

She often noticed that he got up at night and went into the living room to struggle in prayer on his knees before the cross. Since she loved him and wanted the best for him, she also prayed and struggled silently with him in her room.

Following GOD's Call

Brother Klaus went to his friend, a priest, to seek counsel. This man advised him to talk to his wife, since he could only leave his family if she released him from his marriage vow. With a heavy heart Klaus revealed this to his wife but gave her time for an answer. Dorothea saw her husband suffer from an inner conflict so that he scarcely ate anything. And here the greatness of this woman manifests itself: she loved her husband and wished to see him happy. Although it tore her heart, she gave her yes and released her husband for GOD's call. She made him herself a pilgrim's habit – how many of her tears may have dropped on it? – and let him go to follow GOD's call ...

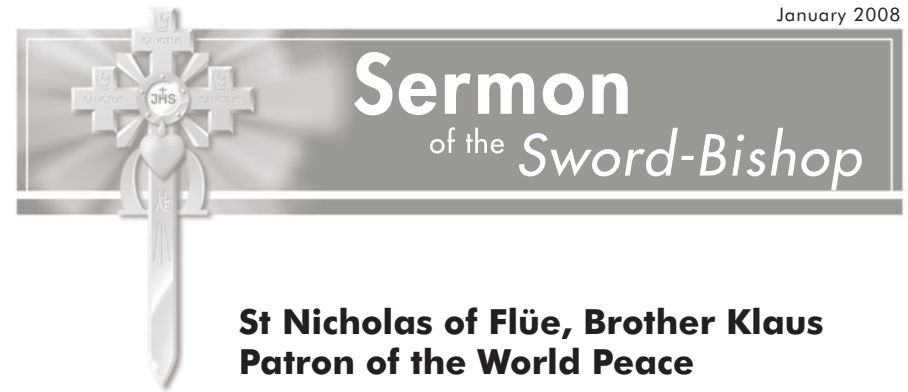
Sermon of 23 September 2007



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,
the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI
sb.



Sermon

of the *Sword-Bishop*

St Nicholas of Flüe, Brother Klaus Patron of the World Peace

Part One

My beloved, as on all Sundays, we will now celebrate the Sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST here on the altar. But today a particular Saint is visiting us and taking part in the celebration: it is Brother Klaus. He was born in Flüeli near Sachseln (Switzerland) in 1417. His day of death was 21 March 1487. Pope Pius XII canonized him on 16 May 1947 and proclaimed him patron of the world peace. In the church calendar his festival is on 25 September, but few of the faithful would have the opportunity to come to his celebration on weekdays. I mean, he should be celebrated on a Sunday. War, misery, dispute and discord being rampant today, this patron of the world peace is of utmost importance.

Brother Klaus – Patron of the Youth

Next year at Whitsun during the youth meeting, we will go on a trip to Brother Klaus in the Ranft where his hermitage is. Brother Klaus is also a patron of the youth. He was a healthy boy, a strong young man. Later he became a father of ten strapping children. It is interesting that the Evil One already pressed him hard as a young man. Once his eldest son saw his father be flung by the Evil One a few meters away into thorns, but he got up again and continued working calmly.

Peace Is in GOD

„Peace is always in GOD!“ That was the often-used greeting by Brother Klaus. How many hours did he spend kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament and experienced this peace. When I am kneeling, like today,

before the Blessed Sacrament, before the Monstrance, looking at the SAVIOUR in the Host, there is at first a mutual sensation in which a love, an ardent desire is kindled in the heart that one would like to love Him so much as only Saints were and are able to. Then again, one feels so miserable that one may want to cry over one's own wretchedness.

Today, however, I have learnt something: it is good and right to recognize one's own wretchedness before GOD's greatness in the Sacred Host, but then one must go on again at once and full of confidence because He works with us. Otherwise one would only nourish one's own self. Just becoming aware of one's wretchedness for a short moment and then thinking of nothing but Him again, looking only at Him. Then a new pain will emerge in the heart: in Heaven the SAVIOUR has His Majesty, His greatness, His glory, but here in the Sacred Host He is so much exposed to unlovingness. Hardly does He receive any feeling, any heart-throb from His beloved, the priests ... This is my boundless pain for the Holy Eucharist. Then I readily take on my lips Brother Klaus's prayer: „My LORD and my GOD, take away from me everything that keeps me from coming to You! My LORD and my GOD, give me everything that furthers and brings me nearer to You! My LORD and my GOD, take me away from myself and give me entirely to You!“

Indeed, I myself say the prayer of Brother Klaus in a slightly altered form: „My LORD and my GOD, take away from me everything that keeps me and through me mankind from coming to You! My LORD and my GOD, give me everything that furthers and brings me and through me mankind nearer to You! O my LORD and my GOD, for this purpose take me away from myself and give me through Mary's hands entirely to You, only for Your delight alone, to the glory and praise of Your holy Name, to our benefit and that of all Your holy Church.“

Take Away from Me Everything

Which of you dares to pray consciously: „Take away from me everything that keeps me from coming to You.“? It might be your dearest child that GOD desires for the ecclesiastical vocation; or somebody dies, to whom you are excessively attached, who hinders you from entirely belonging to GOD. Even in worldly life, in professional life, your heart can entirely belong to GOD. I know that quite a few people are frightened at the thought:

„Take away from me everything ...' – What will GOD take away from me?“ Does not everything belong to Him? Who uneasily prays this prayer does not yet love and know GOD in the fullness of His grace. There is still some fear of GOD. Fear of GOD, however, means: I fear that I may offend Him whom I love! To doubt His will, hurts Him as well.

Give Me Everything

And one startles again: „Will I get a headache now, a stomach-ache or will I go blind?“ What does it matter, those few years here on earth in comparison with eternity in Heaven? Tell Him: „LORD, I am still very attached to this or that but: ‚The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord!‘ (Job 1,21) Even if I do not understand, I do know that You are my FATHER who only wants what is best for me.“ Some people say: „Why do I of all people have to make this sacrifice ...?“ In Heaven they will say: „Oh, what a silly man I was! That was indeed the best thing for me!“

Brother Klaus was ready to do anything. He was far and away the most advanced farmer. In his neighbourhood, he was the first to have a house with glass windows, with bull's-eye windows. He was well-known and acknowledged, and it was not without reason that they wanted him to hold the highest political positions. He withdrew completely from all posts because he could not and would not share in the injustice and corruptibility of the judges and civil servants.

Struggling for the Decision

It was not easy for Brother Klaus to leave his wife and his family. Dorothea was a wonderful wife for him. I invited her today at the feast of her husband. She bore him ten children, five boys and five girls. I know by experience what it is like to have so many children. I was the third child among five boys and five girls, too. Brother Klaus was a very hard-working farmer, he owned a lot of land. When GOD called him, he was struggling and praying hard. He felt drawn to a solitary life, to being able to be in “mystical union” with GOD. However, not for himself but for the sake of mankind. But how was this supposed to happen? The elder children were already taking care of the farm, but the youngest one still lay in the cradle. How should he do it? He was married and could not possibly leave his family alone in order to live as a hermit. He disclosed to his wife only little about his inner struggles.
