

COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 15, 15 April 2022

Theme:

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING

SEAT IN LIFE

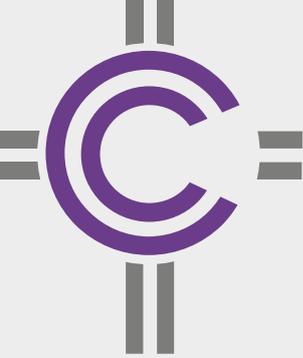
Being close to Mother Marie Therese (for over 20 years) it was astonishing for me again and again to note and experience how intensely and intimately she could live together with God, day by day. It was deeper than I will ever be able to describe. All her existence was united with God and God with her in a love that could come but from God and be nourished by God.

Even more astonishing it was for me to experience how in this intimacy with God she was occupied with the human sorrows, fears, and hardships. In a vision she saw the future of both our society and our Church. And what was shown to her already more than 30 years ago in the 70th and 80th, we experience these days firsthand: Persecution of Christians, the growing strength of Islam, civil wars, a new kind of poverty, relapse into the Middle Ages, the power of Satan, who himself knows how to penetrate even into faith and to abuse it for his own purposes. We can see all this today in someone who blows himself up in the name of God killing many people.



I saw her in those years, when she woke up night after night, drenched in sweat and she would say, "If you knew what is coming, you would be scared. The poor children." It was against this background that Mother Marie Therese wrote a chapter in the Rule of the Order titled "Do not worry about anything".

Taken from records of the Superior General Karl-Heinz Haus (January 15th, 2016)



REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

January 28th, 1985

Egoism: The cause of all evil

Trust in God

Our Christianity begins with the venture of our humility before God. Worries about the hardships of this world, the poverty, and, even more so, fear of what the future may have in store - they do not leave us.

They have induced us to join our community.

The atmosphere we found here has changed our outlook upon life. We have seen the world in the grip of fear. We are concerned about the hunger. We have seen the tired ones that need consolation. We know of the increasing number of suicides, of murderers and addicts. We tried to find the reason why people resort to sleeping pills, alcohol and drugs - the sad result of a life without God. Driven by a longing, encouraged by the hunger for a better world, deeply attached to man, we have arrived at the conviction:

The world is waiting for God.

When we are at our wit's end, when everything seems hopeless, futile and dead, the mercy of God is near. It is at that point that people count on God, even though they might deny him.

People are concerned about things transient. Economic boom, greed for money and luxury have lured them away from the highest aim. The general race for worthless things has no end. Helplessness and perplexity are spreading. The world is in quest of happiness.

It is waiting for God.

Is there no-one to prepare the access to God who is waiting at the doorstep to be admitted, who has such respect for man that he keeps waiting instead of forcing himself on him? Can all that misery and the ungodliness leave us cold?

Shall we give up?

Have we grown so weary that we are unable to take the initiative?

We have opened ourselves to the commandment of love.

We have fulfilled the request of God in Christian universality. To us, religion and life stand side by side. We want Christ and we live Christ in order to create new life thereby.

The world is waiting for God.

There is a covert accusation against us Christians who pursue nothing but our own self and fail in meeting God. With their concepts fanatics among the believers try to bring about a change in unchristian conditions. They proclaim Christ, whom they degrade - however - by their lack of love.



What the world expects of God is the practically lived love. An unfeigned love, full of life, without any theatrics wants to be accepted, a love that is free from egoism. Love for one's own self is the cause of that passion of a lifeless belief.

Let us take a look at ourselves in order to realize how desperately we, too, are in need of the salvation of our selves.

Hypersensitive, we stumble over mere bagatelles, unable to admit or to remedy our faults. We live in two different worlds, choosing from time to time the one that involves no consequences for us. We watch one another with profound distrust.

All that is evidence of our still being in the grip of our selves. We like to show demonstratively our feeling insulted, humiliated, hurt, and outcast. So, naturally, there follows retaliation, accusation and revenge.



The world is waiting for God.

What we want is to make the coming of Christ possible. That means: We must not worry about anything.

God reveals himself in the practically lived Christ, and his life is meant for all of us.

And ours is the responsibility to pass on his life:

Forgive them.... for the enemy.

Self-esteem and concepts of honour will have to be silenced because our aims are not on that worldly level.

We are forced to acknowledge our nothingness in the only possible way: God.

The world needs God.

Going our way together, we want to ask for mercy for our conscience heavy with guilt. Our efforts to lead a holy and unselfish life wants to tear down the facade of our well-being in order to drive out the ghost of the fear of life. Nothing but faith and trust in God makes it possible for us to get rid of any doubts and fears.

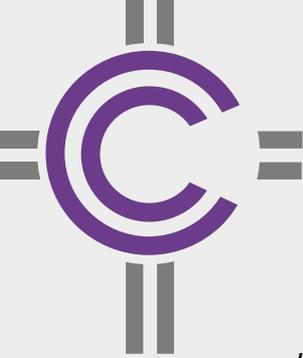
Temptation is not meant to lead us into sin. It is rather a question of the power of the spirit and of who our ruler is. It is about the "You" putting our ego back to the place where it belongs. And God, will he not stretch out his hand to a sincere soul that says: I love you with all my heart.

Our aim is to take the world to God. Then let us live Christ, selflessly and in utter dedication, the whole Christ and not only certain traits of character we might find particularly likable. And that demands of us:

Rejecting our own will,

giving up all power,

unselfish devotion to the sick and the suffering,



*always having a good word for the people we live with,
making ourselves useful to others,
giving an example in prayer
and in love.*

The world is waiting for God.

And God is waiting for us who selflessly want to share his suffering, who have recognized his love, giving it room in our own life. Then should we not at last become ready for the realization that we are nothing and can accomplish nothing unless close to God and within the power of his spirit, which enables us to accomplish anything? Let us try to overcome all conceit, leaving it up to God to guide and direct our life? At that point we will be able to abandon all the resistance against God obstructing our way.

Sanctification is the purpose of life. And it is impossible without our permanently fighting against our selves. The change within us, the testimony of our love, they are the confirmation for this world that seeks and expects God, that looks for safety, security and liberation.

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON
TO BRING GOD TO THE WORLD,
GOD AS LOVE.

(Mother Marie Therese, „The Imitation of Christ as the Rule”, Bernardinum Pelplin 2008, pp. 117 ff.)



COMMENTARY

By Deacon Robert Kayiwa

After having read quite a bit about Mother Marie Therese, I was very much inspired and touched by the great love and zealousness of our founder, Mother Marie Therese especially towards the poor and the needy through her motto: *“Love of neighbor is living in God”* which is actually imbedded in the rule of Communio in Christo: *“Love of neighbor after the word and example of Christ”* and the major aim of all this is to make Christ visible in our neighbors through charity which is all rooted and oriented towards the resolutions of the Second Vatican Council.

When Sister Lidwina recently contacted me and asked whether I could prepare a short reflection especially on what is going on in the world today, I was inspired to share with you on the theme *“Do not worry about anything,”* a reflection already found in the book of the order: *“The Imitation of Christ as the Rule.”*

We may begin with some simple questions: What causes us to fear in this world today? Why do we worry in life? There are so many answers to these seemingly simple questions amongst which could be: One may truly answer that what causes us to worry is fear. Fear as the root cause of our state of worry and we have various reasons as to why we get worried in life.

A country may be in a great worry and have justified fear because of war due to invaders from an aggressive state which wants to impose its rule and domination. Or students get worried of exams at the end of the semester especially when one has not used well the time for study, some religious may get worried of being transferred elsewhere especially after living in a mission land for some good time with warm welcome and great success. A mother and a father may get worried because their children may be attending a group of drug addicts.

It was predominantly the worry of war that led me to choose the theme of our reflection. We know very well that no war is justifiable, and war brings only destruction and hatred which is contrary to the commandment of love that is love of God and love of neighbor (Cf. Matt. 22:37-39). This was also the central theme of our foundress Mother Marie Therese throughout her entire life. This is in fact the only vivid expression of love of God for us today. We are called upon to be promoters of life and create new life amongst our neighbors through dialogue and peaceful talks and not through arms and force.

War is a sign of egoism which is the root cause of all evil. Christian life is contrary to any egoistic tendencies because being a Christian means embracing the life of Christ who loved all people and saved us all through his death on the cross. Therefore, nobody is destined to condemnation as long as one is ready to repent and turn to God; this is because God is merciful and compassionate, and His mercy supersedes our human understanding because

He is even merciful towards everyone doing evil things (Cf. Joe 2:13; Heb 8:12). I can truly say that God is waiting for all of us even the aggressors to turn back to Him and receive His Mercy and Compassion.



Robert Kayiwa, is a deacon from the catholic diocese of Kasana-Luweero in Uganda and a friend of Communio in Christo since 2017. He came to know about Communio Christo through a friend at the Pontifical Urban College in Rome. He then attended one of the meetings of Communio in Christo in Rome in 2018.

Let us abandon and leave behind all our egoistic tendencies which lead us to hatred and revenge against our innocent brothers and sisters and have caused destruction and loss of many lives and sufferings. When we become free from egoism, we do not need to worry because God will be in control of our life, and He alone will be our security.

To sum it all, dear brothers and sisters, let us unite together in prayer because the world needs God. We need God to come into our lives and change the hearts of our people including all our leaders, believers, and non-believers.

As we continue to pray, let us also show charity to those in need especially refugees who are running away from their country for safety by welcoming them in our communities and by providing them with the necessary needs. We need to trust in God like the patriarchs Abram, Isaac and Jacob who trusted in the divine promises of God and were all fulfilled (Cf. Jos 21:45; 23:14).

We need to trust that through our intercessions in form of our prayers for peace to the end of violence and war in the world that God may intervene. As we know very well that God is “Love” we should also trust and believe that He is our God of peace. Finally, let us all remember that we exist for a purpose, and this is embedded in sanctification of our lives to God, who is our safety, security, and liberation.

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