

Annual Retrospective of the Benedictine Abbey Maria Frieden in Kirchsulletten Advent 2012 - Advent 2013



Dear Sisters and Brothers,
dear Relatives and Friends,

! as every year a review of the many daily occurrences, events and happenings in our community. It is like in the above print: Some things are not to be overseen, others remain in background and most of it is not visible at all. So this letter does not mean to be a complete listing of all what happened throughout the year. But it might help all of you to satisfy the longing to participate in our monastic life.

Religious exercises to strengthen our spiritual life were at the beginning of the year - P. Otto OSB from St. Ottilien was the one to deepen our knowledge about „Monastic Rituals“ and led us to new enthusiasm, first in German language for the native speakers in our community and oblates and continuing in English for our Philippine Sisters. After that the course of the year went on rather fast. With gratefulness and joy we were allowed to celebrate very special jubilees:

On St. Joseph's Day, our Foster Father, we celebrated with Sr. M. Humilitas OSB and Sr. Redempta OSB their Golden Jubilee of Profess. Both of them fled their homes while very young in the deep desire to enter the community of our Foundress M. Edeltraud Danner OSB. Our Archbishop, Prof. Dr. Ludwig Schick, celebrated the Holy Eucharist with us and many guests. Both Sisters renewed, marked from many years of sacrificed life, their Profess. They were very happy about a larger group of relatives and friends of their Philippine native country and Hawaii, who shared with them their day of honor.

The 40th year of inauguration as an abbey we celebrated on May 5th, 2013, together with meanwhile retired Suffragan Bishop Werner Radspieler. Lasting for decades he visited us, advised and supported our community. Many of the supporters who helped us building our church in 1976 were invited to the 40th Inauguration Day. There was a happy reunion and remembrances for all of us. Honorary helpers are constantly at our side. We are glad about their talents and support, always in time. This enables us to vision the future with hope and courage.

During the year the vestry was freshly painted, windows, doors, banks and stools as well. The fountain in the inner courtyard was remade, after all crackings were sealed and the inside wall was covered with swimmingpool painting. The washhouse floor was tiled, wholes and scrachtches in the walls were plastered. All these helpers were cordially invited to the 60th Jubilee of Foundation on June, 23rd, M. Edeltraud Danners' OSB name-day.

Reverend provost of Bamberg Dome, Dr. Norbert Jung, celebrated the Holy Eucharist. He was more than surprised and pleased by the many Philippine guests, who were dancing with us in our beautiful garden, pride of Sr. Lumen OSB.

Round birthdays were celebrated in good spirits with singing and dancing, playing and savouring the delicious cooking of our abbey' kitchen and bakery. All over the year Sr. M. Bernadette OSB and Sr.

M. Hedwig OSB create healthy and delicious meals, together with their kitchen team, that is Sr. Nieves OSB, Sr. Redempta OSB, Sr. M. Francis OSB, Sr. Hildelita OSB and Sr. Carmen OSB, supported in preworks by M. Gertraud OSB, Sr. M. Lumen OSB, Sr. Milagros OSB and sometimes Sr. Mary-Paul. There is no one in a good restaurant kitchen who could chop chives in exactly 1 mm length but our kitchen team. Much to the pleasure of about forty 9year old kids with their teachers, who revelled in fresh and crisp buttered bread, garnished with chives, when visiting our abbey in October. So we dined at the 70th birthday of Sr. M. Hedwig OSB and the 80th of Sr. Humilitas OSB like in a 5star restaurant - and this will be alike on Sr. Felizitas OSB 60th birthday these days of December. Aging means sometimes getting frail. Sr. Lumen OSB had to undergo several times medical support in the hospital. Sr. Carmen OSB had to face the diagnosis of malign kidney cancer and was getting relief by the removal of the kidney affected. But, thanks to our Lord, she recovered surprisingly well. Sr. Humilitas OSB rheumatic hand was operated in the University Hospital of Erlangen, and then went to rehabilitation for some weeks. She does quite well while exercising her hand every day. Actually Sr. Nieves OSB, stays in the Rhön Klinik, a special hospital in Bad Neustadt for cardiac problems, about 100 kms away. She had to undergo a by-pass operation. It will take some time for her to recover, and while writing you, she is transferred to the rehabilitation unit. We all include her in our praying, hoping she could accept the circumstances, being such a vivid person.

We celebrated jubilees and other special events with other communities and friends. M. Mechthild OSB, together with Sr. Christine OSB, Sr. Mary Hedwig OSB and Sr. M. Hildelita OSB participated in the inauguration days of Weltenburg and Münsterschwarzach. The Franciscan Sisters of Vierzehnheiligen, our neighbouring community were celebrating their 100th year of foundation, M. Mechthild OSB participated, grateful for the sisterly relations.

Several times we celebrated with P. Placidus Berger, his 60th jubilee of profess as well as his 80th birthday. His deans office was invited for coffee and narration. All ministrants of nearby village of Lauf were invited to our Vesper including Eucharist. Some of the Sisters participated in Zapfendorf Catholic Community together with former Zapfendorf Priest and clerical advisor Johann-Baptist Schmitt.

Encouraging and supporting was the annual meeting of all abbesses of our archbishopric with archbishop and the day of order when all members of order were invited. Sr. M. Felizitas OSB participated with Mrs. Angela Knapp. Both were enthusiastic about the spiritual impulses they found. M. Mechthild OSB participated in the bi-annual reunion of all abbesses in the Abbey Maria Laach and the annual meeting of the Solidarity Community in Francfort.

In order to be well prepared for new and wellcome members to our community, Sr. Bernadette OSB joined the meetings of novice guides of our archbishopric and for lectures and studies she went to Bernried for a week.

To our community of oblates a new member joined. Mrs. Anne Meier from Gaustadt/Bamberg, whom we are familiar with since her very early childhood, was accepted on May 19, 2013, for a year of probation. Her wish was to be called Sr. Anne-Teresa. With joy and longing she is looking forward to June 22nd, 2014. This will be the day she might take her vow. More than three oblates wish to be accepted for the year of probation. Our oblates helped and supported us at all our festivities or, sadly, illnesses of our Sisters. We are very grateful and obliged to their support.

All strangers coming to your house should be welcomed with warm reception, like Jesus Christ: Because He will say: I was a stranger, and you welcomed me kindly. All of them should be granted adequate honour, especially brothers in faith and pilgrims' (Rules of St. Benedict, Ch. 53).

Our guest house St. Benedikt has not sufficient beds so that sometimes we could not accept them or they had to sleep on mattresses on the floor in our old guesthouse Haus Edeltraud. These circumstances confirm our decision to renovate this old halftimbered house, once being the schoolhouse of Kirchsletten until 1973. Thus being able to give shelter to pilgrims knocking at our door. Meanwhile this plan is accepted by the authorities involved and even financial support is granted

by the European Union program Leader, the archbishops financial administration, the Foundation Oberfranken and even the community of Zapfendorf.

Actually the invitation to architects and craftsmen for competition is under course so that the renovation could begin. For our own contribution of financing this project we are grateful to any kind of donation. And we are grateful to all of you who helped us with the bureaucratic formalities and support, so that an asset could be achieved.

Among our guests were many who join us for years and who are related to us cordially, as well as many new guests who found our community via new media, internet etc. Our homepage www.abtei-maria-frieden.de is linked to www.nachrichtenamort.de. On this site a lot of interesting and good articles about activities and celebrations of our community are to be found, with video clips and pictures. Mr. Michel, a young editor from Zapfendorf, supports this interesting news site.

Since 2012 our Abbey is mentioned as house for pilgrims taking the Sr. Jacobs pilgrimage. The abbey is almost directly situated to Fränkischer Jakobsweg - which crosses Oberleiterbach and Zapfendorf. At Vierzehnheiligen and Oberleiterbach signs to our hostel are installed by Mr. Peter Tremel from Lauf, who is the areal road surveyor. Thus single or several pilgrims will find the way to our accommodation easily.

A group of Italian pilgrims from Perugia stayed longest with us up to know- for one week. Evenings with folkloric music and good communication accompanied by our excellent pilgrims wine will remain unforgettable, for them and for us. The pilgrims season 2013 terminated October 20, 2013, with the reunion of pilgrims. At 4.30 p.m. of this day Sr. Felizitas' OSB godmother, Mrs. Yumiko Otsuki from Tokyo played the organ for a benefit concert to the renovation of Haus Edeltraud. A first benefit performance was held May 5th, in our abbey's church. Mr. Walter Auer, member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra delivered together with Mrs. Birgit Hablitzel, Mrs. Lois Landsverk and Mr. Karlheinz Böhm from the Bamberg Symphonic Orchestra a highly appreciated concert in our overcrowded church.

Another clerical benefit concert on occasion of St. Benedicts' Day on July 11th, was titled „Heaven is inside yourself“, from the ensemble Musica Tre Fontane, and filled many hearts with joy.

A further benefit concert is planned: Mr. Simon Schüttemeier from Hagen in North Rhine Westfalia will play the organ on June 9, 2014. The benefit is dedicated as well to the renoval of Haus Edeltraud. We got financial support on occasion of the terrible aftermath of the Philippine typhoon. The bazar of M. Mechthild OSB in Zapfendorf, joined by a lot of volunteers, showed a collection of € 1426,24. The nomination of the candidates for the mayor of the sourrounding area was wanted to be held in a neutral place. More than 300 citizens of Lauf, Oberleiterbach, Unterleiterbach, Sassendorf, Reuthlos, Kirchsulletten, Oberoberndorf and Roth found place in our guesthouse St. Benedikt. Not much but almost a sign could have been placed outside: Closed because overcrowded. It should be mentioned, because nowadays it is not selfevident, how disciplined these people were and how clean and tidy our guesthouse was left. Maybe this was because of the place, an abbey? € 550 were donated and led directly to the victims of the Philippine typhoon. The barbecue party of the CSU party combined with the Christkindl-market of the Manus-home for elderly people in Zapfendof, Mr. Werner Porzner, host of the local authorities, achived a donation of another € 340,43, and together with several smaller or larger donations the money was directly transferred to the Philippines - with only € 6,50 fee for transfer. Thus our Sisters in Fatima, Mindoro and Cogon (who sheltered many many victims) could be supported, as well as the Sisters of the Tutzing Benedictine Mission on the Philippines. Their school and two homes for the sisters were completely destroyed, the hospital was damaged largely. The tragedy is that there the best orthopedic doctor and nurses were swept away by the floods. We promise all supporters and donators and the Philippine people to include them min our prayers. „We are always praying for you and the benefactors“, is always written in letters we receive from there.

The relation to our Philippine Sisters was strengthened not only by our Sisters M. Christine OSB, Sr. Mary Hedwig OSB and Sr. M. Hildelita OSB, but also through the visit of their abbesses and prioress

to Maria-Frieden. A visit like that helps a lot to understand each other and support for the daily efforts. These three Sisters could participate together with their „mothers“ in the Golden Profess Jubilee of P. Columban in the Swiss Benedictine Abbey Disentis. P. Columban is a very eager and constant supporter of our Philippine co-Sisters and their tasks.

Following is a report on our farming activities: Mr. Andreas Schwab has to try very hard indeed to fulfill all challenges and restrictions of the agricultural decrees. He was assisted by Mr. Peter Billinger, apprentice, who passed the exams in summer, and since then the apprentice is Mr. Alexander Watzka. Unfortunately the agricultural decrees are massively hindering Mr. Schwab to find an adequate butcher for our biocattle and the production of meat strictly upon the European rules. There is very good demand for our cattle, but we cannot always fulfill it. We hope our customers will understand. - Our bookwheat was beautifully in flower but then the wheather conditions made the crop not as good as expected. For the first time we planted cress for sprouts and happily the crop was more than successful. There will be no apple juice this year, the harvest was not plentiful enough.

Our agricultural demonstration farm is highly appreciated, we showed around more than 100 groups, gave room for regional meetings of bio farmers, advanced training groups of the agricultural board and school. Further more we participated in the Bavarian vacation day for kids of our area and gave room for a holiday program for the Zapfendorf fruit and garden club, and many more. We are partner to the Bamberg ecological academy.

Another beautiful and precious approval was dedicated to our community: „Best regards to your co-Sisters. For us priests it is of great importance to know that you in Kirchschletten pray for us, for our diocese, for the world“.

With the promise to include all of you, Dear Friends and Supporters of our community, and a very heartfelt „Vergelt'S Gott“ for any support - especially Dr. Ott, our medic, all employers and apprentice we wish you a blessed Christmas Time , the Benediction of our Lord and health and strength for the New Year 2014.

M. Mechthild OSB and Convent

Abtei Maria Frieden - Spendenkonto (Spendenquittungen werden gerne ausgestellt)

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