



We wish you a blessed and peaceful  
New Year!

Dear readers,

As usual in our newsletters you will find here a word of Mother Marie Therese. This time we chose some lines that she wrote for New Year's Eve of 1992. "A very turbulent year comes to an end. A year of suffering reminds us that we depend on the divine power of his love," Mother Marie Therese wrote back then.

These days the year 2023 has just ended and the sentences that Mother Marie Therese wrote 31 years ago are as relevant today as they were at that time. This is also true for the message she gives us: „A new year begins... I very much hope that we may stand close together as brothers and sisters and as a Communio in Christo, to give honor to God and to do justice to his love."

There is nothing I could add and so I wish you all a blessed and a peaceful New Year 2024 in the spirit of our foundress.

Yours Jaison Thazhathil  
Superior General of the Communio in Christo





## The prodigal son and the prison

The Gospel on that day was by the evangelist Luke. The parable of the prodigal son was very deliberately chosen for the solemn mass in the Mechernich St. John the Baptiste parish church. It fitted perfectly to the theme chosen for the 39th foundation commemoration of the Communio in Christo: "Guilt and atonement". The parable built a bridge to the lecture given by the Minister of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia Dr. Benjamin Limbach. (rl)

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## A living Bible experience

The Advent season in today's world means mainly lots of stress. Yet the Advent season should be totally the opposite – contemplative and calm. But what exactly means Advent, i. e. arrival after all? And how do we manage to find ourselves again and return to God during this very special time?

These were the questions that the Evangelical deacon Jutta Lindenfels from the „Evangelical parish Roggendorf“ reflected on when she moderated the recent reflection night at the Ordo Communio in Christo in Mechernich. However, this time the presentation of the topic in the recreation room of the Ordo was different. It was interactive including a "Bibliolog" accompanied by music and stories. The audience was enthusiastic and asked for repeating the performance. (hg)



## „A leaf is blowing off the tree...”



Beginning of December, a very special mass was celebrated in Blankenheim. The residents and the employees of the senior citizens' home "House Effata" got the chance to say good-bye to the fellow residents who died during 2023.

The names of those deceased were read out loud in a special ceremony. There was a leaf for each of them which was pinned to a little tree. The activity referred to the meditation after the Gospel with the title: "A leaf is blowing off the tree..."

Mid of November a memorial mass with the same theme was celebrated for the deceased residents in the long-term care facility in Mechernich. (hg)

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## „Life in a bigger context“

„Spiritual resilience – strengthened through imitation in faith“ is the title of the next reflection night on Thursday, 18 January 2024, held by Rev. Fr. Markus Polders in the recreation room of the Communio in Christo Motherhouse (Bruchgasse 14, 53894 Mechernich). You are welcome to join already the holy mass at 6:30 pm in the house chapel.

Resilience or the ability to adapt, is the process of people reacting to challenges and changes by adapting their behaviors. "In this sense our faith is supportive to our ability to adapt, because it helps us put our life in a bigger context," explains Rev. Fr. Markus Polders. (hg)





# Christmas at the Communio

The Social Institute of the Communio in Christo in Mechernich and Blankenheim had special festive offerings for the residents there:

St. Nicholas along with his servant Ruprecht came to visit them, they were given the „Light of Peace from Bethlehem“, and they could enjoy tasty Crêpes.

St. Nicholas brought comfort and hope, and handed over to each of the residence his own image made from chocolate after he had been enthusiastically welcomed by the residents with the popular song “Let us be happy and cheery... merry, merry, tra-la-la-la-la”.

Furthermore, scouts from Blankenheim handed over the „Light of Peace of Bethlehem“, “a symbol of hope and peace reminding us that there can be hope in the most hopeless and depressing moments and that this hope can help us find peace like a light can help find the way” as was explained in the respective flyer for this year.

Culinary delights are of course also a must at Christmas. So, the cafeteria prepared tasty homemade Crêpes instead of the regular dessert. You could choose between ones with cinnamon and sugar, nut-nougat, or marmalade. (hg)

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# A word of Mother Marie Therese



New Year's Eve 1992

31.12.1992

„Tonight, we hope for a better year. It all depends on us, whether we will try to discard our selfishness, whether we recognize our brothers and sisters in the humans around us and whether we want to believe in God's omnipotence. The light has come into the world to lighten our darkness. It is God who enlightens us so that we can find him, who enriches us with his kindness every minute of our lives.

A very turbulent year comes to an end. A year of suffering reminds us that we depend on the divine power of his love.

A new year begins ... I very much hope that we may stand close together as brothers and sisters and as a Communio in Christo, to give honor to God and to do justice to his love.“

Mother Marie Therese, Non-published Texts, Communio in Christo Archive

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