

**In Memoriam**  
**Fr. Klaus Demmer MSC**  
27 May 1931 - 18 July 2014

Founding member of INTAMS  
Member of the Editorial Board of the *INTAMS review* since 1995

The sudden death of Klaus Demmer is very significant for INTAMS. He passed away on 18 July 2014 in his hometown of Münster. He suffered a bad fall during his usual evening stroll, and did not recover from a severe head injury. I am very touched by this sudden death, having had the privilege of a deep friendship with him for more than forty years. He stood at the cradle of INTAMS, and together with him, we started the International Academy of Marital Spirituality, which is now an integral part of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of Leuven.

One might ask what made him who he was, an outstanding, yet humble and unassuming personality, and an exceptional moral theologian of our century? He was a man of faith and a man of extraordinary intellectual gifts! He helped each person with whom he worked, and all those who asked him for his advice on how to build a truthful moral life. He spent his whole life searching and deepening his relationship with God, in prayer, contemplation and in his intellectual work as a true moral theologian. He was fond of repeating, almost at every encounter, that "truth is anything but triumphalistic." No wonder, then, that one of his masterpieces, in a lifetime production that spans more than forty books, had the precise title: "Living the Truth".

His wisdom lays in the realization that life is a struggle and that sin was never far away, whether one is married, celibate, or living the consecrated life. In the many encounters with him, Klaus Demmer shared his basic insight that, in the end, one finds freedom in believing in the cross of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.

INTAMS has been shaped by his depth, his example and humility, the sophistication of his thought, and the truthfulness of his theological reflection. He loved to repeat that "*In his thinking, the theologian takes responsibility for his own life story. (...) In his thinking, the theologian also takes responsibility for his own time. He is like a highly sensitive seismograph that can register even the*

*slightest vibrations before these reach a wide public. But he cannot be tied down to the role of the passive observer. He also wants to shape things actively and to change circumstances. For the Church has commissioned him to think.*"<sup>1</sup>

The entire INTAMS Board have beautiful memories of the beginnings of INTAMS. Until Klaus Demmer's very last day he was closely connected to and interested in all things concerning INTAMS, which he promoted amongst his moral theologian colleagues, his students and the many other contacts he had.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn*  
Brussels, 18 July 2014

Geliebt sei überall das Heiligste Herz Jesu!

In Dankbarkeit und österlicher Hoffnung  
nehmen wir Abschied von

**Pater Prof. Dr. Klaus Demmer MSC**

geb. 27. 05. 1931

gest. 18. 07. 2014

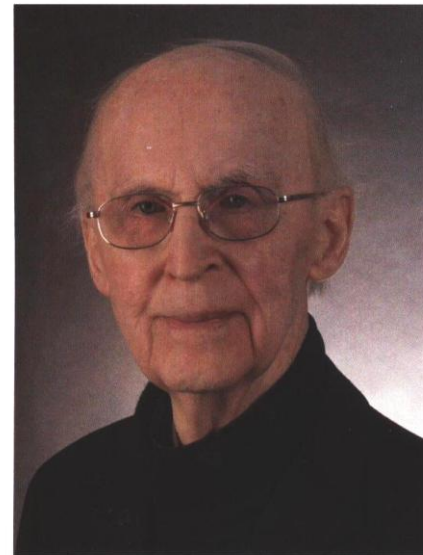
Geboren in der St. Josef-Pfarrei in Münster wandte er sich nach seinem Abitur am Ratsgymnasium an die Herz-Jesu-Missionare in Hilstrup, wo er 1952 die ersten Gelübde ablegte. Im August 1957 wurde er zum Priester geweiht.

Nach Grundstudium in Rom und Promotion begann er seine Lehrtätigkeit zunächst innerhalb des Ordens, später in Paderborn. Danach dozierte er über 30 Jahre an der Gregoriana in Rom. Neben Gastprofessuren und zahlreichen Buchveröffentlichungen in der Moral-Theologie erhielt er bedeutende Auszeichnungen und Ehrungen.

Die letzten Jahre lebte Klaus Demmer in der Kommunität in Münster, wo er weiterhin an Buchmanuskripten arbeitete.

Seine disziplinierte, anspruchslöse und bescheidene Lebensweise sowie seine freundliche und liebenswürdige Art zeichneten ihn ebenso aus wie seine hohe Kompetenz in moraltheologischen, ethischen, aber auch wissenschaftlichen und politischen Fragen.

Wir haben Klaus Demmer am 23. Juli 2014 auf dem Klosterfriedhof in Münster-Hilstrup beigesetzt.



<sup>1</sup> Klaus Demmer: "Sacramental Marriage – A Testimony of Faith in a Secular World," in: Klaus Demmer & Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn (eds.): *Close to our Heart: Personal Reflections on Marriage*, Münster: LIT, 2012. - p. 11.