

# COMMUNIO IN CHRISTO

*Our Life -  
Our Works*

Digital Spiritual Letter No. 20, February 17th 2023

*Theme:*

## The aim of Communio in Christo

### SEAT IN LIFE



Mother Marie Therese wrote the reflection “The aim of Communio in Christo” on her last serious sickbed, seven months before her death and nine years after the foundation of the Communio in Christo. She describes the health condition she was in when she wrote this text: “In moments of extreme suffering the soul opens so impetuously that all self-pity immediately vanishes.”

During this period, she was all the time concerned with her foundation and its further development. She was aware that she had received a mission from God for the Church. She wanted to lay her foundation into the hands of the Pope so that he would engage with the realization of the “global” goals.

**Jaison Thazhathil**  
**Superior General**



## REFLECTION OF MOTHER MARIE THERESE

08.09.1993

Consciously I want to open myself for the hour of listening, experience and love. The Holy Spirit's way of calling his tool is strange and almost incomprehensible. Certain encounters and the experience of another world give the impulse for a meeting. In moments of extreme suffering the soul opens so impetuously that all self-pity immediately vanishes.

A terrible night with its aftermath is behind me and yet the gift I possess reminds me that all sufferings and disappointments are to be recognized as my life perspective. My charism bears the name of *Communio in Christo*. In the dialogue of my reflection my soul comes to know what consequences this movement involves. It is ready to open to Heaven, so that a renewed world may appear that frees itself from hatred and distrust. This renewal of Christian life forces our hearts to love, even those we do not feel to be likeable.

In our *Communio in Christo* and through it Heaven is to be realized. In practice that means that we have to open ourselves to the authority of God, who calls upon "a human being like anyone of us" to bring about this heaven in its members. From here, meaning and value of this *Communio* is to go out and spread across the world. In search of the realization of this aim every member is witness to and proof of her or his own transformation.

On September 1, the foundation's commemoration day, I have realized how difficult it is for this love to assert itself. It is a founder's greatest sorrow not to be able to accomplish what God expects of him. Seized by the divine grace, he sets an example living in accordance with the plan of God, but the superhuman character of his love often goes unnoticed. All over the world a feeling of great distrust has been spreading, which makes it difficult to reach people. In this hour I completely submit to obedience. Another world becomes visible. I am fascinated by its immensity. The resurrection in the hour of death is as yet incomplete, coming to a conclusion in death itself. I can be so sure of Heaven that I have lost all fear of suffering. The invitation to join the *Communio in Christo* is as simple as the word of Christ: Come and see. The years of preparation are marked by a great willingness to fully dedicate oneself.

*Communio in Christo* is designated as religious order. It wants to point to the Catholic Church as the Church founded by Christ. The Name "*Communio in Christo*" denotes cooperation between all religious orders to make common cause. It is the *Communio in Christo*'s wish to unite all denominations in love. Its members are to set an example living the spirituality of their foundress so convincingly that people will stop and say: How dearly they love one another! Nobody is excluded from this movement. We strive for an even stronger orientation by the message of Christ – in accordance with our model role as *Communio in Christo* –



resulting in an intimate relationship with Christ. Every day is accompanied by the grace of God, apparent in a sign indicating His power and will.

Our life shall be the revelation of love. Jesus lived the life of a human being. He proclaimed his apostolate in the unity of word and life. Every cry for help will be reason for the Communio in Christo to react in a manner dictated by the abundant love of their community.



We have to ensure that all men regard themselves as members of Communio in Christo. They need to understand the most essential aspect of this foundation: the unity in love. It is our task as Christians to fulfil the commandment of love, which was given to us by God in order to realize it in this world.

Though being at a loss for words I am burning to talk about the great experience of love in which I recognized but one request: to stand up for God and his loving kindness. People expect something. The Second Vatican Council paved the way for freedom. The masses are disappointed. They expect to be freed from fear and despair. They expect the door to be opened, so that they can believe in the

redemption. Our world is trying to find something to hold on to; they seek the fellow-being that teaches them to have faith, to love and to hope. Jesus has returned so that everybody can find him.

The Council needs to be realized. It gives love foremost priority. We should hope that this fact will not go unnoticed in our time. Love is the only remedy against hatred.

#### Father

Eternal fire is burning in me.

I am tortured by thirst talking with You.

My heart is full of sorrow

because it lacks the most important:  
to love You in accordance with Your gift.

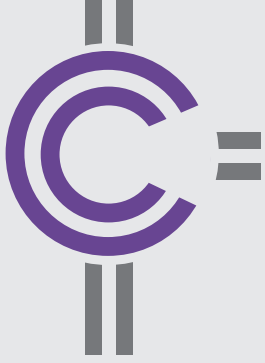
I am thirsting at the ocean of passion.

You offer me divine water for my thirst.

I am longing to receive Your infinite love.

I am seeking You in the spirit and in the truth.

I have found You in my soul.



You fulfil my hope.

You have come to share my life.

You have paved my path with love,  
removing everything that blocks the way to You.

You have forgiven my sins  
and justified me before You in Jesus Christ.

You have secured my future  
and left me Your kingdom as a bequest.

You protect me  
when I am in danger of stumbling.  
You help me to my feet when I am lying prostrate.

You protect me from the evil spirit,  
keeping him from poisoning my heart.

O Father, I have received so much loving kindness  
that I am longing for peace and love.

You have bestowed me with power  
and have called my attention to the working of the Spirit.

You have asked me  
to appeal to the hearts;

you have commissioned me  
to create a new world and to build institutions  
for the benefit of people from all walks of life.

You inspire me with the right thoughts,  
so that true selflessness may fulfil Your plans.

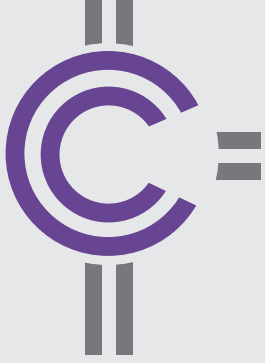
I am at home in Your world,  
captured by Your love.

O Father, numerous are the gifts

You enlighten me with.

You have taken notice of my being oppressed.

You refuse to condemn me.



You protect me from self-love.  
Your truth allows me to make my own decision.  
Thirst is torturing me to love You with all my heart,  
having been saved by You.  
And yet for many You remain controversial.  
You love Your creation so passionately  
that You allowed Your Son to be crucified  
so that we may realize  
that all suffering and tribulation the world burdens us with  
is temporary on our way to the true and final life.  
Father, stretch out Your hand,  
to hold mine and make me feel my new freedom.  
Give us the drink  
that quenches our thirst.  
Give us the love  
that strengthens our hopes  
so that we may recognize You as the loving Father  
for time and eternity.

Taken from: Mother Marie Therese, I implore you, o holy Church - In the name of the Spirit,  
Patris Verlag GmbH 2015, pp. 348 ff.





## COMMENTARY

**By Fr. Dr. Robert Mutegeki,  
Catholic priest from the diocese of Fort Portal in West Uganda**

Mother Marie Therese invites us all to make any effort to realize the goal of the *Communio in Christo*. She calls the *Communio in Christo* an “order” in the sense that it arises from the working of the Holy Spirit. It is meant to unite all religious denominations in love and fraternity under the guidance of the Pope. Surely Mother Marie Therese refers to the commonly known congregations in the first place like the Carmelite or Franciscan brothers and sisters. But indirectly she also refers to non-Catholics and even non-Christians like Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, actually to all human beings. It is for her about the unity in love, not the unity in faith or philosophy of life.

At the same time, to Mother Marie Therese the *Communio in Christo* is a movement. She says: “Nobody is excluded from this movement.” Mother Marie Therese is convinced that love is the only remedy to reach this goal. And the achievement of this goal is compared to a “heaven” on earth.

Mother Marie Therese appeals to us that we may transform inwardly in order to spread that heaven on earth. A total devotion to the will of God – for he is the love that is meant for all – and an intimate relationship to Christ are necessary for this mission. Mother Marie Therese has a heart that burns with love. She is looking for God in the Spirit and in the truth. She sacrifices her life, so that God will be her one and only. Manifestation of her mission are the foundation of nursing facilities the benefit of people from all walks of life. This is what she means when she talks about creating a new world.

As already mentioned in the „Seat of life”, Mother Marie Therese wanted to give her foundation implying the inspiration for it through the Holy Spirit, into the hands of the Pope so that he would engage with the realization of the “global” goals. She was aware that she would not be able all herself to achieve the cooperation of all religious orders. This would be in the responsibility of the Pope.

Such an important mission means a great challenge and is beyond mere human power. However, if we follow the example of Mother Marie Therese and abandon ourselves completely to the will of God, we may trust that he will guide us through ups and downs. This correlates with the example given to us by Saint Paul when he writes: For when I am weak, then I am strong (ref. 2 Cor. 12, 10).



We should positively approach our task and constantly strive to do our best. One day God will solve our immediate problems and we may find that we are ready for greater challenges.

No matter which challenges, difficulties, or painful situations the Communio in Christo may have to face, the solidarity among us may give us the inner strength to overcome them. The bad news is that time passes by quickly. The good news is that we are the players. We ought to always keep our face towards the sun, for then the shadows will fall behind us! The question that we should be concerned with most, is the following: What are we doing concretely as members, friends, donators and supporters of the Communio in Christo to realize what Mother Marie Therese dreamt of, so that our life will be the revelation of love?

### Father Dr. Robert Mutegeki



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