

## History of the origin of the Place of Grace St. Michael

---

After a constant search for truth, Paul Kuhn, a vegetable gardener in Dozwil in the Canton of Thurgovia (Switzerland), gets to know the Coué-Association and trains to become a Coué-instructor in 1962. During a relaxation exercise he experiences something supernatural: His spirit is being transported to heavenly spheres through a bright light-channel coming from the cosmos. Two years later, Maria Gallati attends one of his public evening classes. The encounter awakens her medial gift and until her death she serves as the speaking tool of the Holy Archangel St. Michael. In the years 1964-1969 Paul Kuhn is being taught in spiritual matters and receives revelations from heaven by the Archangel Michael through Maria Gallati.

In 1965 both «instruments of God» travel to the place of Marian apparitions in Garabandal/Spain where they are blessed with a second miracle: The Blessed Virgin Mary appears and gives them orders. She asks to pray the rosary and wishes the construction of a Marian grotto, which was build and consecrated in 1968 in Kuhn's garden. Paul Kuhn usually gives weekly public talks at many different places in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. He teaches the people the power of a positive attitude towards life and the early Christian faith. He talks about his calling as God's instrument and the origin of the Place of Grace with its supernatural occurrences. The dominant churches give their view with the brochure «Wrong Prophets».

Between 1966 and 1970 more and more people gather in Paul Kuhn's private home. In 1968 Jesus Christ gives Paul Kuhn the task: «Build me a church! One thousand people should find seats in it there.» Despite his difficult financial situation, Paul Kuhn starts the building of the church in his vegetable garden, supported by volunteers. On December 24<sup>th</sup> the congregation is able to concelebrate the first worship service in the St. Michael's church in Dozwil, after Jesus Christ mystically ordained Paul Kuhn and Maria Gallati to the priesthood. From then on, both of God's instruments celebrate the Holy Eucharist according to the Catholic liturgy. In 1974 the St. Michael's Association as a registered association is founded: «The association aims the organisation, securing and promotion of the missionary activity on ecumenical basis in the service of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raffael and Uriel». The association consists only of the board. There is no membership for church attendees and no church tax! In 1975 Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Resch, parapsychologist from Innsbruck, looks into the Place of Grace on behalf of the Swiss Bishops' Conference. His recommendation: The Catholic Church should make use of the teaching and the charisma from the Place of Grace. His call for cooperation, however, goes unheard at the dominant church.

At a course evening in 1987 Ulrich Aeberhard, a music teacher at the Kantonsschule (high school) in Olten, gets to know Paul Kuhn and later on receives revelations. His writing hand is guided by an angel's hand. In this way, the congregation is guided directly in the written word by the Holy Archangel Uriel, the Blessed Mother Mary and Jesus Christ himself throughout the following years. On behalf of Jesus Christ, Paul Kuhn ordains Ulrich Aeberhard to priesthood on 21 January 1989. Maria Gallati dies after a short time in hospital on 16 January 1988. In April 1988 the congregations receives revelations which talk about a soon rapture, like it is announced in the Book of Revelation. Instigated by the sensational press, a violent crowd gathers in Dozwil on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The damages to property are, however, less severe than the

reputational damage: Since these May-riots the Place of Grace is seen throughout Switzerland as an end time sect. Following reports often build on these incidents without honestly looking into the Place of Grace. On 21 October, the Swiss-German Bishops' Conference requests the church goes to decide between the Catholic Church and the Place of Grace St. Michael. In September 1989 the first edition of the monthly publication «Benedicite» is issued. With this journal, revelations, meditations and testimonies of faith are to be conveyed. In 1991 the intensified public relations activities lead to the production of the video film «Guided by God», which documents the history of origins with the help of interviews and a worship service. In 1998 a second video film «The Path to the Light» is released and the Place of Grace presents itself on the internet (<http://st-michael.ch>). In 1997 the St. Michael's Association initiates the foundation «Sfantul Mihail», a relief organisation for street children in Bucharest. In 1998 the St. Michael's Association initiates the «Socrates Foundation for health, education and upbringing» ([www.stiftung-sokrates.ch](http://www.stiftung-sokrates.ch)). Aim and purpose of the foundation are the planning and construction of a new Christian clinic for patients with severe diseases as well as the promotion of natural medicine through research and development. In 1999 the Socrates Foundation acquires a property in Güttingen (canton Thurgovia) and in 2002 inaugurates as first stage an outpatient clinic with homeopathy offices as well as music therapy offices. From 2001 onwards Ulrich Aeberhard celebrates public worship services in different Swiss towns and cities to make an approach to the Place of Grace easier for interested people. His public ministry leads to an intensified pastoral care for the youth and to the realization of youth retreats. On February 8<sup>th</sup> 2003 Ulrich Aeberhard ordains Willy Bolliger and Thomas Graber to priests of the St. Michael's Association. Ulrich Aeberhard dies on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2003 at the age of 61 after a lengthy medical condition. A large congregation of mourners says farewell to the leader of the Place of Grace St. Michael. The Place of Grace is led on by the priests Willy Bolliger and Thomas Graber in the same sense and spirit.

The Place of Grace St. Michael is open to all people, irrespective of their origin, religion or citizenship. On weekends and holidays, public masses with Rosary and the Eucharist are celebrated in the St. Michael's church in Dozwil. Around 2.000 people, children and adults from Switzerland, Germany and Austria regularly attend the masses on weekends. Retreats are offered to get to know the pearls from the Place of Grace und to brace oneself in the Christian faith.

St. Michaelswerk, CH-8580 Dozwil, <http://st-michael.ch>