

COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 16, June 15th 2022

Theme:

On the chaos that the world has drifted into ...

SEAT IN LIFE

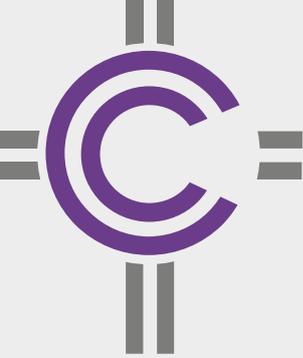
How important and necessary the reflections of Mother Marie Therese yet are! We get an insight of her life, of how she rose to God. We get to know her objectives and wish to make them ours. It is the privilege of a founder or foundress that they may define the objectives for their foundation, for they are guided by God.



The present reflection of Mother Marie Therese includes encounters with the sick in her nursing care facilities. They were people who had to go through the same experiences in their lives as did our foundress during her life. This situation caused a deeper bond between Mother Marie Therese and the sick which more and more turned to be an encounter with God. She starts her reflection with the drama of a family father who was in a bad car accident with his two children. One child died instantly, and the father fell into a coma. From one minute to the next the life of that family changed completely.

Here is where Mother Marie Therese has reached the focus of her topic that she makes the title of her reflection, 'The problem of modern society'. She has arrived at the very situation in which the world of today finds itself: "Do we even begin to sense the chaos into which the world has drifted?"

Taken from records of the Superior General Karl-Heinz Haus + (November 11th, 2015)



REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

April 28th, 1993

The Problem of Modern Society

Just for fun and to make his two children happy a father takes them out for a drive to town. Suddenly in a curve he sees that there is danger ahead. The car goes into a skid, overturns and finally lands in the opposite lane where it is hit by an oncoming lorry. The father is seriously injured and one of the children is killed instantly. The second child escapes with a fright. Screaming and in a panic, he is running about aimlessly, being finally rescued by the police. The driver was not at fault...

Such an incidence renders us speechless. A remark like "Such an accident can happen any time", arouses our conscience. It happened five years ago and the father is still in a coma. Every day anew his wife and his child are expecting the hoped-for wonder. It is very touching to see how they are looking after him, with words of encouragement and gestures of love trying to make him wake up and strengthening their own hopes for a change for the better.

Many similar cases I can find in my hospice. Healthy young people from one minute to the next experience their own total frailty, people who because of their youth had been under the illusion of an almost endless life ahead of them. Now they are lying in their beds, motionlessly... In meeting these people we experience the immediacy of our faith. We become aware of the reality of a life in which we are nearer to death than to life. We get a new outlook on progress. Until now we were convinced that everything was feasible and that we could have everything. The motorways are congested with traffic and everybody wants to be faster than the next. Nothing can happen to us. The other is the poor driver. We are convinced that all illnesses are curable and if our physician fails, we just change doctors. And if that does not help, we give vent to our disappointment by voicing criticism and demands.

Do we even begin to sense the chaos into which the world has drifted? Do we feel the growing despair of many young people who want to end their short lives by means of the piece of rope or an overdose of tablets? The hospitals are full of people who could be saved the last minute and who will, for the rest of their lives, remain seriously disabled.

Homelessness and lack of human contact are steadily growing and humankind is moving away from God more and more rapidly. News reports in the press or on television leave us no chance to escape the fatal development.

The Church has lost the trust of the faithful. But why? Nobody can tell exactly. If someone voices criticism regarding the state of affairs, it means insulting the founder Jesus Christ. The actual problem of modern society lies much deeper. God has disappeared from our world. He is no longer the giver from whom comes everything. Once again we must make God the very centre the better to understand the sufferings and hardships of our lives. Or do we really want to believe that everything is to be blamed on a cruel God? The wife of the victim of the accident rightly said: "I did not expect such a blow. It has changed my whole life. Now I thank God for the strength and ability to endure it all. I have always had this faith in him. My husband was also deeply religious. That is an enormous consolation."

The negative criticism of the Church covers up the guilty conscience of our time. This mother, too, experienced the criticism of her piety like many others that were showing a special commitment to their suffering fellow-beings. Modern man thinks he is better off without God. Unemployment and the permanent rat race have made him hard, egoistic and ruthless. People struggle hard for better living conditions. Leisure time activities are determined by a lot of violence. The number of crimes committed against defenceless people increases steadily.



What I particularly notice as a foundress is the importance of this charism and the necessity of my social and charitable institutions in which the spirit is the initiative. Both houses, House Effata and Hospice Stella Maris, prove what love can accomplish. It ventures the journey into this age which is so determined to reject God. At a fellow-being's sickbed even the hopelessly lost person can re-discover the values. Hopelessness, meaninglessness and death lose their disconcerting effect. Here, the world is in good order because a person can call to mind that his own life, too, is determined by transitoriness and that his redemption is ensured in God.

I would not like to keep from you that many of those who live in this house have found the joy that they previously imagined to find in other things. That alone would justify my efforts to extend House Effata as well as Stella Maris. Here, there is no evidence of a long lost hope. Jesus shows us incessantly how valuable sufferings are and how weighty they are on the scales of our lives.



With our eyes turned to Heaven we can live here on earth as if already in the future world.

We must look up to God; it could be our turn any moment...

We must look up to God in order to bear any fate.

We must look up to God in order to recognize and live up to the love of God. Thus we will always be prepared to say: "Lord, Your will be done!"

Father

*When I think of You
words fail me,
for everything I might say about You
cannot do justice to Your greatness.
And yet You are the initiative for my praying,
You guide my lips in lauding You.
Your guiding hand reaches the impulse of my heart
so that I might live up to Your love.
What I give evidence of
is the experience of Your loving kindness.
You elevate me in order to let me bear witness to You,
whom I got to know as my only asset.
I lay prostrate,
lacking the strength to rise.
Your Son's merits touched my weakness.
I recognized You as the Saviour and Redeemer.
To my delight I heard how precious I am to You,
how my nothingness induces Your love to strengthen me.
You are the Spirit from whom everything derives,
whose kingdom rules the world and furthers it.
You do not allow Your creation
to be conquered by the forces of evil.*

*In our world You have become visible,
the God who shows himself in everything,
the great light, magnificent in a thousand prisms,
reflecting Your image.*

*You, o Father, are the message in all things,
the creative Spirit who renews and restores
so that all life is seen as coming from You.*

*O Father, I saw You in Your omnipotence
as You freed me from certain death.*

*Ever since You have been the beneficial fragrance of my speech
with which I praise and honour You.*

*The kindness You show me is so great,
Your love so majestic,*

*that I must beg You for Your support, o Father,
in bearing witness to You as the Merciful, the Gracious,
as the Giver of life, the One-Who-Brings-Salvation,
as the Just One, the One-Who-Redeems.*

*I found You in my misery,
recognizing You as You turned to me.*

*I know that You are near us in the confusion of our time
and that You are the victor over sin and death.*

*Your will is the fulfilment of love,
the future of the weak and impotent.*

*I praise Your greatness,
so universal in its simplicity,
so that all may turn into honour and glory in Jesus Christ,
today and in all eternity.*

(Mother Marie Therese, „I implore you, o holy Church - in the name of the Spirit“, Patris Verlag GmbH 2015, pp. 252 - 258)



COMMENTARY

By Fr. Łukasz Kątny

Where is God? Or, to put it in different words: At what point in life is man? There are no easy answers to these questions.

When in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on 11 September 2001 someone was asked, where God was in that tragedy, he said in a TV interview: "It has already been long that we "told" God, he should stay out of our offices, schools, and houses. In public buildings we hide him. So, I think that God, who respects our will, has withdrawn," and the person added: "How can we bear grudge against God, if we often reject him in our lives?"

When we look at the texts of Mother Marie Therese, we state, that they are still relevant and necessary for each of us to better understand reality. The Superior General Fr. Karl Heinz Haus wrote in his notes on 11 November 2015: "How important and necessary the reflections of Mother Marie Therese yet are!

We get an insight of her life, of how she rose to God. We get to know her objectives and wish to make them ours. It is the privilege of a founder or foundress that they may define the objectives for their foundation, for they are guided by God."

For Mother Marie Therese LOVE always came first. Yes, exactly LOVE written in capital letters. She related this love to God and man. And it was in the people who suffered that she recognized God's presence most clearly. Also, this is where her faith matured.

When her health permitted, Mother Marie Therese would visit the sick in the hospice daily. "In meeting these people we experience the immediacy of our faith," she wrote. "We become aware of the reality of a life in which we are nearer to death than to life."

She starts her reflections by narrating the fate of a family father who got involved in a serious car accident with his children. One of the children instantly died and the father fell in a coma. The life of the whole family changed dramatically in that one moment.

Mother Marie Therese describes the situation most respectfully. To her the sick were holy. They want to tell us something. God wants to tell us something through them. They are a grace for us. Here, Mother Marie Therese is at the essence of her issue, at the problem of our society as we can read in the title of her reflection. She got to the heart of the real situation our world is in today and she poses the question, "Do we even begin to sense the chaos into which the world has drifted?"



Fr. Łukasz Kałny; PhD in musicology. As a deacon he took the vows into the hands of the Superior General Karl-Heinz Haus in 2007. He was ordained a priest in 2008 and became a member of the International Council of the Communion in Christo. At present he teaches church music at the seminary in Pelplin, Poland, and since 2018 he has also been a priest at St. Adalbert in Bobowo, Poland.

Do we feel the growing despair of many young people who want to end their short lives with a rope or an overdose of tablets? The hospitals are full of people who could be saved the last minute and who will, for the rest of their lives, remain seriously disabled. Homelessness and lack of human contact are steadily growing and humankind is moving away from God more and more rapidly..." („I implore you, o holy Church“, p. 253)

What is striking when reading the reflections and words of Mother Marie Therese is her true faith connected with her readiness to stay alert. Staying alert for Mother Marie Therese as for the Apostle Paul (1 Cor 10:12) means constantly focusing on God: “We must look up to God; it could be our turn any moment... We must look up to God in order to bear any fate. We must look up to God in order to recognize and live up to the love of God. Thus we will always be prepared to say: ‘Lord, Your will be done!’”

Where, however is God then? God is love – he is there for us and he is in us if we are able to also turn to our neighbors...



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