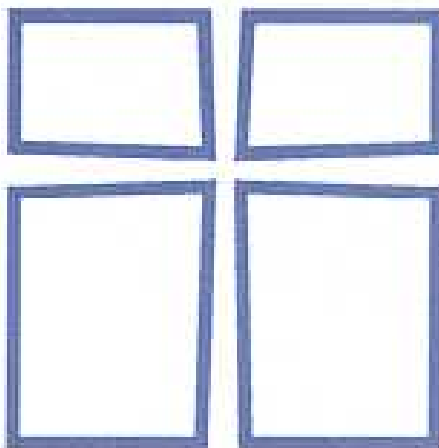


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# *Theodosia*

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Quarterly  
of the Sisters of Mercy  
of the Holy Cross  
Institute Ingenbohl  
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Centered and moving, Johanna Heimgartner, Meggen

## Editorial

For about a year now, we have been living with the Corona virus worldwide. During this time many things have changed around us and perhaps within us. Among the 2.78 million dead are also fellow sisters from different provinces. We take many things for granted and used to, are suddenly no longer the cases, or are different from what they used to be. These changes are hard on us. And yet, these are also opportunities! New answers are needed: How do we help each other, how do we celebrate our liturgies, what do we really need, what gives us support?

What strikes us is: Nature! It does not seem to know about the virus, because it unfolds again with new strength. Spring, new life! Perhaps we will also discover new spaces, and inner expanses of our soul. The Easter liturgies will contribute to this!

The first two contributions of issue of "Theodosia" are based on religious themes: "Moved by God's Spirit, as Women on the Way" by Sr. Christiane Jungo as an inspiring talk on the Day of Consecrated Life, and "The Second Fiddle" as a homily on the Feast of St. Joseph by Fr. Emmeram Stacheder OFM in the convent church, Ingenbohl.

In the future, portraits of sisters who can be considered "Witnesses of Our Time" will appear under the title "You Will Be My Witnesses," Acts 1:8. Sr. Edith Lang, who worked as "Mother of the Poor" in India from April 1960 to August 2020, marks the beginning. Sr. Elsit has collected experiences of fellow sisters.

"Life Giving Years" was a motto of Sr. Liliane Juchli. After her death on November 30, 2020, Sr. Edelina Uhr presents the help she offered us for growing older in community.

After 18 years of service in Perm, the three sisters said goodbye to the parish and returned home to their provinces. Sr. Filipa Macháčková shares with us "Memories of Perm."

After her mission work among the refugees in Sicily, Sr. Veera Bara Namugongo has also returned home and taken up a new assignment in Kampala, Uganda. For her it continues to be true: "Everyone under the Sun is My Brother and Sister."

"I Left My Ship on the Beach and with You Found a New Sea," writes Sr. Eva Christa Bannwart, who takes up new tasks in Ingenbohl after 43 years of experience in Brazil.

The paintings of Sr. M. Raphaela Bürgi delight many people. "The Canticle of the Sun of St. Francis" is a greeting to all of us after her death on January 7, 2021.

After her first profession in the convent, Hegne, Sr. Marie-Salome Schwert shares with us the joy of her vocation: "Living Your Life under the Mystery of the Cross."

Through the "Information from the General Leadership", we come to know about the appointment of the new Provincial Leadership of Europa Mitte. Attached are thanks to Sr. Edelgund Kuhn as a long-time member of the Editorial Team and a brief statistic of the year 2020.

In 2020, 109 sisters have "Entered into Eternal Life". May they be accompanied by our profound gratitude, and blessed by their and our God!

Sr. Christiane Jungo

## Moved by God's Spirit, as Women on the Way

### Sr. Christiane Jungo, Ingenbohl

On January 6, 1997, Pope John Paul II declared that the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord should henceforth be celebrated as the "Day of Consecrated Life". Since then, this day has been an internal holiday in the Motherhouse, preceded by a retreat day with inputs for our daily religious life. This year's retreat followed the motto of the year, "Moved by God's Spirit, as Women on the Way."

#### Prayer

*Merciful God, through the life and work of Blessed Maria Theresa Scherer, you made visible to the world the riches of your mercy. You taught her to recognize the signs of the times and, with her sisters, to help people in physical and spiritual need. Teach us also, in the power of your Spirit, to serve the people for whom your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, died on the cross. He who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.*

In the prayer on memorial days of Mother M. Theresa, we hear how she was shown by God, by God's Spirit, to recognize the signs of her times. And we ask that in the power of the same Spirit of God helps us to fulfill our task here and now.

#### A look at the Bible

"Filled with God's Spirit," "Moved by God's Spirit," "The Spirit of God rests upon him," "I have put my Spirit upon him," these

expressions we know from the Bible, mostly in reference to Jesus. So let us first look into the Bible!

Luke, in the first chapter of his Gospel, never tires of emphasizing the action of the Holy Spirit. For him, Jesus was the Spirit-bearer par excellence: Jesus owes his existence to the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had descended on Mary, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at the baptism, Jesus resists the temptations in the desert by the power of the Holy Spirit. His entered life is interwoven with this Spirit of God.

Already at the beginning of his public ministry, Luke tells of Jesus' appearance in the synagogue of Nazareth. There Jesus presents, as it were, his program, his mission statement. It states:

"He opened the scroll and found the passage in Isaiah where it is written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor; that I may



proclaim release to the captives and sight to the blind; that I might set at liberty those who are bruised and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Then he began to expound to them: Today the word of Scripture which you have just heard has been fulfilled" (Luke 4:17ff).

With these words Jesus anticipates what he will do in the years to come, namely: The Spirit of God moves him when he lays hands on the sick; when he talks to people who would otherwise be ignored; when he looks at people who otherwise dare not meet anyone's eyes. And it is this Spirit of God through whom Jesus creates life, so that people can breathe, laugh and love again. Finally, this spirit is also the power in which Jesus sets love against hate and violence. Love is stronger than death.

And so - moved and driven by the Spirit of God - is the whole of his public work.

In Jesus we also see the "Servant of God" whom Isaiah described: "God has put his Spirit upon him" (Is 42:1-4). What characterizes this servant of God? *"He does not shout or make a noise, or let his voice be heard in the streets"*. Instead, he turns to the individual, and the imperfect, and guards him. *"The bent reed he does not break, and the smouldering wick*

*he does not extinguish."* This gentleness is also accompanied by endurance: *"He does not grow weary or break down until he has established justice on earth"*.

Back to Luke! It seems to have been important to him to make clear to us who moved Jesus, precisely the Spirit of God. Jesus' life thus becomes a message for us that God's Spirit is also meant for us. Before he suffered, Jesus promised this Spirit: *"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever"* (Jn 14:16).

Again and again I wonder how the apostles, who were so close to Jesus and experienced him, could ask him shortly before his ascension, that is, almost at the last moment: *"Are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?"* Jesus' answer is clear: You don't need to know that! That is not your concern! What is their concern? *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). This, then, is their work, their mission: to bear witness to what they had seen and learned from Jesus.

What happened after the Ascension? *"All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain*

women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers" (Acts 1:14). And then, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound like a rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4).

The next chapters of the Acts have many incidents showing how the young church prays together, and then the Holy Spirit comes upon people and transforms them. They pray when faced with difficult decisions. They pray in emergency situations. They offer prayers in praise to God in the temple. They pray in their homes. And again and again they experience, the Spirit of God coming into every situation they ask Him. The Acts of the Apostles becomes, as it were, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.

The mission of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit have challenged and often overwhelmed the apostles and the women (women are explicitly mentioned), indeed the whole community of believers in the Church until today. The fire of the Spirit, divided into individual



Pentecost, M. Clara Winkler

tongues of fire, could show us that each one is seized and commissioned in her own way. Each needs to contribute in a personal way to renew the face of the earth.

### **How was Mother M. Theresa moved by God's Spirit?**

She very rarely speaks of the Holy Spirit. However, we can see how he worked in her, how he guided her, taught her to discern and trust - in big and small things. It would also be easy to read from her life the fruits of the Spirit. I just want to share a few examples that show us how she walked with the

Spirit of God- without making any big commentary!

When she was sent to the city hospital (Bürgerspital) in Lucerne as a high-school girl, she was quite overwhelmed by everything, and she writes: *"I went there, but at first it was difficult for me to see and hear only religious things all the time and, in addition, to see the sick and the poor always before my eyes. I was also displeased a few times with preachers who preached against dancing, etc. But grace soon won out. But I was soon convinced by the grace given to me. After a few days I liked being there and I also began to pray more and visit the Holy Sacraments more often; and I let myself be accepted into the Young Women's Association, as well as into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Order of Holy Father St. Francis and, with God's grace, began seriously to work to improve myself"* (Report of Conscience 1867). She writes *"the grace," we could certainly say, "the Holy Spirit was at work in her"*.

After the first difficult years in Ingenbohl, she remarks: *"There were other difficulties and sufferings which were a great hindrance to me, especially in my spiritual life. Those were extremely difficult times, and if God had not strengthened me, and my confessor had not constantly encouraged me to*

*persevere, I would certainly have lost my vocation (report of conscience)"*.

When she was asked how she managed everything as Superior General - day after day - she answered as usual: *"I reflect - pray - and act"*. What amazes me in those days is the fact that Mother M. Theresa not only invoked the spirit of the Council, but also called in secular advisors, or a lawyer, for particularly difficult matters.

When she came to Moravia (today the Czech Republic) for the visitation in October 1878, she had the intended names of the sisters shown to her on the eve of the vestition. They were all German- sounding names. Mother M. Theresa requested that they be deleted immediately and that Czech names be put in their place, because she thought that German names hindered integration among the people. Today this would be understandable, but in those days her decision was certainly surprising and extraordinary.

When she was re-elected Superior General in 1886, she wrote in a circular to the Sisters on November 1, how hard it was for her to accept this office once again, however, some reasons had moved her to do so, namely: *"The love for the community, the*

*trust in the assistance from above, which she had not lacked until now, and the faith in the daily prayer of the sisters, and the love shown to her until now”.*

When she was seriously ill and the sisters were anxious about how to manage without her, she said simply: *“When I die, a general chapter is to be held, and it will be alright then”.* Only a woman who trusts in the Spirit of God can speak in this way.

Many other examples could be cited that show directly how Mother M. Theresa was moving with the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God also rested on her and made her a strong woman.

### **How are we, moved by God's Spirit, on the way?**

Christ has promised and given us all his Spirit: *“This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Saviour”*, according to the letter to Titus (Titus 3:6). This Spirit of the Lord not only helps us to help people in physical and spiritual need, as the prayer at the beginning has put it. He is the power against disappointments and discouragements. He is the power to hope - in spite of all.

He is the power to love - even if we do not expect love and gratitude in return. He is the

power that lets us do good things spontaneously.

We are aware of it: we will never be perfect, but keep up the journey. Our Constitutions emphasize in A 7: *“By our lives we attempt to make visible something of the folly of that love which led Christ to his death on the cross, but brought salvation for all”.*

I would like to mention two more inspirational thoughts that could be especially relevant for the Corona period. During this time we feel externally restricted, we cannot move freely. We suffer more or less from it. While reflecting, I felt that this is not everything: faith opens up a great inner space for us, in which we can breathe and move freely. So if I suffer from external restrictions, I might just turn around and look inside myself and discover that there is a great inner space where faith and hope and love are at home. It is the space of the spirit and of prayer. It is, as it were, the sacred space of each person. Perhaps this is an opportunity to inhabit and cultivate the inner space more.

Of course, fear, worry and disappointment can also find a home in the same inner space. It is part of human nature to have different spirits, thoughts and feelings at the same time. I remember Jesus, how one of his

important healings was to drive out evil spirits - as in yesterday's Gospel (Mk 1:21-28). No matter, who these "evil" spirits are, Fridolin Stier calls them the "evil spirits"! And we know them well. The "evil" spirits, that paralyze and hinder so many things. The Spirit of God wants to deliver us from such spirits. This could also be a task this year, to grant the Holy Spirit space against the "bad-spirits"!

Now one final thought: In the hymnbook of the church, we find great songs about the Holy Spirit. One in particular struck me: Take me, Holy Breath (KG 233):

*Take me, Holy Breath,  
light your fire,  
show me the way, give me  
an answer, so that I can live.  
God's Spirit, come and touch  
my hidden self,  
teach me firmly to believe.  
Jesus is awaiting me.  
Awaken me, Holy Spirit,  
make me anew  
to serve against sadness.*

*God's Spirit, come and enlighten  
me with determination and  
counsel.*

*Say: the Lord does today  
what he did ages ago.*

*Take hold of me, Holy Breath,  
Spirit of God, impel me.*

*Thanks for Christ's mission,  
thanks that I can serve.*

The song is actually a personal prayer, a dialogue between the individual and the Spirit of God: take - enkindle - show - come and touch - teach - awaken - make ready - come and enlighten - say - seize - impel. These verbs, actual active words, show the whole breadth in which the Spirit of God wants to work in us - if only we want it. Say: *The Lord is doing today what he had done a long time ago.*

From the petitions in the hymn, the one in the 4th line is probably a special mission for today:

*Awaken me, Holy Spirit, make me  
anew to serve against the  
sadness.*

A work of mercy for today in the Corona time!

## The Second Fiddle

### P. Emmeram Stacheder OFM, Ingenbohl

Homily on the Solemnity of St. Joseph 2021

On the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph of Nazareth as patron of the universal Church, on December 8, 2020, Pope Francis published an Apostolic Exhortation. In this text, called "Patriscorde" (With the heart of a father), the Pope dedicates the year 2021 to St. Joseph. Moreover, on this day our new bishop was consecrated with the name Joseph. In the Schwyz Canton, March 19 is a public holiday. We would like to share the homily in the convent church with all.

#### Dear Sisters,

The famous music director Leonard Bernstein was asked, "Which instrument is the most difficult to play?" His answer surprised the journalist when he said, "The second violin". Look: it's not only in the orchestra that everyone wants to play first violin and set the tone today. To find someone who plays the second fiddle with enthusiasm, that's a hard thing to do. And everyone knows it: If you don't have someone who plays it really well, you will never have perfect harmony in the sound of the orchestra.

St. Joseph played "only" second fiddle throughout his life. He was "merely" the substitute father. The glory of the first violin, played by his wife Mary, never came to him. Although he "merely" played this

role, he was not a frustrated person. Through his humanity, Jesus was able to grow up in such a way that later it was said of him: "He was loved by God and man."

In a Gothic fresco series about the life of Jesus in a church in Tyrol, Joseph is depicted at the birth scene, sitting by the hearth and cooking soup for mother and child. This may make you smile, but there is an important message behind it. This kind of depiction conveys a male image that is a counterpoint to patriarchal role assignments.

Already in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the theologian Josef Wittig described Joseph as the representative of a new image of men. This means: that men also need to play an important role in child care. Men

who cook, wash clothes, and change diapers. What was ridiculed, and mocked for a long time as not the regular work of men, has become normal for many modern fathers today. So the depiction of Joseph cooking at the hearth represents this attitude well before our time. It also fits with the campaign in the Corona era, "House work is more than home-office."

Is this all just to Joseph? I do not think so. The evidence from the New Testament shows us that he was not just at the cooking pot or in the workshop. In the infancy narratives in Luke and Matthew, Joseph is described as "coming from the lineage of David." The census and the birth of Jesus in the city of David, Bethlehem, further emphasize this. This is not incidental, but highly political for that time.

Whoever was associated with King David and his lineage was in opposition to the emperor in Rome and his governors in Judea. To be a successor of David meant: to be in the opposition. Joseph lived with his family in Nazareth in Galilee. This was the region of political resistance.



St .Joseph, Maria Hilf monastery, Bühl, Baden

Hence Nathanael's saying, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Joseph flees to Egypt with Mary and the child. Why over there? Egypt was the land where the political departure of the people of Israel began. The exodus from bondage to the Promised Land. "Out of Egypt I called my Son," it says about Jesus. He leads the people out of the bondage of sin into the freedom of the children of God, into the Kingdom of God.

Joseph is referred to in the Gospels as a "carpenter", which

means a worker in construction. He was always there in life where there were "construction sites", whether in the family or profession.

On a house facade in Delft - Netherlands - Joseph is depicted with Mary and Jesus. Only the face and hands of Joseph are clearly highlighted. This Joseph looks over the woman and child at a distance. Joseph has more in view than what is just in front of his eyes. And that too, there in the busy street in Delft. A silent reminder, that in life, in everyday responsibilities and concerns, there are more important things than what is in front of your eyes. It's about standing together and being there for each other. It's about being sensitive, instead of seeking quick solutions and rushing into actions. It is about

vision and the right assessment of the social and political situation. It's about the basic trust that together we can also get through unpleasant and unfortunate situations. We need such people in church and society. People like Joseph. People, who play the second fiddle with enthusiasm, as Bernstein said, so that the harmony of the orchestra is perfect in life. People, who have the farsightedness beyond all the ordinary. People who, in the midst of all the turmoil, keep calm and do good with determination. We need them more than these eternal stupid chatterers and nagging people who often make life so unbearable, and serve or benefit no one, only drag down everything and everyone. Saint Joseph, pray for us and for the church in our country. Amen.



## **You will be My Witnesses, Acts 1:8**

### **Testimony of the Times – Sr. Edith Lang †**

Died in Balupar, Patna, India North East Province

Compiled by Sr. Elsit Ampattu, General Councillor, Ingenbohl

The editorial team of "Theodosia" planned to present the life and work of sisters from different provinces under the title "Witness of our time". This way, we will get to know inspired personalities of our congregation. We are grateful to our Indian sisters for bringing alive the life and work of Sr. Edith Lang, which could be described in Pauline terms as efforts to be, "all things to all people" (1 Cor 9:22).

#### **In retrospect**

The sisters in India say with much love and respect that "Bettiah is the cradle of the Indian mission". This expression takes us back to the year 1894, when the feet of our European Missionaries touched for the first time the Indian soil, where they started the mission at Bettiah in North Bihar. In 2019, I had an opportunity to take part in the 125<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration of Holy Cross Sisters' presence and mission in India. I visited the cemetery in Bettiah, where most of the early missionaries are laid to rest. It was a heart touching moment, seeing an array of beautifully decorated tombs. I became still, and my heart whispered "Thank you dear sisters! Intercede for all of us! A big salute to you all, our valiant women, who are the living

witnesses of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries!"

On 26 August 2020 at 2.15 pm, our beloved Sr. Edith Lang (Sr. Irmtraud Lang, professed name later changed) said goodbye to us at Asha Sadan, Holy Cross Convent, Balupar, Patna, Bihar and left for her heavenly abode. Sr. Edith Lang was the last European missionary from the North East Province. Now only two European missionaries are still in India, Sr. Johanna Brandstätter, India South Province and Sr. M. Lucia Grabner, India Central Province.

Indeed, Sr. Edith Lang is a Testimony for our times! The sisters who lived with her have shared some of their personal experiences and testimonials, which are highlighted in this



Sr. Edith Lang, 60 years professed, with Sr. Mary James and Sr. Elisabeth Brandstätter

article. In India as well as in Europe many couples who have adopted children from Children's Home Delhi had a chance to come in contact with Sr. Edith Lang. Her love, sacrifice, care, and dedication for the abandoned children were an inspiration for them. Their testimonies are also included in this write-up.

Sr. Edith Lang was born on the 31 October, 1927, which was a

very special day for Mr. Max Lang and Mrs. Frida Lang from St. Gerold, Vorarlberg, Austria. Their joy was boundless as their family was blessed with twin children- Edith Lang and Peter Lang. As a child she inherited traits of hard work, diligence and organizational skills from her father; loving and caring nature from her mother. Already as a little girl, she was full of enthusiasm and love for the poor and needy.

### **Reminiscences of fellow sisters**

**Sr. Mary James Monteiro** has many memorable experiences of Sr. Edith Lang with whom she has lived many years and who has shared some of her childhood experiences with her. When Sr. Edith finished her technical education, she asked her mother. "Who earns more, a tailor or a sister in the convent?" Her mother replied; "Naturally a tailor earns more money, but a sister earns more for the mission, and earns more souls for heaven". Then and there she decided to join a convent to save souls for the Kingdom of God.

In July 1947, Sr. Edith Lang joined the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross at Tirol,

Austria. She pronounced her first vows on 23 March, 1952. From the first day of her life in the convent, she proved to be a vessel totally filled with the love of God and for humanity. On 13 April 1960, she said goodbye to her homeland and came to India. Though quite new to the place, people, customs, traditions, environment and language, she courageously set herself fully to share her compassionate love with the poor and needy women of St. Rita's Knitting School Bettiah, West Champaran District, Bihar. From 1960 to 1972 she gave herself totally to the welfare of these women, who were mostly widows. One of her special concerns was to bring up the children of poor families.

From 1984 to 1995 Sr. Edith responded to the need of the time and took responsibility of "OZANAM HOME" a home for the abandoned old people in Delhi. Without any discrimination, she cared for them day and night and prepared them lovingly to meet the Lord, peacefully keeping watch over them and praying with them. In 1996 she took up the responsibility to look after the orphan babies and children in the

Holy Cross Social Service Centre, Delhi. One day she said, "When I was young, I looked after the old people, and now in my old age I am privileged to look after the little ones." She was very active and alert to the needs of the little ones. For her every child was a precious gift from God. She established a heart to heart contact with each of them and nothing would deter her from this loving task. She never counted the cost of her time and energy. The children and the community members lovingly called her "NANI" Hindi word for Grandmother.

**Sr. Pauline Kerketta**, who was her assistant in Ozanam Home, Delhi says: "Sr. Edith was so enthusiastic and quick to fulfill every need of the inmates that I also learnt to be quick and contribute more. We regularly prayed with the inmates and thus prayer life was instilled in them. The home was always full of inmates. There was never a dearth of work, but she eagerly prepared for the Holy Mass in the Rosary Church every day without fail".

**Sr. Pushpita Chathamalil**, the Provincial Superior of India North-

East Province shares her experience of living with Sr. Edith for a short time; the secrets of Sr. Edith Lang's success as a religious was her beaming and infectious smile, childlike simplicity, optimism, systematic work, implicit trust in the Divine intervention, warm appreciation for her co-workers, and a harmonious relationship with superiors and community members. Her down to earth approach to the needs of the people who visited her in Children's Home and Ozanam Home, Delhi inspired the people as well as the community members. Even when life was not so pleasant in the community, she remained calm, cool, and serene with a smile. She did not keep grudge against those who hurt her. She placed her trust in God's Grace rather than in human capacity.

**Sr. Teresa Dorjee**, a Councillor from India East Province, Siliguri had an opportunity to live with Sr. Edith Lang in Delhi and shares her admiration.

Sr. Edith was a zealous and fervent religious I have ever lived with. Her simplicity and

unmatched dedication for a cause is indeed deeply admirable. I was in the community at Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi, as a graduate student. Amid her busy schedule, she used to wait for my return from college and saw that I got something to eat. She loved young sisters; we used to crack jokes and laugh and had a lot of fun together. Her presence was energizing and inspiring. It was she who vacated her room for visitors as we did not have enough rooms in Delhi. When the Police in Delhi find abandoned children, they used to call us to fetch them to our Orphanage. I had gone a few times to bring children from Police stations. She was always there to receive the child with warmth and love. The dirt and smell did not prevent her from holding the child close to her heart. Her affection and kindness attracted the children towards her than anyone else in the house. The visitors used to consider her as someone very special and asked for her if they did not see her around. One always found her either with the children or mending and arranging children's clothes. She remains a model and an inspiration to all of us.



Mita meets her adoptive mother

**Sr. Lucy Jose Kakkarakunnel** was Superior of Children's Home. She shares her beautiful reminiscences in few words. Sr. Edith radiated God's love and did everything with great passion. She took care of the poor and needy irrespective of caste, creed, age and gender. She respected every human being and saw God in them.

Our beloved Sr. Edith Lang we miss you,  
You left a void in our hearts,  
Your Jokes and laughter resonate in us,  
You, unique precious Jewel,  
Intercede for us from the heavenly abode.

**Sr. Albina Kisku**, from Tripolia Community writes: I gratefully recall the three meaningful years I have lived with her as a young sister. It is natural that we look up to elder ones as our role models. Sr. Edith Lang was my role model, whose life and mission had impressed me to the core. I was touched by her very act of charity expressed in and out of the community. Even her dealings with a stranger used to be as that of a known person. She treated them with much love, affection, care and consideration. No one was unnoticed in her presence. Whenever parents of adopted children from Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Austria visited Children's Home Delhi,



Sr. Edith Children's Home, Delhi

they used to feel highly honored and at home as she spoke to them in their own mother tongue. Once I overheard our superior telling to another sister in the community, "I cannot imagine this house without Sr. Edith." That really meant a lot to me. Her heart was open to all types of people and children.

From time to time, her dear ones used to send some help for our children's home. Whenever she was asked to take a share for herself, she would flatly refuse saying: "It is meant for our children. They are the most deserving ones and I cannot deprive them." She enjoyed living her vow of poverty to the full. She possessed just the minimum. One

of her hobbies was to mend the torn clothes, be it her own or of the children. No doubt she had a true sense of Franciscan poverty. It can well be said of her "a living saint of our time".

### **Benefactors' memories**

**Mr. Norbert Scheiwe** is our benefactor from Germany who has also adopted a child from Delhi Children's Home. He is a regular visitor to Indian provinces and helps financially many of our projects. He wrote: "We all are very grateful to have known this wonderful woman, a Holy Cross Sister in India, a very loving person full of respect for people and humanity and is an example for us to follow in life. She will never be forgotten."

**Prof. Dr. Arno Steudter** is also a benefactor of Children's Home Delhi and helps many poor and marginalized to get back their dignity. He has also adopted a child from Delhi Children's Home. He wrote: "All of us in Germany, who have adopted children from Delhi, are very sad, that Sister Edith died on 26.08.2020. For us parents and our adopted children from Holy Cross Social Service Centre in Delhi, Sister Edith was a warm, hearty, and wonderful Sister, who was so immensely concerned about our little children. I can still remember very well the moment, my wife Claudia and I,

had our first meeting with Sister Edith. It was 08 December, 2001, when we went to HCSSC Delhi to meet our daughter Mita. Here I send you a photo, which is very special and important for our Family! Because it was the first meeting in the living room of the

old HCSSC House with Sister Edith, Sister Lucy Joseph and, Mita. It was the beginning of a wonderful time with Mita in our Family. So, we are very grateful, and Sister Edith is always in our thoughts and we will pray for her”.

## Life Giving Years

### Sr. Liliane Juchli†

Sr. Edelina Uhr, Elisabethenheim Bleichenberg, Province Switzerland

Sr. Liliane Juchli, decades' long service, as the nurse in the healing ministry of the church has strengthened the faith of the community. The work of the sisters in the Nursing Home has received accolades in professional circles both within the country, and beyond the borders. She passed away in the Nursing Home on November 30, 2020. Sr. Edelina, Provincial Superior and Directress of Nursing Home, highlights for us another dimension of the life of Sr. Liliane Juchli.

### Growing old in community

In 1995, our Province took serious note of the aging of our fellow sisters. In this process, various options available for the elderly were also taken into consideration. Subsequently, Sr. Liliane, together with Sr. Wiborada Elsener, delved deeper into this topic. She developed various models that were unique for the religious environment.

On the one hand, it required specially trained sisters who would accompany, care for, and nurse the elderly sisters; the effort was to find meaning, and shaping one's life in old age. I experienced how Sr. Liliane, in this context of professional care, always started by looking at oneself, as she developed each module:

*My life and faith journey - life processes and transitions*



Sr. Liliane Juchli 1933 – 2020

*Paths to wholeness of life - Care for life*

*Parting with life - Care is more than...*

*Setting out on the path*

Sr. Liliane knew how to "make use of" her knowledge, to make it understandable and comprehensible for the course participants. But, as was her nature, she also challenged. This opened up abilities in many of the sisters that would otherwise have



remained hidden. *This was one of Sister Liliane's strengths throughout her life as a nurse, instructor of nursing, administrator, and tutor: challenge and encourage!*

Initially, the course was only for our own sisters, soon many requests came from other convents at home and abroad; on the one hand because all convents were concerned with the aging of the sisters, and on the other hand because of the great approval the courses had received. Thus the courses were soon shared between congregations, which were a great enrichment for all.

On the other hand, there were two courses: "Opportunities as from 60 and Opportunities as from 70", which supported and enriched the aging of the individual sister. I have personally attended the course "Opportunities as from 60". Having time to deal with the following topics was enriching:

*1<sup>st</sup> module - And suddenly I am old - my life and faith journey*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> module - Transitions and paths of maturity - salvation history and*

*path of vocation*

*3<sup>rd</sup> module - Health as a gift and a responsibility - nurture life, including yours*

*4<sup>th</sup> module - Borderline situations of life - ways to the wholeness of life*

*5<sup>th</sup> module - Woman's turning points - my own womanhood and religious life*

*6<sup>th</sup> module - Mid-life - life between tension and reconciliation*

*7<sup>th</sup> module - Old age as an opportunity - vision and hope*

The overview alone shows the richness of this course and the concern for wholeness.

She gave her all until the end and believed in its realization, namely: *to create space for human, religious, cultural and creative-formative education, which includes the holistic and the contemporary, adaptability to the needs of the time, but not neglecting self-care.*

To you, dear Sister Liliane, a sincere thanks from me and from all of us, and a deep appreciation beyond death!

Sr. Edelina Uhr

## Memories of Perm

### Sr. Filipa Macháčková, now Kroměříž, Province Czech Republic

The mission in Perm began in 2002. The then parish priest had asked for the support of our sisters for pastoral and social work in the Perm parish. The three sisters, Sr. Katarína Jureková (SK), Sr. Petra Křištofiková (SK) and Sr. Filipa Macháčková (CZ) have worked fruitfully in the parish for the past 18 years and helped to build up the community life in the parish. They have lived with the people, shared a lot, and tried to make visible something of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have now completed their mission in November 2020 on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. From their rich treasure of memories, Sr. Filipa recalls some of the painful and joyful ones, and shares them with us.

#### Every beginning is difficult

*"So God leads us to different places to work for His glory and for the good of the people." Father Theodosius Florentini*

The city of Perm in Russia is one of the places where God led us. Responding to a request from the parish, we have helped out with parish catechesis since 2002, striving in the spirit of our charism to journey with the people in this spatially vast land. Our few lines are something like reminiscences, our memories after a little more than 18 years of "work". But it is much more a memory of how the Lord has led us.

Perm welcomed us with a lot of snow and frost, just as most of us

imagine Russia to be. Our first "convent" was a 4-room apartment with a tiny kitchen in a block house, about half an hour bus ride from the church, in a small settlement of 5-story buildings, not far from the centre of a city of millions. Here we got to know the people, their culture and mentality. The parish community met us with great openness. Our main task was to learn to understand the people who were different from us and to seek ways to connect with them. This is done first of all through language. That is why we attended the language classes conducted by Irina Nikolajevna, a lecturer of Philology, and who belonged to our parish. They tried to introduce us also to Russian culture - to the high culture of literature, music,

ballet, theatre, because the exterior of the city was the opposite of that. People seemed to us gloomy and closed, they did not greet each other. There were often arguments in the streetcar. Only later we perceived that the rough shell hides a good and soft heart. Nevertheless, the early days were very difficult. What we had heard earlier about Russia, about spiritual hunger, about people searching for the meaning of life in the Church, was not confirmed. We came at the time when the first wave of spiritual search after perestroika was already over.

### **In search of works**

Around this time, the first Catholic dioceses in the history of Russia were opened, which led to stormy reactions in the society. The priest on whose invitation we had come, decided to return to Poland after half a year. He was exhausted. He left behind a work well done, good relations with other denominations and religious communities. That is why we never felt the interdenominational tension very strongly and therefore had no problems with our documents, for example. However the first stage

was not easy. The most difficult thing was to find an activity, a work. It was not enough just to be "with the people", the "being" had to get a form, had to find a shape in the work for the welfare of the people. In this field we tried many ways to be close to the people.

One of our first and very difficult experiences was the collaboration with the American organization "Bridge of Love", which aimed to help the street children. In 1990, due to the disintegration of the state system, many children dropped out of school and family. They began to live on the streets. Crime and drug trafficking, etc. increased. For a few years we helped out with this organization, tried to communicate with the children, motivate them to visit people in hospitals and prisons. Slowly the situation in the country calmed down and the need for this activity decreased. At that time there was a request from a school Principal to help out in teaching a class of Gypsy children. We helped the teacher mainly in practical lessons. It was a great experience of working together with the teacher, the Principal, and we established friendly relations that have remained beyond this activity. After four years, the Gypsies moved to another city, the school was

closed, and so we also ended our activity here.

We found a similar task in children's home, where we devoted ourselves to the children in their free time. We carried out this task for 15 years.

### **Care for the elderly**

One of the most important needs that we saw as a priority was the care of the elderly and sick in their homes. This concern accompanied us during the whole time. I do not know how to speak about all the beautiful encounters we have had with the elderly people we cared for and nursed. Many of them have already gone to heaven. Some of these people were not members of our parish,

or Catholics. This task helped us to be close to people and to overcome the barriers of prejudice and fear of Catholics.

I will give just one example of an elderly woman whom we took care of for almost 15 years with the help of her biological sister. Once a week, we visited her, did the shopping for her, cooked, cleaned up, and helped with hygiene. Mrs. Irina often narrated with laughter, what kind of ideas she had about Catholics before she met us. When she learned that she would be cared for by Catholic nuns, she became frightened. She imagined older, strict, dull women - and the opposite was true. She often asked us to stay longer so she could just look at us.



Sr. Filipa, Sr. Katarina and Sr. Petra among parishioners

## **Parish catechesis**

When it comes to parish catechesis, the beginning was very painful and almost traumatic. Almost no one came for catechism, except for a pair of twins who were also at Sunday Mass. I often remember the present Bishop Nikolay, who said at that time, "Missionaries come to Russia to sow", but it turns out that it was not even the time to sow, but only the time to prepare the ground. I can say that after almost 20 years, it is really so. The plant of faith is still very tender, and one must care for it with special attention.

We did not expect fruits, and yet before we left the parish, children were born in many young families. We were able to experience joy in our catechetical work, joy of new life in the parish. Our parish has become a young parish, and this fills us with great hope that our work will remain alive and continue. In the last ten years, there were several children in the parish for whom we were able to organize summer camps. These have remained alive in people's memories. The good cooperation

with our parish priest, Fr. Dimitrij, contributed to this as well.

One more activity helped us to get deeper into the society – the tours to the church. Our church was a historic building, and there were not many such in Perm. Most of the tourists were pupils and students who visited the synagogue, the mosque, the Protestant church and our church. It was very beautiful to learn that they preferred to go where the people spoke with an unusual accent - and that was with us.

A year after our arrival, we moved into a 9-story house close to the church. Living among so many people was for us of course an experience of casual proximity to people in their everyday life. It took a long time for them to get used to us, but finally we became a part of their lives. Without suspecting it, we shared their home with them, so to speak.

## **Slow farewell**

In 2019, the decision was made to end the work in Perm. A year of handing over our activity in the parish was ahead of us. The news in the parish caused great sadness. The parishioners

named the period of our activity "honeymoon", and this helped everyone to accept the reality positively. The spread of the Covid 19 infection also affected the process of saying goodbye. For almost half a year it was difficult to get together at all. But we were still able to experience joy, that after two years of preparation, four of our girls made their First Communion. It was a wonderful celebration.



Sr. Filipa and Sr. Petra

In view of the severe pandemic situation, the flight connection with Europe was very uncertain. Our flights were rescheduled several times, and so the farewell from the parish was also very simple and unassuming. However, emotions ran high - especially with the children in their spontaneity and friendliness.

### **Gratitude**

Now we would like to express our gratitude to the sisters who accompanied us with their prayers during this long stay in Perm. We would also like to thank all those who provided us with knitted things. We believe that these signs were a testimony to the people, a testimony about the solidarity across all ages and nationalities. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and ask for your prayers for our new beginning.

The sisters from Perm

## Everyone under the Sun is My Brother and Sister

### Sr. Veera Bara Namugongo, Kampala, Uganda

The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Rome, on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, launched an intercongregational and international project to accompany migrants in Sicily. Our Congregation has been involved in this project from the very beginning. Veera Bara from Uganda Vicariate was among the first ten sisters from eight different congregations who had joined this project. Sr. Veera was very committed to helping the migrants from both African and Asian countries. She took the motto of the UISG project to heart: “Be a bridge builder between the migrants and the Italian population. After five years of service in this project, she leaves for Uganda to take on her new role in the vicariate leadership. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Corona pandemic, Sr. Veera was unable to return to Uganda in the summer as was planned. She finished her work on September 12, travelled first to India on November 20, and has now returned to Uganda. From there she reports about her experiences.

The saying of our founder Father Theodosius Florentini, “Everyone under the sun is my brother and sister”, once again became alive in me, as I lived in Sicilia (Sicily) in the southern part of Italy for the last five years (2015-2020). As I look back to these past five years, joy and gratitude wells up in my heart for various reasons.

Our mission for the refugees in Sicilia was a request from Pope Francis to the **UISG –Union of International Superior Generals**, in 2015. We, 10 Nuns of different congregations with different charisms and spiritualities were selected to form communities, to sustain hope, to accompany, to be a sign of unity, to build bridges and to sow the seed of reconciliation and peace among Sicilians.

Realizing that religious freedom is a sign of peaceful co-existence we proclaimed that we are children of God by praying with Christian and Muslim refugees time and again either in their families or in church premises. The respect we showed for the sacredness of life and for the dignity and freedom of others broke certain walls of discrimination and violence. We shared the spiritual and moral values in the spirit of evangelization and God surprised us with some migrants who asked for baptism.

I am very grateful to the Lord for my religious vocation in the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, which enabled me to live our Charism and motto of the congregation more concretely in an unknown

country among the unknown people, culture and the religion. 90% of the refugees and migrants among whom I lived and worked were Muslims. The unknown fear I had accumulated towards them started disappearing as I was reinforced by the words of our founder "Everyone under the Sun is my brother and sister" and believed that all created human beings are children of One God. This invited me to give due respect and dignity to people of different color, creed, ethnic groups, and socio economic or educational status. Naturally, they and me felt at home with one another.

The four pillars of our mission given by Pope Francis before starting the mission were – "welcoming, integrating, promoting and protecting", not very different from our Charism where we give option for the poor, also not very far from our motto which says "The need of the time is the will of God". Approaching, speaking, listening, looking at, understanding and coming to know the situation of each other helped me to find a common ground of global family under the same Sun and only Sun.

One of our main objectives of the mission was to build bridges

between citizens and foreigners, between rich and the poor, between doctors and the sick, between authorities and subjects, between ethnic groups and religions. This was possible with the help of local church leaders and authorities of different associations and the bond of bridges became stronger and stronger with solid stones, cements, and sand of love and cooperation. I would gratefully remember Rt. Rev. Bishop Mario Russotto of Caltanissetta, the diocesan director of Caritas, the directress of diocesan office of migrants, advocates, social authorities of the city, directors of socio cultural, different school managements committees, and many Catholic associations who opened the door of collaboration to make the bridge firm and lasting.



Sr. Veera on the left





Sr. Veera with her fosterlings

The nature of our small religious community was international and inter-congregational with diversity of Charism and spirituality which has nurtured me daily in my relationship with God and gives testimony to the society in which we lived and moved. Though there was a deep longing for someone of my own, but daily community prayers, weekly community sharing, time to time recollection, common meals, daily Eucharistic celebration and common formation program has kept sustaining us in our common mission. Contemplating, living and celebrating the paschal mystery were the basic programs of our community life. The parishioners commented “Each one of you is so unique, yet you live peacefully”.

Finally, I concluded the mission in Sicilia on behalf of the congregation in August 2020. From then onwards while waiting for the reopening of the international airport in Uganda due to Covid19, I decided to apply for the renewal of my passport which was due to expire in November 2020. The Indian Embassy in Rome forwarded my application to Police Station at Ambikapur, in Chhattisgarh, India, for the verification because that was my permanent address in India. Since I did not have Indian “Adhaar Card” (identity card) and voters card to give as proof of my Indian passport – there, I was

declared that “I have nothing to prove that I am an Indian“. With this declaration, Indian Embassy in Rome refused to process my renewal of the passport and I remained refugee in my own country. With this pain, I was privileged to share this fate of being a refugee with thousands of people whom I met in Sicilia. Sr. Anugrah Minj, who works in Vatican Radio from Indian Central Province, stays with the sisters of St. Joseph of Cuneo, so I was also accommodated in their community for three months, for this I am ever indebted to these sisters.

I am so grateful to Sr. Marija, Superior General and Councillors, who entrusted me with this challenging mission on an international level. For the countless prayers and blessings received from you dear sisters from different parts of the world I say, “Thank you, Thank you“. My sincere thanks to Sr. Genevieve and vicariate Uganda for allowing me to be part of this mission. Thanks to the new families in Sicilia, both Christians and non-Christians who have contributed a lot to my life by taking care of me.

“There is nothing more attractive than a person who embraces the entire humanity“, according to Erich Fromm.

# **I Left My Ship on the Beach, and with You Found a New Sea**

## **According to a Brazilian song by P. Zezinho**

Sr. Eva Christa Bannwart, Ingenbohl

In the summer 2020, Sr. Eva Christa returned home to the Motherhouse. For 43 years she worked as an enthusiastic "missionary" in the Vicariate Brazil. From her rich treasure of experiences and memories, she brings out some significant moments and shares them with us.

### **First encounter**

On June 12, 1977, my first Sunday in Salvador BA, Sr. Martha Frei took me to the service at the Benedictine Church. On the way, she met an acquaintance and the two began a conversation. My first Portuguese words were not enough to understand. I watched the traffic and the people. Then a boy came with a sack full of empty plastic bottles and cans and held out his open hand to me for alms. "Ondemoras?" - "Where do you live?" were my few familiar words. "Na rua", – "On the street", was the reply.

We entered the large church. The Sunday Gospel from Luke was proclaimed: "The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". **I felt stirred from within: the Gospel**

**is not only printed in the Bible, it is imprinted in people's faces.**

### **Speech and action**

From "Cristo é Vida" (Christ is Life, name of a neighborhood slum, in Salvador BA):O., a young boy, who used to attend baptismal preparation classes with me along with six colleagues, was sent to jail for looting a public bus on the beach. His mother was thrown out on the street when she was pregnant at 14. His stepfather, a laborer in construction work, did everything he could to feed him and the six boys.

**I realized that my speech concerning the works of mercy must be followed by action.** So I contacted the social assistant of the prison and visited O., who was brought to the consulting room

wearing handcuffs. The following Sunday I visited him with the mother. This time it was not in the consulting room. After a long wait, we were searched thoroughly to see if we were carrying anything illegal. All the visitors, there were many of them, met their relatives in the inner prison yard. The prisoners had set up cells there with their bed sheets. A boy offered us coffee. He boiled the water on a cooking stove improvised with two bricks. We were fellow prisoners on the hot cobblestone floor from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Every exit was sealed off.

Later I negotiated with a lawyer. After months, the mother had the idea to talk to the judge, who had his office in the neighborhood. Unannounced, it was 5:30 p.m., we pressed the bell and were welcomed. I firmly clutched Mother M. Theresa's medal. The indictments were fetched and after a long conversation the judge, pointing to the cross on the wall, said, "For his sake, I release No. 915, but his friends have the same number too, so I have to release them also. Do you want to go and get them in the police car or wait for them here?" We went along

and waited only a short time to receive them.

O. unfortunately did not give up his cannabis addiction. Even a stint in a rehab clinic did not help.

Along a wide sewer there were brick houses in "Cristo é Vida". Its side walls served as a path. The dirty water and the rats caused diseases. Dona Edna, the "mother" of this community, a social worker from the neighborhood, an educator from Italy who spent her retirement in Salvador, and I, planned together and organized a project: Italy paid for the materials, the municipality provided an engineer, truck and excavator for the cleanup, the men of the community helped with the cleaning and poured the concrete slabs and beams. The women tended the children and offered coffee to the workers.

At the beginning of December, the channel was covered. Advent: **Prepare the way of the Lord.** The women made paper roses that they brought to the procession. The service of the word this Sunday was held on the new path that was created together. **The path became a place of encounter,** children

played with their glass balls, men played dominoes and chessboard.

## Good Friday

It was Good Friday in Salvador. Sr. Maris Stella, Sandra, a student, and I were already back from the Good Friday celebration in the Cathedral. At the entrance portal, the bell rang. It would be Sr. Zita. As I entered the courtyard to open the gate, I was met by two tall boys, who pressed me against the wall of the house, with a drawn fishing knife at my neck. "This can't be true," I shouted. While Sr. Maris Stella, who had heard the call, wondered who would come to visit at this dark evening hour, thoughts flashed through my mind: What if the sisters come home and find me on the ground under the mango tree? **Dying, on a Good Friday?** At the top of my voice, I began to shout, "Jesus, Jesus. A light came on from the terrace of the seminary next door. The rector shouted, "What's going on?" and the boys ran away. I went to the chapel with Sr. Maris Stella and Sandra ... I only lost my wristwatch.

**From confirmation to confirmation**



Confirmands with Sr. Eva Christa, far left

May 16, 1953 was my confirmation day. Bishop Francis from Streng in his homily said that even today Christ needs apostles to proclaim Him where He is not yet known. **His gaze struck me.**

After my first profession I came to Bremgarten. On the first Sunday there was a confirmation at home. Four years later the same thing happened in Rechthalten. I experienced the same when I arrived in Brazil, in Tinguá RJ, and in my later community, in CIA – Simões Filho BA.

In my last three years in São Caetano PE, I was privileged to prepare a group of adults for confirmation every year, and in the last two years I also prepared adult catechumens. After Confirmation on December 9,

2018, three newly confirmed couples asked to be part of the preparation for the next group. This was how the group of Emmaus disciples was formed, who were present every Sunday afternoon, and so matured into the group of adult catechists.

### **Homeward bound overcoming health problems**

In the early morning of August 7, 2020, St. Cajetan's Day, I left São Caetano PE. While waiting at the Recife airport, I read messages of greetings and blessings on WhatsApp. As I did so, tears rolled down my cheeks, triggering a conversation with my neighbor in a wheelchair. Her words surprised me: "A chapter of your life is closing. You are beginning a new phase". And the woman, a doctor, shared her experience. An accident at age 35, gave her life a turning point. Almost blind and half paralyzed, she had to give a new direction to her beloved profession. Her doctor's kit goes with her on every trip: "Could happen that someone needs help in flight". The name of this companion is Ana Catarina. We separated in São Paulo.

In the evening at half past five I boarded the plane. A sudden strong pain prevented me from sitting still for a moment. The doctor who was called advised me not to fly. I was given medicine at the doctor's station. The next flight was two days later. I recovered from the renal colic in the hotel. On Sunday afternoon I handed over my suitcases, again received the exit stamp at the immigration checkpoint and went to the waiting room. As soon as I sat down in one of the chairs, the excruciating pain attacked me again. I got relief once again at the doctor's station. Until the next flight in two days, where to go? I remembered Valquíria in São Caetano, who had given me the phone number of a cousin who lived near the airport. Within a short time Ana Maria and her husband Vanderlei, a cab driver came to me. It was around midnight. It became difficult to get the luggage back and to get the passport in order.

**The hospitality of this unknown family, and all this in Corona time, touched me deeply.** In the meantime, the two boys had prepared their room for me. The next morning, the couple accompanied me to the district

hospital and stayed with me until a precaution, for the flight next the doctor discharged me in the evening. On August 12, 2020, I afternoon after various examinations and medications as landed on time in Kloten.

## **The Canticle of the Sun of St. Francis**

**Image and text created by Sr. M. Raphaela Bürgi, Ingenbohl**

The Canticle of the Sun was one of the favorite themes for Sr. M. Raphaela. She takes us into the song for the Creator of life using different techniques and in ever new forms of expression. Now she sees Him face to face after her death on January 7, 2021 in Ingenbohl.

### **Prologue**

Most High, most powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing  
and all thanksgiving are offered to you;  
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,  
And no man is worthy to mention Your name.

God said,  
"Let there be light - and there was light."

Praise him all his angels –  
you born of the original light.  
Praise him all his multitudes -  
for no man is worthy,  
Lord, to take your name.

You, the incomprehensible  
Almighty God -  
I, a small creature.  
But in Your infinite love  
You have called me,  
Me, Your creature that I too may serve You in humility  
and may participate in Your light.



### **Sister Sun**

Praised be You Lord, through all creatures, that You created,  
the noble lady above all, Sister Sun,  
who bring  
us the day and light with her rays,  
giving beauty,  
radiant in mighty splendor:  
Of you, Most High, she bears the likeness.



A fiery ball rises on the horizon.  
Red glow gushes over sky and earth.  
The sun, the most beautiful image of the Godhead!

Deeply touched, Francis experiences the great Lady and Sister Sun  
(below left).

### **Brother Moon and the Stars**

Praised be You, Lord, through Brother Moon and the Stars.  
Through you they twinkle in the vault of heaven  
And shine delightfully and beautifully.



The moon, a silent companion, the gentle light in the night.  
It brings up the tides and serves as a sign forever. Sir 43:6

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven.  
A glittering array in the heights of the Lord. Sir 43:9

And my soul stretched out its wings wide,  
flew through the silent lands as if flying home.

## **Brother Wind, Air, Clouds and Weather**

Praised be you, Lord,  
through Brother Wind  
through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather through which  
You give sustenance to Your creatures.



You make the winds your messengers -  
you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind. Ps 104:3-4

### **Sister Spring**

Praised be you, Lord,  
through Sister Spring:  
How striking her humility,  
how precious and chaste!



Spring, precious water - stored in the depths of the earth -  
gushes forth in freedom.

Spring, sparkling water, over which the sun -  
God's sign of peace, the rainbow - shines.

### **Brother Fire**

Praised be You, Lord,  
through Brother Fire,  
Through whom You light the night.  
He is beautiful and friendly at the pleasant hearth,  
strong as blazing fire.



Fire, concentrated force, spewed from the bowels of the earth -  
bringing death and solidification wherever it flows.

But infinitely more -

Holy fire - burning bush.

Holy fire - God's Spirit - transformed into light.

Holy fire - flames of the Spirit over those who pray.

### **Sister, Mother Earth**

Praised be You, Lord,  
through our sister, Mother Earth,  
who bears us kindly and firmly  
and provides us with abundant fruits  
and colorful flowers and fields.



God saw all that He had made: The mountains, the hills, the springs, the streams and the seas, the plants, the flowering fields, the fruit-bearing trees, the animals, the human beings - and it was very good!  
Gen 1:31

Hear me, you swelling valleys, you rolling meadows, you singing forests. It has come over me, as the bud blossoms on the shrub. I bloom in the red thorn of his love, in the purple of his bounties. I bloom from the Holy Spirit of the Lord! From: *Pentecost, Gertrud from Le Fort*

### **Forgiveness and Forbearance**

Praised be You, Lord, through those,  
who forgive for the sake of Your love  
and patiently bear hardship and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who overcome in peace:  
You, Most High, will reward them.



I see you, Lord Jesus silent  
as the world pronounces judgment upon You.(Lent hymn)

Blessed are those who forgive one another, Lord, out of love of you,  
you will one day give them the crown of life and let them see your  
countenance.

Blessed are you!

### **Brother Death**

Praised be you, Lord through our Brother, Bodily Death;  
from whom no living soul can flee.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin!

Blessed are those who are found living by your holy will!  
To them the second death can bring no ill.



Do not weep - no, give thanks, bless. The greening hope comforts.

Francis on the bare earth -the seed embedded in the earth,  
promises unexpected fruit!

The angel stands ready.

Francis poor on earth, is carried home into the love of God.



Praise and glorify the Lord!  
Give thanks and serve Him  
in great humility!



**Gratitude to Sr. M. Raphaela,  
January 24, 1923 - January 7, 2021**

Already as a drawing teacher in the Theresianum, Ingenbohl, but in particular during her time as an independent artist, Sr. M. Raphaela received numerous requests as a painter, glass painter and textile designer in churches, hospitals, homes and private houses in Switzerland and abroad. Exhibitions made her name and her works famous as well. Many of our rooms in the convent bear her signature through cheerful watercolors, colorful glass panes, inspiring paintings and precious tapestries.

According to Goethe, art is a mediator of the inexpressible. Sr. M. Raphaela's works of secular

and religious content tell of the world of opposites in us and around us. That is why light and dark, delicate and striking, paradise garden and chaos, angel and demon touch each other. Nothing was alien to her. Everything was allowed to have space. Her paintings grew out of, and are filled with the fruits of her meditations. They invite us to enter into conversation with the ineffable. In doing so, we experience hope and confidence.

I say a big thank you to Sister M. Raphaela on behalf of the community for her life and work. Following a word of Hilde Domin, I add: "It blooms after you."

Sr. Christiane Jungo

## "Living Your Life under the Mystery of the Cross" First profession in the convent, Hegne

Sr. Marie-Salome Schwert, Hegne Convent, Province Baden-Württemberg, Germany

At this very juncture, a period marked by difficult and depressing news, it is good to have a ray of hope. One of them was my first profession on December 12, 2020, about which I gladly report and share my joy with you.

I am Sr. Marie-Salome Schwert, born in Villingen and am 30 years old. As a theologian, I am now in the group of applicants of the Archdiocese of Freiburg with the aim of working as a religious in the service of the Church as a pastoral consultant. In the two years of the novitiate, my decision has grown and matured: I want to place myself and my life in the mystery of the Cross and Resurrection, in the community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. On December 12, in the middle of Advent, I was able to celebrate my first profession in Hegne. After hopes and anxieties about the framework of the solemnity, it was possible that a large part of the sisters and the closest family could celebrate the Solemn Mass together in the convent church. It was a celebration of joy and vocation for all.



Sr. Marie-Salome

The vows I have taken are an expression of the way I want to live my discipleship: "Place your life under the mystery of the cross". In the mystery of the cross and the resurrection, let me consciously and constantly place myself and my fellow human beings, with all that is joyful and difficult, under the cross. This way, I may grow in the community and bear fruit in my apostolate.

## Information from the General Leadership

### Appointments

On December 17, 2020, the General Leadership had appointed a new Provincial Leadership for the Province Europa Mitte for the next three years:

Provincial Superior: Sr. Petra Car  
for the 1st term  
of office  
Assistant: Sr. Clara Mair  
Councilors: Sr. Maria  
Dolores Scherrer  
Sr. Verena  
Bergmair  
Sr. Verena  
Maria  
Oberhauser

Official start: February 15, 2021

We sincerely thank Sr. Magdalena Walcher, the outgoing Provincial Superior for her dedicated, loyal and selfless service for the good of the sisters and the province. We wish her all the best, good health and God's abundant blessing for her future task.

We thank the new and re-appointed sisters of the Provincial Leadership of Europa Mitte

Province for their readiness to accept this demanding mission. We wish them strength, courage and confidence for new task. May God's blessings accompany them!

### Heartfelt Thanks!

Sr. Edelgund Kuhn was a member of the Editorial Team of the Theodosia for 24 years. We were always grateful for her precise minutes. Unfortunately, due to her age, she has now resigned. We sincerely thank Sr. Edelgund for her loyalty and dedication to the work over so many years. May God's blessing accompany her today and all the days to come and fill her with strength for the future life's journey!

### From our statistics

#### Date December 31, 2020

Total number of sisters:	2835
Entrances:	40
Candidates/Postulants:	161
Novices:	35
Sisters with first vows:	30
Junior Sisters:	186
Sisters with final vows:	27
Total no. of deceased sisters:	109

## Entered into Eternal Life

From 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020



Sister	Native place	Born	Prof.	Died
<b>Province Switzerland</b>				
Anna Bernarda Gwerder	Muotathal SZ	1927	1954	05.03.2020
Béatrice Rigolet	La Roche FR	1949	1974	16.12.2020
Catherine Frund	Courchapoix JU	1934	1958	23.12.2020
Celeste Dazzi	Chironico TI	1928	1958	18.12.2020
Charlotte Eder	Hönigsberg AT	1933	1957	06.06.2020
Claudia Bachmann	Amden SG	1924	1950	03.11.2020
Donata Tönz	Vals GR	1932	1958	27.10.2020
Edwitha Dietler	Kleinfützel SO	1931	1956	05.02.2020
Elfried Ackermann	Mels SG	1930	1959	22.10.2020
Eliane Fontannaz	Premplaz VS	1939	1965	10.12.2020
Elisabeth Ducrest	Pont FR	1928	1956	14.12.2020
Elsbeth Maria Schriber	Besenbüren AG	1928	1952	01.04.2020
Francisca Büchel	Rüthi SG	1940	1967	28.06.2020
Hermine Pic	Courfaivre JU	1924	1948	15.12.2020
Irmtrudis Kreienbühl	Pfaffnau LU	1926	1952	25.01.2020

Jean-Baptiste Jaccoud	Fiaugères FR	1927	1953	14.08.2020
Liliane Juchli	Zufikon AG	1933	1959	30.11.2020
Louise-Marie Chèvre	Mettembert JU	1924	1950	29.12.2020
M. Agathe Schaffner	St-Ursanne JU	1929	1958	07.11.2020
M. Alvernia Wäfler	Frutigen BE	1920	1953	13.07.2020
M. Anne Fuchs	Appenzell AI	1934	1962	18.04.2020
M. Bertilla Zanatta	Arcade IT	1927	1956	07.04.2020
M. Charitas Galli	Caneggio TI	1929	1950	07.12.2020
M. Fridolina Horber	Kirchberg SG	1932	1954	25.08.2020
M. Ilda Burtscher	Nenzing AT	1929	1954	26.07.2020
M. Noëlle Chételat	Montsevelier, JU	1935	1963	03.01.2020
M. Véronique Froidevaux	Le Bémont JU	1929	1955	15.12.2020
Marie Ambrose Becker	Wittenbach SG	1937	1963	05.03.2020
Renée-Marie Büchi	Ettenhausen TG	1925	1952	13.12.2020

### Province Croatia

Anita Bučković	Male Mune	1933	1959	09.07.2020
Antonija Kulić	Dugobabe	1939	1968	30.01.2020
Aurelija Miličić	Bošnjaci	1924	1946	17.09.2020
Boženka Čevič	Trbounje	1927	1949	10.05.2020
Božidarka Birtić	Stari Perkovci	1934	1962	02.08.2020
Ferdinanda Kelava	Glamoč BiH	1939	1961	13.08.2020
Helena Šmolc	Pčelić	1937	1958	27.01.2020
Melanija Ivanović	Janjevo, Kosovo	1937	1960	24.07.2020
Mercedes Kopasić	Donji Vidovec	1931	1956	25.11.2020
Mirjam Bulić	Palačkovci BiH	1934	1955	21.12.2020
Noemija Sučić	Tiborjanci	1945	1968	04.12.2020
Radoslava Krekman	Donje Novo Selo	1930	1963	21.08.2020
Regina Čutek	Kršinci	1933	1955	29.12.2020
Suzana Janjić	Vidovice BiH	1936	1958	22.07.2020

### Province Czech Republic

Bonaventura Kubátová	Oudoleň, Böhmen	1933	1961	25.09.2020
Majella Baťlová	Těšice	1931	1961	21.02.2020

### Province Baden-Württemberg

Diemut Amann	Birkingen	1924	1948	26.06.2020
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Diomira Faller	Freiburg	1932	1963	03.12.2020
Luitrudis Häusler	Sauldorf	1936	1962	08.06.2020
M. Ägidia Merkel	Reichental	1928	1954	04.01.2020
M. Clotildis Huhn	Berlin	1927	1953	09.10.2020
M. Gabrielis Hienerwadel	Emmingen ab Egg	1933	1958	03.06.2020
M. Goretti Schätzle	Schönwald	1924	1951	10.12.2020
M. Luciana Fritz	Altschweier	1929	1955	12.12.2020
M. Roswinda Federle	Mauenheim	1940	1963	01.12.2020
Marzella Schnaiter	Steinach	1925	1950	24.06.2020
Ottlinda Leibbach	Radolfzell	1932	1954	07.04.2020
Raphaelis Kerner	Nemetpalkonja, HU	1937	1965	15.03.2020
Roswitha Rieger	Gutenstein	1932	1960	14.05.2020
Vera Schorb	Mösbach	1925	1951	29.12.2020

### **Province Slovakia**

Gertrudis Ivanová	Bardejovská N. V.	1925	1948	09.02.2020
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### **Province Italy**

Annalisa Gualandris	Bergamo	1934	1960	08.12.2020
Antionietta Garavaglia	Ossona	1941	1963	23.04.2020
Arcangela Comploj	S. Vigilio di Marebbe	1924	1949	26.11.2020
Augustina Plankensteiner	Gais-Uttenheim BZ	1932	1959	10.04.2020
Beatrice Galetti	Solaro	1923	1945	24.10.2020
Frieda Messner	Brixen-St. Andrä BZ	1924	1949	30.11.2020
Luisa Steinmayr	Brixen-St. Andrä BZ	1925	1962	17.01.2020
Marilena Costabiei	S. Martino in B.-La Valle	1936	1963	27.06.2020
Rosanna Merra	Andria	1929	1950	24.12.2020
Silvia Lonati	Varese	1943	1967	03.06.2020

### **Province USA**

Rita Pearce	Brokaw, Wisconsin	1931	1952	04.08.2020
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### **India Central Province**

Adeline Valiplackal	Vakkakadu, Kerala.	1941	1966	01.05.2020
Michelle Ekka	Kurund, Jharkhand	1932	1956	09.07.2020

## India North East Province

Edith Lang	St. Gerold AT	1927	1952	26.08.2020
Lima Paravanparampil	Perumpanachy, Kerala	1935	1965	05.11.2020
Smitha James Kunnandath	Tellicherry, Kerala	1952	1980	26.07.2020

## India South Province

Stella Thadathil	Karimannoor, Kerala	1949	1975	09.05.2020
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## Mid India Province

GarimaToppo	Sarabkombo, Chhatt.	1991	2016	07.09.2020
Valsamma Kaniparampil	Kaniparamp, Kerala	1962	1987	03.01.2020

## Province Europa Mitte

Agnes Aschauer	St. Leonhard, Eisenb. NÖ	1935	1975	22.05.2020
Annuntiata Zwanzgleitner	Hafning, Stmk.	1920	1942	19.01.2020
Antonia Gömöri	Gyülevész HU	1923	1948	28.11.2020
Benedikta Gierlinger	Rohrbach OÖ	1929	1960	06.11.2020
Bernarda Leitenbauer	Fischbach, Stmk.	1941	1967	16.02.2020
Dorothea Stoppel	Hafning, Stmk.	1936	1957	10.12.2020
Engelberta Königshofer	Brikfeld, Stmk.	1927	1958	07.02.2020
Engelmara Steinhuber	Aichkirchen OÖ	1939	1968	26.12.2020
Floriana Waldhuber	Assling, T	1932	1957	16.02.2020
Hartwig Peterlunger	Tannheim, T	1933	1968	23.07.2020
Irma Scheucher	Trautmannsdorf Stmk.	1921	1942	14.10.2020
Johanna Franziska Kronsteiner	Grossraming OÖ	1937	1958	20.05.2020
Karla Thaler	Wolfurt Vbg.	1922	1954	16.11.2020
Klara Franziska Schiestl	Gnadenwald T	1944	1971	26.10.2020
Klara Maria Weiss	Kitzbühel, T	1932	1954	16.04.2020
Lätitia Völkl	Vorderbrünst Bay.	1932	1953	01.07.2020
Leonie Friesenecker	Windhaag b.Fr. OÖ	1941	1963	24.07.2020
Maria Anselma Schusser	Kapfenberg, Stmk.	1936	1956	14.09.2020
Maria Elisabeth Nägele	Sulz, Vbg.	1921	1946	14.03.2020
Maria Ulrika Lindner	Kundl T	1937	1961	18.11.2020
Marietta Meisinger	Niederkappel OÖ	1947	1971	07.04.2020
Marietta Szabó	Szeged HU	1922	1958	27.04.2020
Mercedes Kathan	Fraxern, Vbg.	1921	1955	17.08.2020

Patricia Mc Namara	Enniscorthy Irland	1928	1965	27.03.2020
Reginalda Mittermayr	Gallneukirchen OÖ	1935	1962	30.09.2020
Reinelda Reisinger	Haidberg Bay.	1935	1955	23.08.2020
Rotraud Seyer	St. Georgen/Gusen OÖ	1936	1962	16.03.2020
Ruth Fuchs	Kohldorf, Stmk.	1938	1965	01.02.2020
Theodora Präsent	MariahofStmk.	1928	1953	11.11.2020
Ulrika Nagy	Máriaremete HU	1930	1990	22.09.2020



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