



Danke!
Obrigada!
Terima Kasih!
Hartelijk dank!
Thank you!
Gracias!

In your early years (1725 - 1748) you was the dwelling place of the Canon Friedrich Christian Joseph von Galen. *This first epoch leaves us the testimony of a family that lived from the Faith.* This first epoch leaves us the testimony of a family of that lived from the faith. You stay in the memory of the Church in Münster. **Thank you, Friedrichsburg!**

Then, (1851 - 1872) you became the convent of the Jesuits; they founded a Novitiate, a student's home and a mission institute of it. *The spirit that has permeated this place left vocations, seeds, which have borne fruits.* You gave us good impulses of Ignatian Spirituality. **Thank you, Friedrichsburg!**

During the Kulturkampf, which has hit the Society and the German Catholic Church, the Jesuits were expelled from Germany in 1872. The great significance that the Jesuits had for the people became visible in the demonstrations of the citizens of Münster in support of the Religious. Through this historical turn you, Friedrichsburg, came back again in the possession of the Galenian family. For us the loving care of Divine Providence was experienced, which had thus reserved this House for us; we, as well, were also in exile. *"May it happen, as it happens. I'm in God's hands. In Him I trust.* (EM). **Thank you, Friedrichsburg!**

The beautiful and fruitful love story between you, Friedrichsburg, and us, the Sisters of Divine Providence, began in 1888. At the end of the Kulturkampf, the Government allowed the congregation to return from exile. The father of the future Cardinal Clemens August von Galen has rented the Friedrichsburg to our congregation in 1888. 1892, Mother Bertha Bartmann moved her residence from Steyl/Netherlands to the Friedrichsburg. Therefore, you became the Generalate of the congregation and then, in 1930, the property of our congregation. *As the 'General Mother House' you were an important point of reference for all developments, which led to a growth in vocations and a spread of our Apostolic and missionary commitment.* **Thank you, Friedrichsburg!**

The recognition of the congregation as an Institute of Pontifical right, in 1954, led to the founding of the Westphalian Province. You were the heart of this thriving province. The Generalate, from then on, no longer was associated with a specific province, and so the autonomy of each institution was guaranteed. Dear Friedrichsburg, the entire congregation is grateful for the concern with which you supported the transfer of the Generalate to the 'Vorsehungs-Kloster'. *These traces of Communio will never expire.* **Thank you, Friedrichsburg!**

Sisters of Divine Providence 1842-2019
177 years since the foundation

There are three messages among many that remain alive in our history!

The cross in the chapel

Upon entering this holy place, our look lingers especially at the large cross, hanging in the middle of the altar space. It is a cross from the chapel floor of the old Castle. It hangs on three ropes, which embrace a heavy stone below the cross. It symbolizes the world that does not crash into the abyss, but is held by the love of the Triune God!

The cross will - together with the sisters - go on pilgrimage to the new Provincial House and find its place in the chapel there.



The fountain in the Park

The Friedrichsburg is surrounded by an area that radiates peace and invites you to contemplation, to dialogue, to rest! There is a fountain. In the year 2005 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the founder Eduard Michelis, memorial plaques with the dates of the founder's life and the first Superior General, Elisabeth Sarkamp, were attached to the well. Sitting in this place, one can hear the bubbling water and read the Psalm verse: „God, with you is the source of life“ (Ps 36,9).

We have the certainty that we draw strength from deeper sources, regardless of the future site of the fountain.

Indelible marks

In the prayer room of the Provincial Coordination, in which Karl Stindt previously lived, footprints are embedded in the stone floor. For us, this is a sign of the many missionaries, who were sent from the Friedrichsburg in following Jesus in different continents. They left traces and a fertile testimony of trust in Divine Providence.

Many thanks, Sisters!



Dear Sisters!

With this greeting as a thank you for all signs of life that have marked the presence of the sisters in the Friedrichsburg, we embrace you at the 177th Foundation day. Yours

Sr. Márian, Sr. Lydia, Sr. Lucia Weiler, Sr. Maria Rita, Sr. Christa