

Yes

Beloved person,

“In his presence, no one withered away; we grew.” And: “The harshness vanished when she entered. She had the patience to watch me grow.” This is what Marieke Lucas Rijnveld writes in the booklet *The Fortress of Warmth (Warmtefort)*. These sentences touch on what I want my life to be about and what I hope it will bring about. No hardening, cynicism or armour. But, from a deeply felt inner ‘yes’, to keep searching for the right thing to do in the life that has been given to me. To that, I wholeheartedly want to say ‘yes’ again. I so dearly wish, together with many of you, to be touched in my soul. That requires courage. Courage to be receptive and vulnerable. Courage to grow in this. It requires fragile courage.¹

Could Easter 2026 become a moment of hope? In a world that frightens us and in which war and violence seem to be drawing ever closer. Where callousness and decay are the order of the day. Would there – in that world – perhaps be room for something to shift within me, within you? Could what has grown and taken root within us for so long lead to new possibilities, because you truly (truly!) believe it and live from that conviction?

Easter can be the renewal of a fragile yet courageous bond. A bond with the awareness that life is far from always easy and will not always be, but that we find the strength within ourselves and with one another to get through it. That together - step by step and across boundaries - we will find a way. We have often been told that we may have confidence in ourselves, in each other, and in Life. Sometimes we simply call it faith; sometimes we recognise it as faith in God. We stand in a tradition in which that faith was a recurring message and was passed on time and again. It is part of our Apostolic identity. We stand on the shoulders of those who showed us - or of whom we could surmise - that they chose love at crucial moments.

This is how I want to live. With open eyes. With a warm heart that may be touched if possible. With the willingness to change. And in addition - perhaps now more than ever - it is necessary to actively practice living together. In our communities and in various ways. Practicing without becoming hardened, without withering away. Coming together to form a more complete picture of what is going on, what is right, what fits, and what is needed for a liveable world (also close to home) and the future that lies ahead. That does not mean that such processes are always comfortable. There will be growing pains. But perhaps that discomfort is a sure sign that something new is emerging.

Shall we try to fully feel that invitation this Easter? Together - because we need each other so much, with respect for the past and with an eye to the future - continuing to build the Work that we hold dear? And where, out of gratitude and appreciation, we gladly express our love in a special Gift of Love. Many do so, often digitally. We are very grateful to you all for this, and we also express that gratitude to one another. It makes it possible for us to continue our Work together.

We wish everyone a wonderful Easter.

With a warm-hearted greeting, you also receive this from brother Van Der Wal, gladly your sister Nanda Ziere



¹ Word created by Sabien Clement