All in all, Mother Marie Therese visualized mystically all these events and eventually encouraged us her dear Friends - Do not be afraid. She deeply saw that the Holy Trinity is presently at work to redeem the world.



Fr. Markus Mjokonti:

Fr. Markus Mjokonti has been a priest in the Diocese of Mahenge since 1991 and an active supporter of Communio in Christo since 2008. While studying liturgy at San Anselmo in Rome, he took his vows during a visit to the Motherhouse on Jan. 6, 2012, at the hands of Superior General Karl-Heinz Haus.

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