



# NACHRICHTEN PRIORAT TUTZING

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## Start of Novitiate on July 11, 2011

Sr. Verena Leinen chose this picture for the start of her novitiate, together with the passage from the Gospel of John which says: „Master, where do you live?“ - „Come and see!“

The image appeals by its great clarity and unambiguity:

Christ shows the way, indicates the direction: „There along.“

And he looks out from where I am coming. He picks me up where I am standing – and invites me to continue and to go with HIM.

The right foot indicates a border - if I go on no possibility of turning back will exist any more – then I leave a phase of my life behind me.

Sr. Verena listened to this Christ as he spoke to her, Christ who wants to show her the way to life. She is willing to be guided and is curious where the habitat of God takes on a concrete shape for her.

During the little celebration the evening before the Feast of St. Benedict, some sisters dramatized a story which deals with the question: What is happiness? What is misfortune?

There is an old man to whom various things happen, and always the people from the village evaluate the happening: What a

misfortune - now your precious horse is gone! What a good luck - now it returns and brings wild horses along! What a misfortune when his only son fractures both legs while breaking in the horses! etc.



At the end of the story, the wise old man says: „You are obsessed by judging, and you paint the world in black or white. Did you not yet understand that we always perceive only fractions of life? Life presents itself to us only in minute details, but you behave as if you could judge the whole of it. I wish I could help you to look farther and deeper than what you can do today. You look at life as through a keyhole and yet you believe that you see all of it. None of us knows how the entire picture looks like. What at this moment seems to be a great misfortune, might prove itself to be a fortune. On the other hand, an apparent misfortune proves to be a good luck on the long run, and vice-versa the same applies.“

To Sr. Verena, we wish that on her way she may experience that our life is neither black nor white, but colourful and multi-layered and surprising and ....., provided we really let HIM show us the way and decidedly walk with Him.

Sr. Elisabeth-Magdalena Zehe

## Pilgrimage on Foot to Andechs on July 11, 2011 – Solemnity of our Holy Father Benedict



Pleasant temperatures and a cloudy sky accompanied the students of the 5th to 8th classes of the Benedictus Realschule Tutzing, the teachers and us, the accompanying adults, on the pilgrimage on foot to Andechs. Before starting, our parish priest, Pfarrer Brummer, gave us the blessing in the yard of the parish church St. Joseph, and then the individual classes lined up with their guardians.



Class 5a started at about 8:00 o'clock, with a cross-bearer ahead; all the others followed in a 5-minute rhythm. The "Holy Mount" (as the hill is called, where the church of Andechs is located) was 14 km distant and we had about 3 hours time to reach our goal.

Some weeks before, Sr. Beate Grupp had prepared the students for the pilgrimage: „Watch your steps and try to be silent to be one with your own self...“, so it was, remembered some of the youthful pilgrims.

For many students, it was the first pilgrimage on foot, and for some others the first long walk at all in the open nature.



The mood was good, the togetherness exemplary, and all of this at a rather brisk speed. After about every hour we made a break of 5-10 minutes.

At these stops and at the main road crossings, there were always volunteers on hand, usually parents, to help with any kind of problems.

As time progressed, the sun rose higher and higher and accompanied us up to the "Holy Mount". This last part of the way, we walked praying; spiritual impulses were read, and at the end we prayed the Our Father.

Somewhat exhausted, yet predominantly joyful to have reached the goal well, we were expected and welcomed at the entrance to the church by the Benedictine Abbot Johannes Eckert.

Together with him and some guests we attended the divine service. We sang beautiful modern Christian hymns, accompanied on the keyboard by Mr. Güttner, the husband of a teacher. Special highlights were the solo-songs by Teresa del Fabbo (9a) and Christine Zalud (10c), two students of the Benedictus Realschule, who enchanted us with their beautiful voices.

In his sermon, Abbot Johannes spoke about going on pilgrimage, about which is holding us Christians up in our everyday life – and who is our centre ... namely, Jesus Christ.

On a waveboard – which is similar to a skateboard – and which stood in the presbytery, Anna, a student, showed us how to find the balance in one's own centre so as not to fall. She reported that at the beginning it is very difficult to find the balance and to hold it; but with the help of a friend, she was able to master it.

Abbot Johannes said: this balance for us is Jesus Christ. He is the one who helps us to come to our inner centre, we can trust Him. He does not abandon us.

The abbot's words, addressed to young people in a way they could understand, were well received. Especially the practical comparison with the waveboard made all of them curious. Through this example and the increasing fatigue, the group became more and more uncontrolled. At this point I would have preferred a good conclusion with a prayer of blessing instead of the common Eucharistic celebration – least not last also on account of the great more or less religious diversities.

With this, a beautiful summer morning with good conversations and joyful togetherness ended. The students were picked up by their parents or returned to Tutzing in the two hired busses, certainly enriched by some good experiences.

Sr. Veronika Sube OSB

## **Meeting of the Age group on July 29/30, 2011**

*Walk before my face and be whole!*

Under this biblical motto, 14 sisters aged 37-52, met for a seminar with Mrs Christine Gräff in Bernried.

For us, it was important to give more space to, and be able to talk about a dimension which in our monastic training and also in our every-day life plays a rather secondary role. It was a matter of our corporeality and sexuality as women – which we do not simply abandon at our profession. We are invited to integrate this God-given reality and force in a helpful and vibrant manner into our life as religious women.

Particularly the terrifying experiences of last year, respectively the cases of abuse in the Church (and naturally also in other areas of society) have made us aware of this. Again and again, statements of opinion have emphasized that we need a climate of openness and confidence in which one can talk about sexuality, about ways of living a celibate life, about dangers and successes. Concealing and pushing it into a dark corner, not wishing to be aware of this life-force can bring much harm and sorrow to and sorrow to individuals and to other persons.

So far some notes to the background of this seminar.

In Mrs. Christine Gräff we had an experienced body-therapist as guide. In her clinical practice in Munich she has also accompanied religious women and has helped them to live reconciled with their own body.

Thus she has suggested exercises to be aware of and get into contact with our body so as to feel more at home in our body. An important statement of hers is: „Contact makes change possible!“ For ex., with walking exercises we were to feel again and again, „how it goes“ with going (walking) in the room, with contact to the floor, and try out different ways, change what we were used to and again feel what this change brings about. And naturally, this sentence can also be applied to: when I am in good contact with myself („habitare secum“), then I can also change something, resp. something is being changed by itself; when I am in contact with my fellow sisters, then something can change in our relationship.

Some examples to the questions at which we looked: In your family, did you speak about sexuality – and if, yes, in which manner was it done? How did father and mother talk about the other? Have you received sex education? How do you define sexuality? What does your personal rule (Holy Rule) say about your dealing with your sexuality?

The body-exercises and pointed questions which we could discuss in groups of three, led to a very open and honest atmosphere which made all participants happy and gave them encouragement. We are grateful for having had this opportunity and are looking forward to further open and courageous encounters with one another – and we hope that we can have this experience: Contact makes change possible!

Sr. Elisabeth-Magdalena Zehe

### **Novitiate Study-Week – September 5-9, 2011**



From September 5 – 9, 2011, Sr. Mechtild Hommel, Sr. Helga-Gabriela Haack, Sr. Marie-Therese Brodmann and Sr. Verena Leinen participated in this year's Novitiate Study-Week of the Bavarian Benedictine Women in the Abbey of St. Walburg in Eichstätt. The group of 7 magistrae and 21 novices and junior sisters was composed of Benedictines from the abbeys of Frauenwörth/Chiemsee, Maria Frieden/Kirschletten and St. Walburg/Eichstätt, from the monasteries Neustift/Vilshofen and St. Benedict/Wien, from the Kommunität Venio/München and us, from Tutzing. There were also three sisters of the Cistercian Abbey of Seligenthal/Landshut.

The theme of the week was: „Growth in Spiritual Life“, and it was conducted by Prof. Dr. Marianne Schlosser of the Insti-

tute for Theology and Spirituality of the University of Vienna. After having looked at the „steps“ of spiritual life in the early Middle Ages, Prof. Schlosser introduced us to the book „Vom äusseren und inneren Menschen“ („Of the Outer and Inner Person“) of the Franciscan David von Augsburg, one of the most popular writings of the Middle Ages for spiritual instruction, and which appeared in 2009 in the EOS-Verlag in German translation. In small groups and in the plenary, by means of copied text examples, we dealt with topics referring to relation to myself, to others and in prayer. The end of the study part of the week consisted of excerpts of letters of Katherine of Siena.

This year, too, as always in such work-weeks, the reunion and exchange with the sisters of the other communities was precious and enjoyable. This opportunity arose always in the evenings and during the visit to the Willibaldsburg on Thursday afternoon. Many participants made use of the fine weather in the afternoons for a walk to the nearby Chapel of Our Lady. Anyway, on this September 8, we celebrated the memorial of the Nativity of Mary!

Sr. Marie-Therese Brodmann

### **Celebration of the 800th Foundation Anniversary of the Cistercian Nuns of Oberschönenfeld**

On August 28 2011, the Cistercian Nuns of the Abbey of Oberschönenfeld – near Augsburg – had invited for the celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of their monastery. Guests from all over the Benedictine religious family had come, partly from distant places. Thus, among others, monks and sisters from Austria, France, Switzerland and all parts of Germany had arrived. The newspaper said that about 25 abbesses and abbots represented their communities at the festivity. From us, Missionary Benedictine Sisters,

Sr. Mechthild Hommel, Sr. Ulla-Mariam Hoffmann and Sr. Benedicta Depuhl participated as invited guests. Aside from religious, there came also guests from politics, society and the circle of friends of the sisters. Thus, for ex., her Royal Highness Princess Therese von Bayern, Bundestag-Vice President Eduard Oswald and the Auxiliary Bishop of Augsburg Grünwald were specially welcomed.



The feast started with a grand Pontifical High Mass. Under a radiant blue sky the sisters of Oberschönenfeld entered the church, followed by all abbots, abbesses and prioresses who had come for the celebration. Main celebrant and preacher was the Very Reverend General Abbot Mauro Giuseppe Lepori OCist. In his sermon he started out from the eight-hundred-year *stabilitas* of the sisters in this place and proceeded to the idea of the “Monastery as Companionship on the Way” (“Kloster als Weggemeinschaft”). His basic theme was “in faith to be together on the way to bring Christ into the world.” The Eucharistic Celebration was accompanied by a choir and orchestra from the neighborhood. They sang the *Missa brevis Solemnis in C* by Fr. Mathias Sandal OCist. He had dedicated this composition to the Sisters of Oberschönenfeld in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



After a brief reception, the official ceremony started in the church.

Abbess M. Gertrud Pesch OCist greeted all invited guests.

Then, Abbot Olivier Quenardel OCSO, from the Monastery of Citeaux, was the first speaker. He called this celebration a continuation of the Eucharistic Thanksgiving for the Cistercian form of life which God has given to the world. In reference to the tradition of the veneration of Mary by the Cistercians he considered this a special task of the monasteries of women.



A further word of salutation was given by the Protestant Abbot Dr. Hans-Christian Drömann of the Cistercian Monastery of Amelungsborn. He started out with the question whether it was generally known that there exists a Protestant Cistercian monastery? His explanation for this was: At the time of the Reformation, the monks did not leave their Order and were also not expelled, but rather continued to live their Cistercian form of life within the Protestant Church. Last year they celebrated the 875<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their monastery. The central theme of his salutation was: Christianity lives from the confession of faith in Jesus Christ. The special task of the mon-

asteries is to confirm one another in this confession of faith. Thereby, the RB is not to be understood as a law, but rather as a promise. Monasteries are places of encounter with the living God.

The last speaker was Abbot-President Barnabas Bögle OSB of Ettal. First he conveyed greetings from Abbot Primate Notker Wolf. Abbot-President Barnabas added: "And with this, I bring to you greetings from all Benedictine men and women of the whole world." The Monastery Oberschönenfeld is known far and wide by its good bread. Thus the Abbot-President referred to this bread and said that in this place, not only bread is given for satiation, but also in its figurative sense for strengthening all who come here. His talk based on the idea that the Church is always in need of renewal. Today, this call for renewal is especially loud. Great renewal movements in the Church have often started out from monastic communities. The basic pillars of such renewal movements are, according to the RB, those attitudes that are always in need of the Church. Chapter 58 of the RB shows a clear orientation to Jesus Christ. To this belong: - listening to Him, Christ - the constant readiness for conversion, - and *stabilitas* as its third element. Christ is our support and nobody else. In the Church, the religious orders have the task to be the leaven, so that the Church be renewed.

After the speeches and musical presentations, all guests – about 180 persons – were invited for the festive noon meal. Two long tables were prepared in the cloister. The hearty and joyful atmosphere brought the guests quickly into conversation and the high vaults echoed the joyful mood.

The next number on the program was the presentation of a book: the chronicle of Oberschönenfeld and the revised version of the book "Das Kloster Oberschönenfeld" (= "The Monastery of Oberschönenfeld") were offered to the public. The introductory greetings to this were spoken by Bundestagvizepräsident Mr. Eduard Oswald. The central idea of this talk was:

Faith is always transmitted, but this can be done only by means of examples.



After coffee and cake, the celebration ended with Pontifical Vespers.

The publication for this jubilee was entitled: "Lebendige Zeit – im oberen schönen Feld" ("Living Time – in the Upper Beautiful Field") – all who celebrated this day with the sisters were able truly to experience this.

Sr. Benedicta Depuhl

### **The Feast of Wessobrunn on August 7, 2011 „Mother of Beautiful Love“.**

Every year on the First Sunday of August, the Parish of Wessobrunn celebrates the Feast of the „Mother of Beautiful Love.“ Or, as the people of Wessobrunn call it: „Das Liebsmutterfest“.

Because of the Jubilee of the Fraternity, 300 years since its foundation, it was to be a especially impressive celebration.

On Saturday, July 30, an exhibit was opened in the parish house „Prälatentrakt“, i.e., the opening ceremony took place in the "Tassilosaal". First Mr. Klaus Gast, District Representative, gave the opening talk, good and rich in content, and then spoke Parish Priest Dr. Meyer about the different fraternities in Wessobrunn and of course, especially about the „Fraternity of the Mother of Beautiful Love“. Mr. Konrad Glözl, founder and presider of the „Vereinigung Wessofontanum“ had pre-

pared an exhibit with loving and laborious work and had collected astonishingly many copies of the image; there were 100 objects, photos and images, to be seen. About 800 visitors have seen these objects in the course of the two weeks' exhibition. According to the visitors' book and through the encounters with guests we know that all were impressed by the images and information and there was all over a positive echo.

On August 7 was the festive High Mass. Main celebrant and preacher was Archabbot Jeremias Schröder OSB of St. Ottilien who is also a member of the Confraternity, besides the three concelebrants, Parish Priest Dr. Mayer, Father Joyce, and Parish Priest Martin Kirchbichler. It was a very solemn service assisted by our Wessobrunn church choir, banner delegations, and many altar servers. Many guests had come from other places, naturally also fraternity members from near and far. It was nice

that also sisters from Tutzing took part in the celebration, besides, of course, also some sisters of our Wessobrunn community. Unfortunately, the weather was not festive. It rained heavily all day long so that the Eucharistic procession in the inner yard of the convent had to be cancelled. The afternoon was a little friendlier so that we planned to have the candle procession to the grotto in the evening. However, this too, was not possible without the support of an umbrella.

The media reported mainly about the feast outside the church activities. On account of the continuous rain, it was not possible this year to have any festivity at the convent farm. Thus the celebration was transferred to the multipurpose hall, and this was overcrowded with 500 visitors. After 1:00 p.m., there was no more food available and additional dishes had to be ordered. The Music Band Gratch, a 42-member delegation from Southern Tyrolia, got enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Sr. Georgia Otto

### Celebration of Profession Jubilees

On September 18, 2011  
9 sisters celebrated in Tutzing  
their profession jubilees

**60 years:**

Sr. Maria Assumpta Krug,  
Sr. Hieronyma Hullermann; Sr.

**50 years:**

Sr. Maria Uhl (Nairobi),  
Sr. Crescentia Spingler  
(Wessobrunn),  
Sr. Sophia Mahler (Rom),  
Sr. Magdalena Neumann  
Sr. Candida Hillebrand  
(Ndanda),  
Sr. Desideria Bohmholt  
(Ndanda),  
Sr. Marita Haarmann (Windhoek).



Note: Sr. Gerharda Kils, HB Tutzing (60 years)  
and Sr. Maria Linus Halene  
celebrated the day before  
and are not on the photo.

**Missions-Benediktinerinnen von Tutzing**  
Bahnhofstr. 3  
D82327 Tutzing  
GERMANY

Editorial Staff: Sr. Ruth Schönenberger OSB  
Translation by: Sr. Johanna Plitzko  
[www.missions-benediktinerinnen.de](http://www.missions-benediktinerinnen.de).