



**175th anniversary of the
Congregation of the Sisters of
Divine Providence
1842 -2017**

Münster- St. Mauritz, 3.11.2017

Launch of the joint project of the Sisters of Divine Providence:

International Network for the protection of life

Dear Sisters!

Gratefully we remember that Eduard Michelis, together with his friends founded our congregation 175 years ago and gave it the name "Sisters of Divine Providence". It was the plight and the misery of poor orphan girls, by which Eduard Michelis was moved to appeal to women, to give these girls a home and education. Times changed. What remained was the ever new focus on God's Providence with the question: where is God calling us now and to what does he call us?

We ask ourselves: what would move Eduard Michelis now-a-days to bring on the way?

A joint project of the congregation

In the Economist- and the Congregation Council meeting in 2016 in monastery Nette, we talked about this question, and the wish for the organization and implementation of a common project, of which we had often dreamed, became concrete.

After intense consideration, we decided **to create a joint network for endangered life.**

As the target group we defined all people that are affected by human trafficking, all migrants and refugees, in particular women and children.

Situation

The number of victims of human trafficking worldwide is increasing from year to year. More and more people are abducted and often forced into prostitution and to work under false promises. There is no country, where there is no trafficking in human beings.

Causes

Poverty, lack of educational opportunities in the countries of origin, and thus missing earning opportunities for women are a root cause for human trafficking. The exploitation of women has a major cause in the disastrous living conditions.

Measures

Necessary measures are:

- Fighting against poverty; fighting the causes of migration;
- Sensitization and educational outreach/ awareness campaigns on the dangers of human trafficking
- Creating advisory structures that protect, legally advice, social-pedagogically as well as therapeutically accompany victims of human trafficking.

- To grant personnel and financial support
- Usage for a better protection and an effective law enforcement

Networking

The fight against human trafficking and forced prostitution is very difficult. There is need for an improved cooperation between different bodies at national and international level because human trafficking is one of the organized crime and without international cooperation one cannot succeed in the fight against it. In this context, it is important therefore to point out to the Governments that they have a responsibility, and it is important to integrate them into existing networks and to commit them. The churches - and within the Church in a special way the religious congregations – are able to take advantage of their cross-border structures to fight effectively against this modern form of slavery.

The „Talitha Kum“ Network

is a worldwide network of Religious against trafficking in human beings. Sponsored by members of religious congregations in five continents, the network was founded in 2009 out of a common desire, to coordinate and to strengthen the activities against human trafficking. It is a project of the International Union of General superiors (UISG) in cooperation with the Association of religious superiors (USG). "Talitha Kum" covers 17 regional networks and operates in 70 countries.

Our Idea

We want to strengthen and bundle in our common network our involvement and activities for endangered life and at the same time join the project "Talitha Kum". Each Province / Region has already named a Sister as responsible for contacts and in order to maintain a good flow of information.

Today:

„Working together gives an invincible strength.“ – This quote by Eduard Michelis is valid that time and today.

Therefore, we want to start today our

International Network for the protection of life.

Here, in this significant place in the parish church of St. Mauritz, you are witnesses that we remain faithful to our Charism. We place our project under the protection of our founder Eduard Michelis and entrust it to God's Providence.

United with Sr. Márian, Sr. Lydia, Sr. Lucia, Sr. Maria Rita and the Sisters of the Congregation Council we greet you cordially,

Yours,

Sr. Ursula Kuhlmann
(General Bursar)

Thomas Plagemann
(Administrator)