

Faithfulness in everyday life:

Small and large moments of abandoning oneself. The first years after profession are particularly characterized by the question of how we can balance our mission as Sisters of the Holy Cross in our professional work, our personal relationship with Christ and our life in community. Faithfulness in spiritual life is the basis for a fulfilling religious life. The crucial challenge is to deepen our relationship with God, because this relationship is at the heart of every true calling. It is a lifelong journey that requires humility, dedication, and reflection. At its centre, there must be a constant willingness for inner transformation. This requires personal commitment, which, however, is not a burden because “whoever loves will be loved; he who loves more will be loved more, and he who loved most will be glorified most.”¹

In today's world, when we are constantly surrounded by the Internet, emails and social media, access to inner peace is difficult. If we want spiritual depth to continue to penetrate our everyday actions, we need times of silence, reflection on the spirituality of the Pascha mystery and reflection on Jesus Christ as the centre of our community. It is important that we critically question our own daily routine, and that we specifically create moments of silence in which we become aware of God's presence. Because every relationship, be it with God or within our community, requires time and presence. This is not only limited to praying together, but also to bearing responsibility for one another and sharing joys and difficulties.

If we want to be faithful, we need a readiness to abandon ourselves. This is echoed in the words of our founder, Sr. Bernarda Heimgartner: “Have courage and begin anew every day to love the Lord, to serve only him and to desire only him, to please only him.” It is the same situation as in the parable of the entrusted talents, where the Lord² says: “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness!” (Mt 25:21): Before I give anything, I have already received it from God. God adds His own when we make ourselves available to Him: “The Holy Spirit gives us light and strength to understand the gospel of Christ and to live out of love for the crucified one. He makes it clear to us what we are called to do; He gives us the grace of faithfulness to Christ.” (Constitutions No. 12)

Living faithfulness to the last consequence is the path of following the cross. This is not necessarily the easier thing, but it is the path of following Christ with whom we united ourselves in our profession. Jesus experienced the deepest pain and abandonment and yet conquered death. His abandonment contains the promise to overcome the finality of death for those who believe in him. This awakens hope that faithfulness is worthwhile,³ in community life, in prayer, in the common mission as Sisters of the Holy Cross.

¹ Sales, Franz von. Weg zu Gott. Gesammelte Texte über das Religiöse Leben mit einer Einführung von Otto Karrer, München.

² Schöneberg, Sr. Barbara. Christi Brief seid ihr, Menzingen 1980.

³ Balthasar, Hans Urs von. In Gottes Einsatz leben, Einsiedeln 1972.