

Testimony – A Miracle for Me

I, Bernhard Koppenhagen, was formerly lukewarm and cold in faith and hardly prayed.

Thus I received Holy Communion—as I had learned as a child from our priest at the time, Father K. H.—in the hand.

Our priest told us First Communion children:

“The consecrated Host is a blessed piece of bread.”

And we children naturally believed this.

The actual First Communion instruction, as was customary with us, was not given by the priest but by a layperson. Shortly before our First Communion, the priest himself told us only these words about the “blessed piece of bread.”

Around the year 1994, when I was in the prayer group of Julijana Ebert in St. Leon-Rot, I heard there for the first time that the consecrated Holy Host is far more than bread:

that it is the living Holy Triune God—with Flesh and Blood, Body and Soul, Divinity and Humanity—and that receiving Communion in the hand is wrong, and that Holy Communion should be received only as Communion on the tongue, kneeling, from the consecrated hand of the priest.

At the very next Holy Mass in our home parish in Niederkirchen, I knelt down—completely alone, before all the faithful—before the priest and received Communion on the tongue.

For me, this was a very great miracle.

I had always had great fear of people and would otherwise never have dared to do anything different from the other faithful, so as not to stand out or offend anyone. I had always been very fearful, and through the poor example of the priest I knew nothing other than Communion in the hand.

But through the prayer group, through the strong words of Julijana Ebert, and through the great grace that flowed through her, I suddenly received the courage and strength to kneel down alone before everyone and receive Communion on the tongue.

For me, this remains an incomprehensible miracle to this day.

Niederkirchen, January 5, 2026
Bernhard Koppenhagen

(The text was linguistically revised and translated by a good Christian.)