

## VD 129 TH My way to faith - 16.07.2018

Dear viewers and readers,

on my homepage you'll find under the headings "About me", "In conversation", "How this work arised" and "My personal calling" detailed information about how I was called by God for my task and how my further activities developed.

In addition, I created this video today to give you a brief insight of how I found the way to faith. With that, I'd also like to give a personal testimony to what the Lord has worked and continues to work on me.

Every person called by God already carries that vocation "from the womb" - as we can read in Jeremiah chapter 1, verse 5. However, the moment from which the vocation unfolds fully, can be much later in life. - For me this was the end of the year 1996. What happened after that, you can read on my homepage.

But what was before? - This is what I want to tell you in this video.

Already from birth I had a very difficult and sometimes painful life. The external circumstances were stressful. The early years of my childhood were somewhat carefree, so that today I look back with gratitude on these few happy years; in particular, I also think of those people who have made this short joy possible for me.

Only a few religious influences came from my environment at that time. The topic of faith was largely excluded. Therefore I cannot say that I've been educated religiously. But the question about God always resonated in the background.

My first important encounter with God took place in kindergarten in the form of *Kees de Kort's* picture books, which were very popular in the 1970s.

Since I was able to read at the age of six, I delved into these books. Especially the expressive illustrations left a lasting impression in my childish soul. But at that time I didn't talk to anyone about it, but kept everything in my heart.

From then on, God was always present in my life, I thought about him, but I lacked the right guidance for faith. For this reason, no deepening could take place.

In compulsory school I was always an interested and attentive listener in religious education, which further increased my interest in God and the person of Jesus. At that time I couldn't understand why some of my classmates found the contents of the lessons so boring and uninteresting.

Unfortunately, I have only a few memories left of this time. For example, I remember the first communion, my time in the youth group of the Church (in *Germany* called *Jungschar*), and my confirmation, which had no special religious significance to me.

When in the 1980s it became known through the media that Marian apparitions were taking place in *Medjugorje*, my mother became interested in faith. In the following period we made several pilgrimages, also to other places of grace, including Italy. However, I have very few memories of this time, so I can't go into it in more detail.

In 1985, I moved to high school and hoped that religious education there would give me new impulses for my now-strengthened religious life. In the 1980s, I read numerous religious books that influenced me and laid the foundations for my current expertise.

Unfortunately, religious education was so disappointing for me that when I was 16, I decided to sign off from this teaching, realizing that it wasn't helpful for my spiritual maturation but rather harmful.

After successfully completing school, the next stage of life followed: the phase of professional life and further education. Several changes of location took place during this time.

At that time, I couldn't deal much with the topic of faith because other challenges were in the foreground. – There were also some changes in the family.

At the end of 1996, I felt that God was intervening in my life. - This is also the title of my now multi-volume autobiography.

Due to a move I was suddenly on my own and had to organize my life for the first time.

This was very exhausting. In retrospect, I can say that I managed everything as well as I could, but my health problems started back then. There were many situations where I had to make decisions alone. I had no one to back me up or who I could ask for advice.

Due to hard physical work, I fell ill in 1998 with a back disease, which became chronic. In the following years, further illnesses were added. I had to take many medications, but they only alleviated my symptoms and didn't heal them.

Until 2011, my health deteriorated more and more. At some point I had reached the low point. My immune system was not working anymore, I was constantly ill and had permanently severe pain. Because of this pain, I couldn't sleep at night for 12 years and was finally completely exhausted.

In this dark phase of life, I began to pray the rosary regularly. And this was - I can assure you today, dear viewers - for me the salvation and ultimately the decisive turning point.

What happened in the following years, you can read on my homepage as well as in my autobiography.

Through the rosary prayer, I gave the Almighty the opportunity to work powerfully in my life and to influence the further development. He respects our free will. I've gone more and more into His holy will.

In this way it became possible that countless amazing things happened.

I felt the need to write all this down because I felt that one day it might be important for other people. I wanted to describe my path of faith to encourage and empower others who are also on the way to God.

20 years ago, I could not have imagined that this would become such a great work as it is today - with the help of the Lord. It was a slow development, a learning and progress in faith. I thank God for having led me until here and I entrust to Him also my further path through life.

Since 2014, this has been a public one. I share it with my viewers and readers around the world. May all this serve for the higher honor of God and become a blessing for the people.

Dear viewers, thank you for your attention.

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