

January 13 to 19

Martha-Maria Diaconal Work

All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. (Romans 8:14 CEB)

Getting going

My bike runs on muscle power. It won't move by the powers of persuasion, but it will soon run smoothly once my feet work the pedals. Our fridge runs on electricity. Giving it a good shake won't make it work. But the milk stays fresh as long as the electricity supply keeps going. The Martha-Maria hospital practises humanity with committed employees. Robots can't run hospitals with a human touch. But people with a caring heart give patients holistic help and healing.

What is it that keeps me going and puts life into my existence? It is God who formed us from the earth and breathed the breath of life into us. We are a secret, one where we will never be able to understand every detail, but it makes sense that we need the breath of the Living God to remain

alive. People owe their life and existence to the Spirit of God, the Spirit of love, of life, of truth and of power.

To be a child in the family of God, I don't have to be part of a devout family or belong to a certain tribe. It doesn't matter where I come from or what my origins are. What matters is that I am filled with the Spirit of God. How on earth can people imagine that life can be found in anything else but God? When his Spirit fills me, then I can really get going – as a child of God.

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I GIVE THANKS

- for the many caring co-workers from more than 60 countries who are busy every day looking after the sick and the needy in the Martha-Maria hospitals.
- that around 600 people throughout the Martha-Maria Diaconal Work are touched by the love of God week for week in devotionals, worship services and Bible studies by chaplains and pastors.

I Pray

- for vigour and stamina in everyday care situations, in the face of constantly increasing demands and burdens.
- that people work well together in the great service community.
- that young people may feel called to serve in the Diaconal Work, particularly in healthcare and nursing.
- for greater financial scope in funding the hospitals so that there will always be space for a human approach and holistic care.

Martha-Maria Diaconal Work

Martha-Maria is the independent diaconal work of the Methodist Church. We have around 4,000 co-workers providing vital care work in hospitals, retirement homes, training colleges for nurses and carers, convalescent homes and other establishments for social work. Facilities run by Martha-Maria are to be found in Freudenstadt, Nuremberg, Munich and Halle (Saale).

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