

«Peace is always in God, because God is the peace. ». Niklaus von Flüe



Meditation picture of Niklaus von Flüe Artistic design: Josua Bösch

**«This ist the book, in which I learn the art
of being one with God.»**

Holy Niklaus von Flüe 1417 – 1487, Flüeli Ranft, Switzerland

Niklaus von Flüe was born 600 years ago. Who was this saint? A farmer's son, a believer Christian, a politician, husband of Dorothee von Flüe and a father of a large flock of children. He was a man who suffered from the wrong doing of others. He was a man who often, under torment, sought the will of God and put into action. He became a counsellor and peacemaker for his homeland and countless others. As a mystic and lover of prayer , he enjoys great appreciation then as now.

A special puzzle in his life was unmentioned until now: For twenty years Niklaus von Flüe lived as a hermit in the "Ranftschlucht", , not far away from his family house. This must have been an ordeal for him, and also for his wife. It is not surprising that until today, people were initially ambivalent to this decision. Remember, his youngest child was still in the cradle when he began his religious life. However, the oldest sons were able to manage their parent's farm and never lacked financial resources. Also, Dorothee could come to him in the "Ranft" to his hermitage, for what she needed, just as many people were looking for him as a counsellor. Above the hermitage stands the words, that were his motto of his life: «Peace is allways in God, because God is the peace.»

This is not enough to understand this decision. It is the secret between God and Niklaus and Dorothee von Flüe. But we can see the fruits of this decision when we look deeper.

For me, the following picture and the attached text is a convincing response, an attempt to understand a decision that ultimately remains a secret, and extremely precious mystery.



Photo: Sr. Izabela Swierad, SAC, General Superior of missionary pallottine sisters, Rome

**Way of peace - Seealpsee, Alpstein/ Appenzell/ Schweiz -
to the 600 birthday of Niklaus von Flüe**

**The Medallion in the middle represents the farewell of Niklaus und Dorothee von Flüe:
With a painfully-loving blessing gesture, the wife releases her husband and the father of
her children.**

(The texts on the individual medallions are published on this website with courtesy of the "Planning Group chapel-administration" of 2 sept. 2017 and their main responsible: Judith Wüst).

BOTH SAID : «YES»

HE HAD A GOAL,

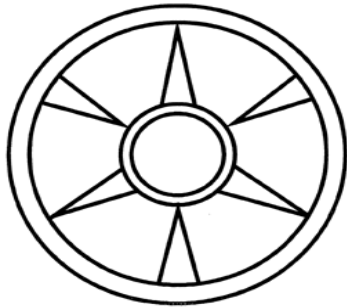
HE HAD A VISION;

SHE SAW THE GAP,

SHE FELT THE LOSS;

STILL, THEY SAID: «YES»

The meditation picture of Niklaus von Flüe – the wheel



An access to the spirituality of Niklaus von Flüe gives us his wheel for meditation. The simplicity corresponds to its simple core statements. How deep and challenging his seeking of God is, this is only to feel for people that approaching the mystery of God.

«So is the divine being. The small point in the middle is the mystery of God. From this mysterious point, three arrows or spokes go out and return to the last secret, an ever-recurring life process, a flowing out and a flooding back of love.»

The way of peace, at Seealpsee, which is built to commemorate the 600 birthday of Holy Niklaus von Flüe (figure 2) shows in the centre the God-Hungry couple, seeking unity with God.

Three spokes go from outside to inside (eye, mouth and ear) to the centre, to God.

And three more spokes lead from the inside to the outside, bringing God to the people (heart, feet and hands).

EAR: HEARING – LISTENING – OBEDIENCE

«You shall be obedient to each other.» Niklaus von Flüe



Photo: P. Josef Rosenast SAC – Bruder-Klausen-Kaplan, Flüeli-Ranft, Sachseln OW, Switzerland

«Obedience is the greatest honour that exists in heaven and on earth. Therefore, you should make sure that you are obedient to each other.» Niklaus von Flüe to the Council in Berne

I wish you ears that,
even in noise and stress,
hear the laughter of a child
and listen in
where obedience is announced.

EYE: Seeing good - discovering new

Light ignite – lighten the darkness – in fellow human beings see the good – difficult questioning anew – seek God - built on it.



Photo: P. Josef Rosenast SAC

«A precondition for peace is the respect for the different and the diversity of life.» Dalai Lama

Niklaus and Dorothee von Flüe have recognized and trusted that they remain connected to God and to each other also beyond the physical separation. They have realized that God will give them a crutch and strength when they look up to him.

I wish you eyes,
who also see through rain and fog
the good in the other
and realize
how unique and valuable
the hidden is often.

Mouth: Speeches – Silence



Photo: P. Josef Rosenast SAC

«Truly the word flows from the heart and mouth.» Goethe

**Good keep saying - sowing peace -
On the good point - silence at the right time -
through praise and appreciation - people rejoice.**

«The spirit reveals itself through the sight and the words. Because the soul is our abode, our eyes are their windows and our lips are their messenger.» Khalil Gibran

**Niklaus von Flüe had a positively shaped image of God. In his search for the united being, he meets a loving, liberating God. That's a convincing statement:
God loves the people. He gave this message back then and continues to give it to us today.**

Those who love life and wish to see good days, keep your tongue from evil and his lips from false speech. 1 Petrus 3,10

Heart - Start in the heart - find peace



Photo: P. Josef Rosenast SAC

“Peace is always in God, because God is the peace.” Niklaus von Flüe

Show mercy - overcome violence
joy in the heart - joyful life
pass through gratitude and goodness - give joy to each other.

To only wish peace is not enough, you should be a peacemaker. Niklaus von Flüe counselled self-help, advised self-responsibility and courage to become as God sees us. Niklaus could take total care of the people.

«Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complained against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.» Colossians 3, 13

I wish you a heart
that lives in everything
from joy,
which learns with thoughts and feelings,
peaceful and reconciling,
finding good.

Hands - hands rich - doing good



Photo: P. Josef Rosenast SAC

«I have no other hands than yours.»

Words on the cross at St. Ludgeri church, Münster/Westfalen, Germany.

In the second world war, the Corpus Christi on the cross was knocked off on the arms. The church was partially destroyed in a bombardement and the cross lay there, but without arms. The priest had the beautiful idea: Instead of the beaten arms to write as an invitation to all those who look up to this cross: I have no other hands than yours.

Hands rich - clenched fists loosen

Promote reconciliation - prevent disputes

Goodness received - Give courage and hope.

After the serious discussion of Niklaus und Dorothee von Flüe they have handed each other their hands in peace to each other's new tasks and challenges.

I wish you hands,
that are open and affectionate,
that will make you brave and comfort,
who will protect you and give crutch,
and be gift at the right moment.

Feet - Break up - footsteps dare



Foto: P. Josef Rosenast SAC

«Niklaus von Flüe broke up 1467, went away into the wilderness and sought God. »

Seek peace - dare first steps
to approach to each other - correct enemy images.
offering each other services - love and trust

Niklaus und Dorothee von Flüe have entered the risk of going a new way - alone -
and yet together, in mutual agreement, in peaceful progress and strengthened by faith.

“Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” Psalm 34, 15

I wish you feet
to go to each other
and allow reconciliation,
to seek ways
to go peacefully together.

Seealpsee, Alpstein/Appenzellerland/Switzerland - way of peace – Niklaus von Flüe



Foto: Sr. Maria Dörig



Foto: D. Reinhart

In the foreground the Hermitage of Niklaus von Flüe, Flüeli-Ranft, Sachseln, Obwalden, Switzerland

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