



Ulrika Newsletter

Love knows no measure

No. 121

August - November 2018

The blessed Sr. Ulrika of Hegne

A person very close to God and very open to other people

A woman whose nearness brought comfort and inspired confidence

A Holy Cross sister graced with an inner life of prayer and a deep experience of God

A blessed intercessor in whose help people trust, to whose shrine many come as pilgrims and whose help and support countless venerated experience and attest.

Biographical Data

- 1882 18 September, birth in Mittelbiberach (Württemberg).
- 1904 Ulrika Nisch enters the convent in Hegne. Until her illness in 1912, kitchen sister in Bühl (Baden) and in Baden-Baden.
- 1913 8 May, death of Sr. Ulrika in Hegne
- 1952 Beatification process opened.
- 1987 1 November, beatification of Sr. Ulrika by Pope John Paul II. in Rome.
- 1991 Her bones are buried under the altar in the crypt in Hegne.

"I would like to live God's mercy"

Ulrika Pilgrim's Way

In the First Testament, mercy is one of God's pre-eminent attributes. In his central act of self-revelation on Mount Sinai YHWH says of himself: "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6). And the evangelist Luke announces to us: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us" (1:78).

God desires from us mercy, not sacrifice (cf. Mt 9:13).

In her consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sr Ulrika speaks nine times of sacrifice. But what she means by this is dedication, total self-giving with everything that she has and does. She does not mean sacrifice in the sense of I'll give you something, or even everything, but I expect to be rewarded for it.

God is not a vending machine that I put money into and take out what I want. He is completely free in his giving; but, as we hear in the beatitudes the merciful will receive mercy. This attitude of mercy or compassion, as illustrated for example in the Good Samaritan, is an expression of unconditional and uncalculating love.

Sr Ulrika was a true Sister of Mercy of the Holy Cross. She opened her heart to everyone she met.

The warm and unassuming aura that Sr Ulrika emanated did not fail to have its effect. It was returned with gentle, tender love. But there was nothing calculating about Sr Ulrika's love.

The root of the Hebrew word *rachum* (compassionate) is linked to *rahmim* or *rechem* (womb or gut), so it can be 'gut-wrenching' as well as containing female associations. Against this background, it is particularly significant that Sr Ulrika came to know and love her Father God first and most deeply through female, motherly figures. That is where she first experienced compassionate love. That is also what God's love is like: maternal, making us feel safe, giving us a place to grow up in. He loves us, so we can live.

The Evangelist Matthew writes in his gospel, in the fifth of the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (5:7). Mercy or compassion is love that is felt, for example, a mother's tenderness towards her child (cf. Isaiah 49:15), a father's affection for his son (cf. Psalm 103:13), the close love between siblings (cf. Gen 43:30).

And later on in Matthew we read: "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'" (9:13). The God of love, whom Jesus calls his and also our Father, does not have to be propitiated with animal sacrifices, as was the case in ancient religions, before he shows us his mercy.

We pray:

Sister Ulrika, as a Sister of Mercy of the Holy Cross, you wanted to live the merciful love of God you were given and to share it with everyone you met.

All who could experience being near you sensed this love and affection, and it revived their spirits.

We pray you that all who still today seek your comfort and assurance will be granted through your intercession the strength they need in all the cares that weigh them down.

Be our intercessor with our merciful God for all who are sick, whether physically or in mind, for the lonely and those who are in any other kind of distress.

Befriend the children, whose salvation and spiritual wellbeing was so close to your heart, especially those who have nowhere that gives them a feeling of motherly security. They often go astray as adolescents because they have never known the stability of a loving atmosphere.

Sister Ulrika, come to their aid.

Sr. M. Jacobe Wetzel



Dates

Monthly prayers

On the 8th of every month prayers are offered from 4-5 p.m. in the crypt for the concerns of our Ulrika pilgrims.

Holy Eucharist for Pilgrims

Throughout the year we celebrate a Holy Eucharist for pilgrims at 10.30 a.m. every Wednesday in the crypt. **There will be no Pilgrim Mass on 3 October.**

Nisch Day

A day of silence and prayer, relaxation and renewal on Saturdays from 10.00 to 15.00 in Haus Ulrika. The autumn dates are: 13 and 20 October, 24 November and 15 December. For information and registration (by the Thursday before) telephone +49 7533-807 700 or email sr.margareta@kloster-hegne.de.

Sr. Margareta and Sr. Bonavita



New!

The best thing we have: prayer: We invite you to join us in praying with and for one another and for others. Open to all, just come along, no registration required. Every fourth Thursday in the month from 19.30-20.30 in Haus Ulrika. Dates for 2018: 23 August, 27 September, 25 October, 22 November.

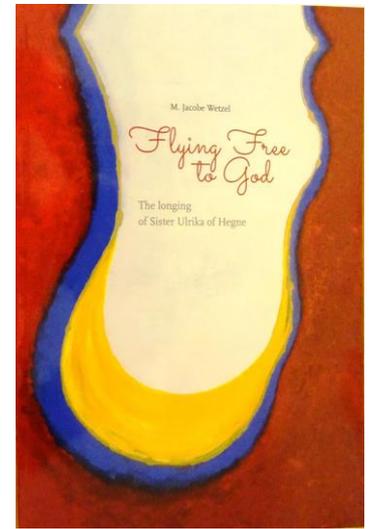


Book publication:

“Flying Free to God. The Longing of Sr Ulrika of Hegne”

by Sr M. Jacobe Wetzel.

Sr Ulrika was more than the simple, humble kitchen sister; she yearned passionately for God. This book gives a more complete picture of her.



The Pilgrimage Book:

It Happened along the Way. Encountering Jesus with Sr Ulrika. Blessed Sr Ulrika – a pilgrim? We invite you to walk with us part of the way, either alone or with a group, on a pilgrimage **to Emmaus**. Text and design: sisters from Hegne. Layout: Sadifa Media. 56 pages, with space for personal notes. Available at Haus Ulrika for € 6; postage and packing extra if mailed. For English-speaking readers we can append a translation.



Offers for children / communion groups:

We offer:

Creative work on a theme, a presentation about the monastery, the duties of the sisters and sister Ulrika, a small tour with a visit to the crypt, eating together. Depending on the interest, the program may vary.

Please contact Claudia Graff, Tel. 07533.807-700 or graff@kloster-hegne.de



Please note

If you wish to receive every four months the Newsletter by E-Mail, please send your E-Mail-address to the address below.
You can unsubscribe from the Ulrika letter at any time and request the deletion of your data, which we save only for this purpose and never pass on.

Haus Ulrika is open to all wishing to encounter the Blessed Ulrika of Hegne or to speak with the sisters. Prayers are offered daily in all the concerns at the shrine of Sr Ulrika in the crypt.

Responsible for the content:

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We are open for you

Monday through Friday: 9:00 - 17.00

Saturday: 9.00 - 11.45 and 14.00 - 17.00

Sundays and Holidays: 10.45 - 11.30 and 14.00 - 17.00

Closed on Mondays!

The crypt is open daily:

November to March: 7.30 - 17.30, April-October: 7.30 - 19.00

