



Dear friends and members,

During the Easter vigil light shines from the dark of the night. "Lumen Christi – Christ, the light!" sings the priest and the response of the faithful goes "Deo gratias – Thanks be to God!" This is how the Easter liturgy starts according to the Latin rite.

Starting from the Easter candle, the light is passed on to all those joining the Holy Mass. The Church then is bright with light and the light is passed on to the homes, to where the people live and work. The light chases away the dark. The risen Christ has overcome death. The darkness of suffering, of death, of disruption, of war has been overcome. Let us pray together for peace in the Ukraine, in Russia and in so many countries on our earth.

On the feast of resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, we wish you a kind of hope that overshines all hardship and suffering. This hope is founded in Jesus' victory over sin and death and in his resurrection he revealed this hope to all of us. We, too, are on the way to paschal life. The assurance was given to us with baptism where we immersed in his death so that we may share his vitality and joy.

Filled with this joy I send you my heartfelt regards by greeting you like the Christians in the Eastern Churches do: Christ is Risen! – Truly He is Risen!

Yours

Jaison Thazhathil
Superior General



Asian food for a good purpose



In the restaurant „Bonjour Saigon 22“ in Mechernich Breitenbenden , the managers Johnny and Judiana Yuer along with Wong Chi Wah offered a rich buffet on the occasion of a benefit dinner in favor of the hospice “Stella Maris”. 120 guests had come who not only enjoyed the hospitality, the delicious meals and good drinks but at the same time eagerly filled the donation box which was installed next to the Asian waving cat.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, a good amount was collected. Norbert Arnold, managing director of the Communio in Christo Social Institute said: “What a great effort of “Bonjour Saigon 22”! All guests were full of praise.” (rl)

Practically lived love of neighbor

On the 96th birthday of the Communio in Christo foundress Mother Marie Therese a Communio meeting took place where the Deacon and Deputy Superior General Manfred Lang in his sermon spoke about St. Joseph (namesake of the foundress whose civil name was Josephina): “A man of deeds.” Mother Marie Therese had acted accordingly since she made the love of neighbor the core of her mission: “What are all the ethical values for, if I do not live them?”

Against this background, also the Superior General Fr Jaison Thazhathil looked at current crisis like the refugees in the Mediterranean Sea, the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and the war in the Ukraine. However, Sister Lidwina added positive inputs to the meeting when she talked about her journey to Uganda where she visited friends of the Communio. (ml)



Good first experiences

The new offers introduced at the beginning of the year enabling interested people to get easily into direct contact with the Ordo Communio in Christo have gladly been well accepted. The offer "Short term guest in the convent" taking place every Thursday at 5 pm usually attracts even more than just one visitor to attend the prayer times, the masses and to share the convent life of the community including the dinner in the refectory. Prior registration in the order secretary at +49 2443 / 98 14 823 is requested. The entrance to the house chapel is at 14 Bruchgasse.

If you wish to speak to the Superior General Fr. Jaisor Thazhathil, his Deputy the Deacon Manfred Lang or the Spiritual Padre Rudolf Ammann, you can do so on the "Jou fixe", i. e. every first Tuesday of the month in the telephone consultation hour between 3 and 4 pm at +49 160 34 04 777. If you can't get through, you can ask for a callback by sending a Whatsapp message.



Health day in the Social Institute

Yoga, handling stress, strengthening the back and fascia training – all this was part of a training program that some of the 220 employees of the Communio in Christo Social Institute attended on the health day in the Mechernich long-term nursing care facility. The health day was the fourth event of this kind in cooperation with the Dienstleistungsgenossenschaft Eifel e G. (Service association). In the Communio Social Institute it is also common practice for the employees to take the chance of having their own occupational therapists treat their musculoskeletal problems. The directress of the homes said: "This is also a sign of respect and appreciation of our employees!" (ml)



“To the promised land, the Eifel...”



In “House Effata”, the senior citizens’ home of the Communio in Christo in Blankenheim, Fr. Gregor Stepkes celebrated his 70th ordination anniversary. Fr. Stepkes is convinced that faith is a process. After various stations, in 1993 Fr. Stepkes came “to the promised land – the Eifel”, mentioned the Superior General Fr. Jaison Thazhathil who along with his Deputy the Deacon Manfred Lang and the Spiritual Padre Rudolf Ammann had visited the jubilarian on the day of the ordination anniversary.

Fr. Gregor Stepkes had got to know Mother Marie Therese already back in the 70th and took the vows into her hands. Up today he believes in her extraordinary founding charism. “In her writings God’s voice is speaking to us.” (ml)

Keeping the inner balance

„Can we experience our soul? And if yes, how can we do it? This is the question that Dr. Michael Stöhr the protestant pastor and hospital chaplain reflected on at an impulse talk he recently gave for the Ordo Communio in Christo “How can I influence my soul?” Or to put it in other words “What can comfort my suffering?”

The soul is a conceivably wide field – and so time went by quickly. The various topics could only be touched. Sister Lidwina emphasized that also Mother Marie Therese had always looked for God, but finally already found Him to be in her soul. (hg)



A word of Mother Marie Therese



Rejoicing in the resurrection

06.04.1993

We celebrate Easter, the feast of rebirth, the feast of eternal incarnation.

Through grace I learned that this is the truth: We have been saved, we can be certain that all evil has been defeated and that we shall meet Christ in the hour of death. He lets us partake in his merits, carries us before God and exonerates us. We will personally experience the fruit of the Cross of Jesus if we make our final decision in favor of God. Someone who in the last hour of his life has to confess that he has achieved nothing, will get the same reward as those who have done everything out of love for God...

The decisive aspect of this feast is the knowledge that our sins have been forgiven, that we have regained purity, that the Risen Christ rules our world, and that eternal life is open to all those who believe in him. Christ is risen. From our hearts emanates the belief: Christ is risen!

(Mother Marie Therese, I implore you, o holy Church – In the name of the Spirit, Patris Verlag GmbH 2015, pp. 233, 234)

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