

During the Second World War, many Swiss sought refuge in prayer with Brother Klaus. As the Nazis were marching to the border in order to overrun Switzerland, in the sky above the frontier along the Rhine a large hand in a brown habit was seen sinking into the Rhine. This is what my father always told me. Everybody knew that this was Brother Klaus's hand preserving peace in the homeland. At other frontiers, too, Brother Klaus's hand was seen. The enemy force, in which even Bedouins on horseback were seen, retired completely.

Brother Klaus had lived without food for 20 years. So many miracles took place on his intercession. Countless dignitaries of Church and state visited him, and yet Brother Klaus, who died in 1487, had to wait for more than 450 years until he was canonized in 1947.

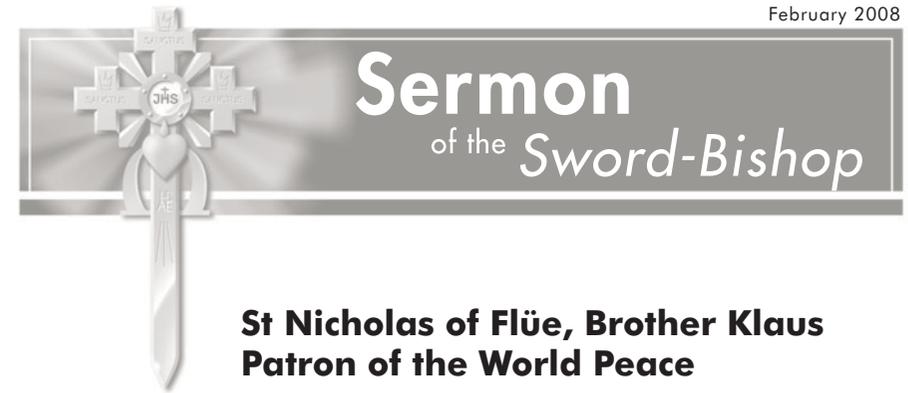
Sermon of 23 September 2007



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 Two

It is not Sacrifice that I Desire, but Mercy

Sometimes I see people who pray a lot and make big sacrifices, because they want to be pious and holy. However, most of the time I have to stand by with pain and watch how all their doings are of little use to their sanctification. For it is written: „And if you knew what this means: ‚I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,‘ you would not have condemned the innocent.“ (Matt. 12,7) Your sacrifices, therefore, be they ever so big before GOD, will hardly earn you any merit if you are not merciful towards your neighbour.

Mercy is GOD's magnificent deed which He showed us, men, by His incarnation. It was out of mercy that He let himself be crucified for us, His little sheep. If you want to sanctify yourself, turn to your neighbour with merciful love. I often try to empathize with the SAVIOUR and imitate Him: to what extent did He endure His neighbour, the Pharisees, the obstinate, slow-witted, wonder-seeking and ungrateful people. To think that one thought of His would have sufficed to annihilate His accusers! When He bestows upon us such great mercy, it is all the more our duty to put up with annoying people. That does not mean that we always have to remain silent. Sometimes, even if it is difficult, an instructive word is necessary, or even a word that removes the "rotten apple" lest the others should also be contaminated. But we should not be condemning judges. „Judge not, that you may not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged;

and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.” (Matt. 7, 1f) We have been called for the purpose of saving souls. Therefore, act saintly in the service of neighbour. You, husbands, honour your wives; you, wives, honour your husbands.

Peace of Heart

It is very painful to see and recognize in what a tragic state the Church is before GOD at present. You could despair because of it, fall in deadly despair. But that would not be of any help. And yet, in the heart is a deep joy and a peculiar peace for all that. „Peace is always in GOD!” Brother Klaus so often said. And so you are able, despite suffering and a painful destiny, to feel in your heart joy and peace, provided that you live united with GOD. He is present, you look at Him, and you can continue in peace.

Patron of the World Peace

Brother Klaus was proclaimed patron of the world peace. It is interesting that even today you can perceive this peace when you go down to the Ranft. A peculiar peace is felt in nature there and emanates from it. When I was in the Ranft many years ago, I laid my rosary, to which a medal of Brother Klaus was attached, into the crack of a wooden beam, of which I knew it was still from the time of Brother Klaus. Then I prayed that it might absorb Brother Klaus’s aura. Later, as I paid a visit to Kunigunde, a privileged soul in Germany, I took this rosary into my hand and she asked me to give her this rosary. She then looked slightly upwards and said: „I see a man in a brown habit ...,” and described Brother Klaus. So Brother Klaus is still working. But you have to go there with a believing heart, otherwise it will be of no or only little avail to you.

It is a pity that Brother Klaus is not so much venerated in Switzerland as would be desirable. Especially politicians should attach more value to his words of advice, such as: „Do not make your fence too wide!” as well as „Do not meddle in foreign affairs!” And yet they brag about their Father of the nation, the holy Brother Klaus. They had better heed his advice beforehand.

Signs and Miracles by Brother Klaus

Once, the village of Sarnen was in flames. So the priest ran quickly to Brother Klaus’s cell down into the gorge of the Melchaa. He begged: „Brother Klaus, come immediately, the village is burning! Many houses are already blazing fiercely!” Brother Klaus went up on the hill, from which he could look down on the village, and spreading out his arms over it, he prayed ardently. The flames then died down and Sarnen was saved.

Some other time, a proud, young nobleman came to him. Brother Klaus took him down to the river. While Brother Klaus was praying, all of a sudden the Melchaa changed before the visitor’s very eyes into a fire-spitting infernal river, in which red-hot lava instead of water was frothing up. In it he saw, among other human bodies, himself with his wife and his sinful life, being engulfed by fire and lava. „That will happen to you,” said Brother Klaus to the visitor, „if you go on living like this.” The man was so shocked that he became converted.

A rich and stingy abbot, who passed himself off as a scholar, once came to Brother Klaus and asked him disdainfully: „Reverend Sir, can you tell me what stinginess is?” Brother Klaus replied: „Reverend Father, why do you ask me, a good-for-nothing, since it is written on your forehead!”

After a chapel had been built for Brother Klaus, the competent suffragan Bishop of Constance came to consecrate the chapel and also by order of his bishop to examine Brother Klaus. For Brother Klaus was already being widely venerated, and it is the bishop’s duty to test such matters. Brother Klaus was said to have quit eating for over a year. As a test, the suffragan bishop asked him to eat a piece of bread. Brother Klaus, however, begged him: „Reverend Father, if it is possible, could you please halve this piece of bread?” After the bishop had done so: „Please, could you make it smaller still?” In obedience to the order, Brother Klaus then took a very tiny piece of bread and tried to eat it. With a loud shout of pain he sank to the ground losing consciousness and was nearly suffocated. As the suffragan bishop and those standing around him got a fright, as they feared that he would die of it, he woke up again, saying: „You have done your duty, but now let me have my way in the Name of GOD, it is His will.”
