



Venerable Sister M. Emilie Newsletter

Nr. 57 - December 2016

Confidence

Emilie Engel



I trust your might,
your kindness,
Mother dear.
I do believe that
you are always near!
Whatever happens,
O Mother mild,
I blindly trust in you
and in your Child!

Confidence

Would you have thought that God had such great confidence in you?

He entrusted his Son to us. We celebrate this event of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

For millennia humankind waited with longing and confidence for the coming of the Messiah, its Redeemer.

In the fullness of time, God became man; he was born in poverty and misery in a poor stable in Bethlehem. God's fatherly love bent down to us to lead us from darkness to light. Still today, after more than 2000 years, we face the Incarnation of God in awe; we are interiorly enthralled and touched when we consider this in faith.

The time of Advent wants to open our hearts anew for the mystery of the Holy Night and open us for the gift of confidence that God has in store for us – for you – for all of us! Here and today!

We place our hope and trust in him in the midst of a world fashioned by war and terror, fear and insecurity. Without hope, our life is harsh and empty. We need hope so that our life can succeed

and become a blessing.

Out of unconditional confidence in God's love, Sister M. Emilie formed her life in an exemplary way. Her life has left traces in which we can also walk.

1. Confidence gives quality of life

Confidence is the firm belief that I, for instance, can say personal things to another person without risk. Confidence is a mutual relationship of dependability and is the foundation of all human common life. For instance, I trust that my doctor makes the correct diagnosis. I trust that the sales person that takes care of me sells good products. I trust that my child keeps his word. ...

Confidence allows us to be free of fear and free from the obligation to control things. To confide in somebody means also: I trust that I will not be burdened more than I can bear in every situation. I don't have to be afraid of my own fears. But often a betrayal of confidence may take place. Disappointments (for instance: un-faithfulness, letting out a secret) often burden relationships and an atmosphere

of mistrust may rise. If trust disappears, our life stands to lose quality.

Confidence works like the light of the sun and develops a positive process in the heart of persons.

Confidence grows gradually like a little plant that has to be cultivated and well-tended so that the strength of life will awaken.

Laotse, a Chinese wise man said about confidence: "Kindness of words generates confidence."

These words are true of Sister M. Emilie! Her confidence was severely tested. In spite of it, she experienced how confidence grew in her and became a fundamental characteristic in her life.

Sister M. Emilie believed in and trusted God and the good in people. She discovered the positive in every person as a trace of God. In dealing with others, trust became her strength. She awakened in the other person unimaginable powers and guided those who were entrusted to her in such a way that they could become independent, mature personalities.

A woman wrote that she got to

know and love Sister M. Emilie. She appreciated especially her "affectionate radiance" in spite of the anxiety and worries she suffered and that she was not spared.

"She showed me again and again how I may place myself confidently into the hands of God and may let go of everything. It is my intention to sense and practice this confidence in God like her, whether it is in the illness of our youngest daughter, or to let go of the adult children, whether in family concerns or personal worries."

2. Sister Emilie trusted the guidance of God

Sister Emilie lived from an unshakable confidence in the merciful fatherly love of God and in Divine Providence. That changed her. From fear and fright of God, she grew to calmness and serenity, from constant worries to trust and joy, from her own willing to the "Yes, Father"! She herself wanted to become a "miracle of confidence".

The more she became aware of her own weaknesses and limitations, the more decisively

she grew in confidence in the love of God and the love of the Mother of the Lord... If an earthly mother already loves her poorest children the warmest, how great must be your motherly concern for me."

Since she suffered painfully from her own experiences, she could encourage others to unconditional confidence: "The greater the distress and the feeling of being alone, the more you adhere to God and the Mother. Her trust in God was tested and had to undergo severe trials. ..."

She expressed her confidence: "To the degree in which we are children of confidence, we also can be staff and support, light and sun in difficult times."

She experienced in her life that God's power held and carried her, also in difficult times. She places her trust in him. She was convinced: God is at my side. He directs and guides my life; I am sheltered in his hands. "Our greatest concern must be to be carefree." (Father)

3. Sister Emilie offers confidence and believes in the good

Confidence was for Sister M. Emilie

the bridge that makes human relationships possible. At the same time, it is the most beautiful and most valuable gift that we can give to one another, and is the basis to make honest dialogue possible.

One Testimony from her life describes a clear situation:

"I could experience Sister M. Emilie as a motherly, selfless and trusting sister. She was open for all worries and problems, and had always time to listen. Through her empathy, she could help with advice and action. She solved problems wisely and gave complete confidence. She believed me – confidence awakens confidence!"



4. Sister Emilie gave confidence and created family

Empathetic and selfless service to her fellow human beings passed

like a red thread through her life.

The trust that she gave to others and her conviction to become empty from her own ego to create space for others captured hearts. She served simply in the background and created family, which many people nowadays need and for which they are longing.

Selfless service is vital in communal living. Sister Emilie gave the wise counsel: "Family life cannot exist without sacrifice, without renouncing personal wishes and likes." Her motherly service created family. With her wide and open heart, she was able to accept and take in people with most diverse attributes.

Her quiet, joyful, sisterly service has become an example for many. In her matter-of-fact approach, she enriched others. "Emilie was always the one who was giving; I always went home interiorly enriched," a fellow-student said.

It does not work without renunciation

With her faith and confidence in the good of others Sister Emilie gave to many people her warmth of heart and spread a family-like atmosphere. She had to overcome

many difficulties and tangled situations in her life. She knew in the depth of her heart that God loved her. The experiences with people, however, were often disappointing and burdensome.

On the foundation of her confidence in God she could bear it and continue to trust people. She proved that confidence is the foundation of human coexistence, and that confidence must be cultivated and nurtured so that the strength of life can develop.

Sr. M. Irmengild

Prayer:

Dear God,
strengthen my confidence! Allow
me to learn
from Sister M. Emilie
to place all my confidence
in you.

Let me see defeat and collapse
in my life as challenges.

Like Sister M. Emilie,
I feel sheltered
in your warm, fatherly hands.
I blindly trust in you
also when I am weak
and helpless.

You are near me
and lead me
from darkness to light
and give to me
your merciful father love
each day.

Amen.

Life Witnesses

"Sometimes I am afraid; I fear that I will not pass the tests; fear of the future and fear that I may make the wrong decisions. I know that this is a lack of confidence in God. Actually, I have experienced much love from God and know that he is guiding my life. But sometimes we forget. Then Sister Emilie is my great example because she mastered such periods of fear by trust in God's love. Because she always goes with me, I try to face my fears again and again and dare the leap into confidence. And I may say: I have never fallen deeper than into God's hands."

D., Germany

"In recent years I was in a hospital in Koblenz and spontaneously visited the house chapel there. Although I am Catholic, I have no deep faith. As a child I had polio and had to undergo many surgeries and I am very handicapped. But since I was in the chapel of the hospital I again said a prayer. I took a novena booklet of Sister Emilie along. Tears welled up in my eyes when I read her biography. Her picture appealed to me, her shining eyes, her happy face. She is for me more than a woman religious. Meanwhile she has become "my Sister". Now I again pray daily. And I feel better. Thank you, Sister Emilie; you have led me again to God."

N., Germany

Sister Emilie helps in ordinary concerns

I was away from home and did not remember whether I had unplugged the electric iron. I was desperate and promised Sister Emilie a gift of 20.00€. When I came home, the iron was unplugged. Thank you, Sister Emilie, for your help.

A., Germany

My daughter smoked for many years. All talking and admonishment did not help. Then I asked Sister Emilie to help, and in the middle of my novena to Sister Emilie, my daughter stopped smoking. She did not know from me that I had asked Sister Emilie to help. For two years now, she has not smoked. Thank you, Sister Emilie.

X., Germany

Sister Emilie helps in illness

I had a car accident and had serious bruised bones and fractured a lumbar vertebra. One doctor wanted to operate. That was another shock for me. I asked Sister Emilie for help all night. In the morning, a different doctor visited me who eased my fears when he said there were alternative methods to approach the problem. Now I am fine. Sister Emilie has helped me.

C.R., Germany

A good friend of mine received the news from her doctor that she had a malignant tumor in her eye. In this distress and fear she prayed intensively to Sister Emilie for help. Today my friend called me. She was happy and relieved because the tumor is not benign. With great joy about this good diagnosis we thanked Sister Emilie. Confidence was rewarded.

A.G., Germany

Dear Friends of Emilie!

We wish you and your families the joy and peace of the Holy Night and the experience of the merciful love of our God. May the blessing of God accompany you on all days, weeks and months of the new year and strengthen your confidence that God walks all ways with us. We bring our good wishes and our gratitude for you to the crib in the Shrine and pray for you and your concerns. We are grateful that you support our effort for the beatification of Sister Emilie also in the future by writing petitions and answers to prayers, also distributing novenas and sending donations. With a heartfelt "May God reward you" and joyful Christmas greetings,



PUBLICATIONS

Emilie Engel, A Life for God and Others
Words for Each Day
My "Yes" Remains
Sister M Emilie Engel (Novena)
Prayer Leaflets

Donation welcome
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We want to thank all who have written to us in the past to let us know that Sister M. Emilie is needed. We cannot publish all answers to petitions. But every contribution is important for the process of beatification. Therefore again the petition: Please, write your *petitions and answers to petitions* on the intercession of Sister Emilie to the Sister M. Emilie Secretariat with your **signature, date and address.**

We are also grateful for donations.

Note: The reports of answers to prayer and the words "holy," "saint," or "miracle" have a merely private character. They are not meant to anticipate the decision of the Church.

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