



Venerable Sister M. Emilie
Newsletter

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Sister M. Emilie Engel.



Sister M. Emilie Secretariat
Schoenstatt Sisters Constantia

A Heart for the People

"With all my heart!" In our communication with one another we often use this phrase. "Thanks with all my heart!" "With all my heart I wish you the best!" "I mean it with all my heart!" The heart has become a symbol that speaks and a popular theme for decorations. It stands for love, unity, joy, and happiness, and is used on Mother's Day, on Valentine's Day, at weddings, for birthdays, and on various other occasions. The heart is a "primordial word" of our language. It stands for the whole human personality, for the center of the person, the innermost core of the whole human being. From this perspective we contemplate Sister M. Emilie, who committed her heart for the people.

For Karl Rahner, a significant theologian of our time, "the simplest and most matter-of-course deeds of the heart [are] the most difficult. And only slowly does the human being learn them. ... And among these deeds of the heart belong kindness, selflessness, love, keeping silence, understanding, and true joy and prayer." (*Es ist das Herz, das gibt*, p. 68)

Sister M. Emilie –
turned toward to the people

Something that stood out about Sister M. Emilie were her open eyes and her wide heart for the people of her surroundings, in which she could see a trace of God. Love of neighbor was the measure of her love of God. So she could say: "Each moment of my life should be pure love of God and neighbor, genuine as gold." God equipped her with rich abilities of the intellect and of the heart.

With care and attentiveness she looked at what was happening in her surroundings. Being respectful and attentive to one another was very important to her. She perceived what was happening around her. With open eyes she went through her daily life, saw details and sensed what wasn't expressed and heard was others meant to say. She dealt gently with the limitations of others and saw where help was needed, where something was lacking.

The words of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry apply to Sister M. Emilie: "It is only with the heart that one

sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eyes.”

Her fundamental disposition toward others made an impression and stood out throughout her whole life: She loved “the poorest the warmest!” She gave others the love and warmth of her heart. “A human being that belongs totally to God, belongs also to human beings.” “Everything in her was genuine – it came from her heart. It was a radiance from the inside out,” as one person experienced at an encounter with Sister M. Emilie.



The “you” is important to her!

In 1915 Emilie Engel came to Herne-Sodingen as a young teacher. As a socially engaged woman, she felt deeply the fate of the poor miner population of that time, whose children were marked by manifold needs. “It is very hard to be a teacher here,” she wrote. “The children are physically undernourished and sick.” Emilie

Engel felt the deep tension between the education at school and at home: “Countless co-educators destroy what we build up with so much effort at school.” She had an eye for the good in each person and assured above all her heavily burdened students that they had a support in their teacher. (cf A Life for God and People, p. 17)

Many years later Sister M. Emilie gave a social worker who worked with troubled youth the advice: “Just be good to the children! Don’t forget: They have enjoyed no childhood home at all, or [only] a poor one. Try again and again to be good [to them]!”

Only someone who has a fundamentally good and wide heart, who is detached from self and risks their life for others, can speak like that.

Today, too, Sister M. Emilie is interested in her fellow human beings. The many answers to prayer that come in at our secretariat testify to this. How many children does she help today, too, with difficulties at school, youth with problems at their jobs, students who need help with their exams! How many

parents does she assist in difficulties of education! A proverb from Zaire accurately says what can be applied precisely to Sister M. Emilie, hitting the nail on the head: "It is the heart that gives; the hands only give away!"



Creating family – an important task

It was clear to Father Kentenich: A person like Emilie Engel, who doesn't only have a heart but is a heart, builds up community and can create family. Her attitude was to be concerned in a motherly way about all. She looked after individuals, she knew each one, and she tried "to become all things to all." She took part in the things those entrusted to her experienced when they received difficult or joyful news. Compassion and empathy became second nature to

her. A family climate must be nourished, strengthened, and protected. Sister M. Emilie knew this and saw in it her task. She was the heart and the soul of House Providentia.

In his New Year's homily for 2017 Pope Francis said: "A society without mothers is not only a cold society, but also one that has lost its heart."

Anxiety and insecurity, acts of violence and unrest, individualism and selfishness mark our society right now. How freeing and refreshing are those people who engage their hearts for others. Sister M. Emilie was someone who radiated mercy, empathy, love, and goodness. Her authentic and credible life gives witness of a living Christianity, which Father Kentenich, as we already said once, formulated like this: "A heart that belongs totally to God also belongs to totally to human beings. It doesn't belong to itself." Sister M. Emilie gives this message today to us.

Sister M. Irmengild Schmitt

In the last weeks you have brought the life of Sister M. Emilie closer to me! This was a grandiose experience of faith for me! Seldom have I felt so understood and accepted as I prayed the novena. I prayed the novena again and again. I sensed that I was understood in my worries and needs. I can sense Sister M. Emilie's geniality and warmth in my life every day. I received a big gift for Christmas. Only a few good friends and people close to me know about it, and in reality you also belong among them: For years I have been suffering from a great claustrophobia in tight spaces and in rooms full of people. Precisely on the high feasts, attending holy Mass becomes a desperate torture. This year I was able to prepare myself for Midnight Mass by praying the novena. I thank Sister M. Emilie for her aid as I attended Midnight Mass – I pulled through quite well.

- anonymous, Germany

Sister M. Emilie helps in sickness

At my visit to the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in B., I heard about Sister M. Emilie and read the chronology of her life, the novenas, and the prayers. Shortly thereafter I had to go to the doctor at the regional hospital. After intensive throat examinations, I (90 years old) received the order to come as soon as possible for an operation. The specialist doctor had a few concerns on account of my old age. I immediately began to pray to Sister M. Emilie with great trust and pleading. The operation was successful, but unfortunately a malignant tumor needed to be removed. Still a glimmer of hope remains that the right half of my thyroid has not also fallen victim to cancer. But "either way" I speak my "Yes, Father" with Sister M. Emilie and trust in divine providence. One of my uncles was recently very concerned about getting a new job. I immediately asked Sister M. Emilie for her assistance and help, and see, a few days later his daughter called to say that he had received the position and was very happy about it. Our dear Sister M. Emilie is really a kind, helpful "angel."

I really hope that as soon as possible she will receive the deserved canonization and so may become an "angel of light" for all of us.

- anonymous, Germany

My school classmate shared her big intention with me. She was worried because her husband was seriously ill and she had no doctor who would make regular house visits. The previous doctor had stopped making house visits, and no doctor could be found who could take over this task. In our need we prayed a novena to Sister M. Emilie with great trust, and we were heard. A doctor from the neighboring town was ready to take over the regular house visits. He also reorganized the medications, and the patient is doing essentially better. Together we thank our good Sister M. Emilie for her help.

- anonymous, Germany

Sister M. Emilie helps with personal intentions

My mother and I had planned to take a few days of vacation together at one of the Schoenstatt houses. When I called and asked for two rooms, unfortunately only one room could be reserved for me. If someone canceled, I would be informed.

I could now do nothing else but wait and pray and trust. So I turned to Sister M. Emilie and asked her to take care to get us a second room at this house. I trusted firmly, but it seemed to me to be almost hopeless. I prayed all the more intensively. The planned dates for our vacation came closer and closer and I had not received any positive information yet.

But then – one day before our vacation – the good news came. Indeed, one guest had canceled, so I could come! And that was the 20th of November, the death day of Sister M. Emilie. I could hardly believe it and could only give thanks for Sister M. Emilie's motherly care. My mother and I were able to spend very beautiful days there together.

- M.H., Germany

I was missing my wallet and was firmly convinced that I had lost it while climbing in or out of the car. All searching and asking around were in vain. Full of despair I walked in front of our house one more time in the evening: Nothing! My personal ID, debit card, cash – everything was gone! As I went back into the house I shone the flashlight – it had already gotten dark in the

meantime – toward the garden gate and thought: “Actually, you, dear Sister M. Emilie, could lay my wallet there right now!” I could hardly believe my eyes: My wallet – untouched!!! – was really lying in front of the garden gate on the path, although people had passed by that spot. For me it was a clear sign from Sister M. Emilie, for whose beatification I pray every day. Thank you very much, dear Sister M. Emilie.

- G.K., Germany

Sister M. Emilie helps in family matters

I would like to report a wonderful answer to prayer. Some time ago I wrote about my youngest daughter, who had acted toward me in an inexplicable way. She didn't want to have me present at the celebration of her birthday. She spoke about me in the most terrible way – as if I were a criminal and the scum of the world. I cried many tears and could not understand why everything was happening this way. ... She wrote me letters full of hatred and insulted me. ... It was impossible to endure. My heart bled, and I knew of nothing else to do but to ask you for help in my situation, that Sister M. Emilie should help me. And then the miracle happened. Two weeks later the turn surprisingly came... What happened then is incredible. For the birthday of my oldest daughter, my youngest daughter and her boyfriend were invited. My daughter was like a changed person toward me – as if there had never been a disagreement between us. After the party they took me in their car and even brought me to my apartment. On the way we had nice conversations. I am so happy. In my eyes this is a huge miracle. Sister M. Emilie, I thank you for all your help. -
anonymous, Germany

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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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