



BRUDER KLAUS

Niklaus von Flüe · Dorothee Wyss

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***Welcome to
Nicholas of Flüe
and Dorothee***

Statue of Hugo Imfeld in Stalden OW

Nicholas of Flue and Dorothee Wyss

Nicholas of Flue (1417–1487) is one of the most influential leading figures in Switzerland. He is an example in mysticism and spirituality, society and politics, as well as a man with strengths and weaknesses.

Supported by his wife, he assumed responsibility at work and in public as well as in family and society. At the age of 50 he left everything that was dear to him and from then on lived as the hermit «Bruder Klaus» (Brother Klaus) in the Ranft, immersed in prayer in the constant search for God. He became a much sought-after advisor and mediator. His contemporaries saw in him a «living saint». This respect and veneration survived the centuries and experienced a new upswing after the canonization in 1947.

Nicholas of Flue is an uncomfortable saint. His leaving of the family and his fasting for 20 years are very difficult to understand.

The importance of his wife is undisputed. She was his confidante and companion. Without her consent, his path of life would not have been possible. Understanding the mutual struggle of Nicholas and Dorothee is essential to find access to Brother Klaus of Flue.

Unique sacral space

Within a radius of only a few kilometres there are Nicholas of Flues' birthplace, places where he lived and worked, the Ranft, where he lived as a hermit for 20 years, and his grave in the parish and pilgrimage church of Sachseln. Unique: Proximity and authenticity.

Welcome to the sacred pilgrimage area of Sachseln, Flüeli and Ranft.

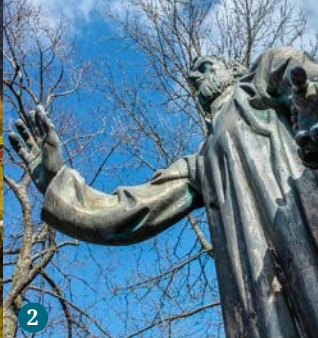


The village of Flüeli (Flüeli-Ranft)

The village of Flüeli is situated on a plateau, bordered by the ravine of the Melchaa and a tree-covered rock, 4 km above Sachseln.

The family name «von Flüe» (of Flue) and the name of the village «Flüeli» are traced to this rock. This is where Nicholas of Flue was born, this is where he lived with Dorothee Wyss and their children.





1 The Chapel of Flüeli St. Charles Borromeo

The landmark of the village of Flüeli is the Flüeli Chapel which stands on the rock (Fluo). The chapel was consecrated to St. Charles Borromeo in 1618. This artistic monument of national importance contains magnificent marquetry and a richly painted wooden ceiling. The Flüeli Chapel is popular as a wedding chapel.

2 Festive square with the Blessing Nicholas of Flue

At the foot of the Flüeli rock is the festive square designed by Albert Wider in 1947 for the canonisation of Nicholas of Flue with the mighty bronze figure of the «Blessing Nicholas of Flue». Open air festive and pilgrim services take place here.

3 Village square and time capsule

In 2017 the village square was redesigned. Embedded in the ground, under a glass cover, is the copper time capsule of the commemorative year 2017 «600 years of Nicholas of Flue». The capsule contains 2062 messages written for posterity by people from all over Switzerland. It is to be opened in 2117, on the 700th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas of Flue.



4 Birthplace of Nicholas of Flue

The house where he was born stands on the of Flue family estate. Nicholas was born here and he lived here until his marriage with Dorothee Wyss. The house was directly passed down through the male line until 1650 and is now owned by the chapel foundation (Kapellenstiftung Flüeli-Ranft) established by Nicholas of Flue. Its current appearance dates to the restoration of 1925 and recalls the late medieval culture and style of living.

5 The Residential House of Nicholas and Dorothee

Nicholas built the house in the Schiblochmatte around 1445/46, when he founded his own household. He lived here for 20 years with his wife Dorothee Wyss and their ten children until he went on pilgrimage on October 16, 1467. He settled down as a hermit in the Ranft shortly afterwards. Dorothee and the family continued to live in this house not far from the Ranft. In 1946, on the occasion of the canonization, the house was reconstructed and corresponds in its present form to its original state.

The Birthplace, the Residential House as well as all the chapels are open to public.



6 Ranft

The toponym «Ranft» stands for «Rand» which means edge, margin and describes the place where the escarpment slides towards the ravine formed by the Melchaa River. The Ranft is just as authentic as it was in the time of Nicholas of Flue. A place of silence and peace – inseparably connected to «Brother Klaus of Flue».

7 The Upper Ranft Chapel

Four rays of light showed Nicholas of Flue the way to the Ranft, where he settled as a hermit in 1467. From now on he called himself «Brother Klaus». Friends and neighbours first built him a chapel and then a simple cell. In 1469 the Auxiliary Bishop of Constance Thomas consecrated the chapel. Because of pressure from the slope, the chapel had to be replaced and consecrated again at the end of the 17th century.

During the renovation in 1986/87 Alois Spichtig designed the simple presbytery. Inside the chapel there is an expressive panel picture cycle from 1821 on the life of Nicholas of Flue, created by Balz Heymann.

8 The Hermitage Cell

The cell attached to the chapel still substantially corresponds to the original in form and materials. It was here that Nicholas spent twenty years as a hermit until his death on March 21, 1487.



His cell has two windows. One of them faces the altar towards God. The other shows outwards, open to the people. In the Ranft, Nicholas became a much sought-after adviser, mediator and peacemaker.

9 The Lower Ranft Chapel

After the death of Nicholas of Flue the stream of pilgrims increased. In 1501 this larger chapel was built and in 1504 – like the Upper Chapel – it was consecrated in honour of the Mother of God, Mary Magdalene, the Holy Cross and the 10,000 martyrs. The chapel is one of the most beautiful examples of late Gothic architecture. The interior contains rich decorative frescoes. The paintings in the choir date back to the time of construction. The frescoes on the side walls, dating back to the beginning of the 16th century, depict scenes from the life of Nicholas of Flue and the Passion of Christ.

10 The Mösli Chapel

The Mösli Chapel is located on the other side of the river Melchaa, opposite the Ranft. This chapel was built in 1484 by Brother Ulrich from Memmingen and later consecrated in honour of the Saints Bartholomew, Michael and Anne. Painted panels show the life of Brother Ulrich, Nicholas of Flues' companion. One of the paintings shows probably one of the oldest depictions of Dorothee Wyss, Nicholas' wife.



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*Unique in
its authenticity*

*Sacred pilgrimage
area of Sachseln,
Flüeli and Ranft.*





Sachseln on Lake Sarnen

Sachseln is the hometown of Nicholas of Flue. His grave lies in the baroque parish and pilgrimage church. It is an attraction for pilgrims and travellers from all over the world.

The idyllic village of Sachseln is situated on Lake Sarnen and is, together with Flüeli-Ranft, a popular destination for pilgrimages and relaxing holidays. The geographical centre of Switzerland, the Älggi Alp, is located above the village.

Thanks to its central location, Sachseln is the ideal starting point for excursions to the mountains of Obwalden, over the Brünig Pass to Interlaken or Lucerne and the Lake Lucerne Region.

The «Museum Bruder Klaus» in Sachseln is an art museum and a place to learn about Nicholas of Flue and Dorothee Wyss. The permanent exhibition paints a multifaceted portrait of the two leading figures of Switzerland and follows their footsteps into the present day.

11 «Weg der Visionen» – The Path of Visions

The meditation path «Weg der Visionen» (Path of Visions) leads from Flüeli-Ranft to Sachseln on the Bruderklausenweg (hiking trail no. 571/ Jakobsweg/Way of St James no. 4). Six metal sculptures, created by the artist André Bucher, placed along the path, inspire contemplation. The path begins near the house where Nicholas of Flue was born and ends at his grave in the parish and pilgrimage church of Sachseln.



12 Pilgrimage Office **Pivotal point on site**

The pilgrimage office, to the left of the church, is the contact point for questions and requests. Here you can register your pilgrimage mass, obtain information about the pilgrimage sites, book guided tours and offers, find literature and media about Nicholas of Flüe and Dorothee Wyss as well as pilgrimage souvenirs.

Pastoral care for pilgrims

The pilgrimage chaplain is available for services, information, dialogue and the sacrament of confession.

Phone +41 41 660 12 65
kaplan@bruderklaus.com

Reservations/Bookings

Förderverein Niklaus von Flüe und Dorothee Wyss, pilgrimage office

Pilatusstrasse 12, 6072 Sachseln, Switzerland

Phone +41 41 660 44 18
kontakt@bruderklaus.com

bruderklaus.com





13



14

13 Parish and Pilgrimage Church Sachseln

The parish and pilgrimage church of Sachseln is a monument of national importance. It was built after the beatification of Nicholas of Flue in 1649 in the early Swiss Baroque style between 1672 and 1684 and consecrated on 7 October 1684 by Auxiliary Bishop Georg Sigismund of Constance. In 1974/76 an extensive renovation took place.

Since 1679, the church has housed the grave of Nicholas of Flue, the hermit's habit and a copy of his meditation tableau, which is a true copy of the original.

The free-standing tower from the 13th century was heightened in 1672 and 1742 and fitted with a baroque onion dome. The tomb chapel attached to the tower was structurally altered several times.

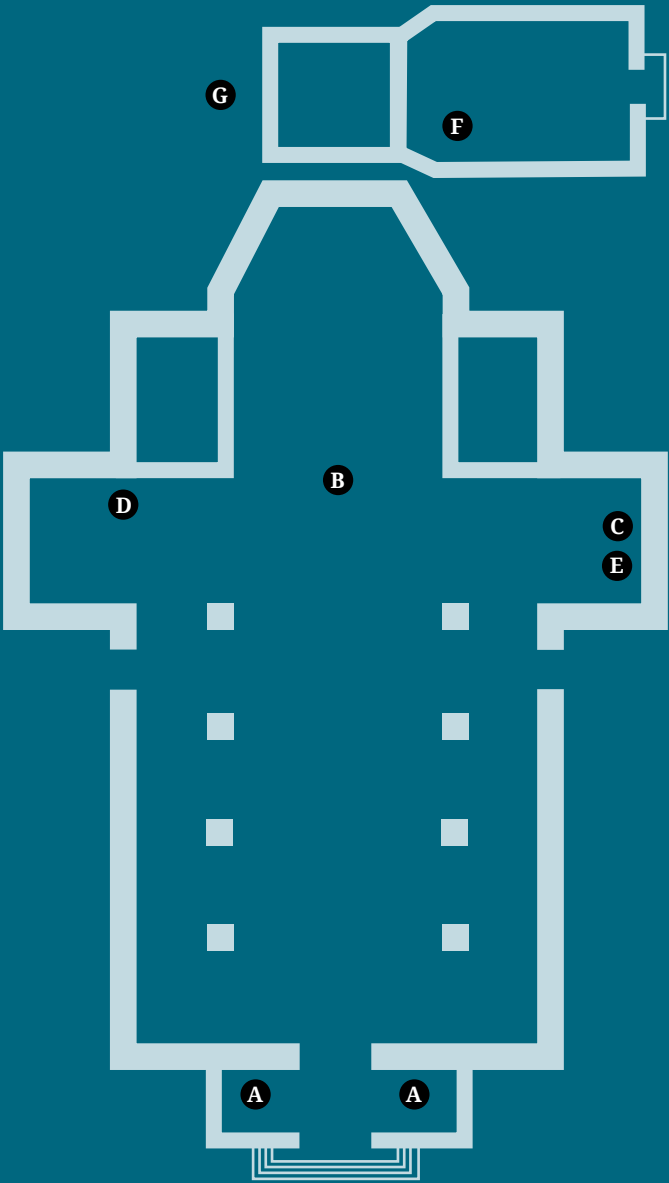
14 Museum Bruder Klaus Sachseln

Nicholas of Flue and Dorothee Wyss are the focus of the «Museum Bruder Klaus» in Sachseln. Audiovisuals, music and film clips as well as historical objects offer a varied insight into the life and work of these influential personalities.

Since 1976 the museum has been housed in one of the most beautiful patrician houses in Obwalden, the Peter-Ignaz-of-Flue-House, opposite the church.

museumbroderklaus.ch

To linger and meditate in the pilgrimage church of Sachseln





A Pictures at the entrance

The mosaics under the church porch were created in 1941 based on paintings by Anton Stockmann. The mosaic on the left shows the apparition of Mother Mary to Nicholas of Flue in the Ranft and the one on the right features the Diet of Stans.

B Grave of Nicholas of Flue

Since 1934, a silver reliquary created by Meinrad Burch-Korrodi has housed the relics of the Saint. During the restoration of the church in 1974/76 the relics were placed in the main altar, created by Alois Spichtig.

C The habit of the hermit Brother Klaus of Flue

The habit worn by Nicholas on his death in 1487 has been kept in the parish church since 1610 in a display case in the right aisle. In 1975 the badly damaged habit was restored. Another habit can be found in the Jesuit Church in Lucerne.

D Tableau of meditation

Between the two side altars on the left there is a copy of Nicholas of Flues' meditation tableau, conforming to the original. The basic structure of the tableau is the wheel. The inner circle and the outer circle are connected by three outgoing and three incoming beams. Six medallions represent events in the history of Salvation. The tableau was created around 1475/80 and was given to Brother Klaus in the Ranft.



F Bronze relief Dorothee and Nicholas of Flue

Alois Spichtig created the bronze relief in 1984 on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II. It shows the married couple Nicholas and Dorothee united by the ray of God. When Nicholas grabs the pilgrim's staff in 1467, Dorothee becomes the guardian of the keys.

On 14 June 1984 Pope John Paul II visited the grave of saint Nicholas of Flue and called Dorothee a «saintly woman».

F Tomb Chapel

In 1487 Nicholas of Flue was buried in the nave of the medieval church. His his grave was covered with a sandstone slab with his effigy. In 1518 his relics were reburied in the same place but in a raised stone tomb. This stone tomb can be found in the Tomb Chapel. The first sculpture underneath it is hardly recognizable anymore. His grave has become a religious monument and a pilgrimage destination. In 1679 the relics were transferred to the newly built church.

The gothic choir cross from the 14th century presumably originates from the old church.

G Statue of Dorothee

Dorothee Wyss presumably died around 1494/95. Her statue, created by the sculptor Rolf Brem from Lucerne in 1991 and donated by catholic peasant women, is located next to the bell tower near the presumed grave site.