



# Jesus Brotherhood Gnadenthal

## Community “Jesus Brotherhood”

The former Cistercian nuns monastery in Gnadenthal is the centre of the **Jesus Brotherhood** community. “Reconciled diversity”: celibacy and marriage – man and woman – young and old – Protestants, Catholics, Free Church members – linking denominations – together and alone – praying and working

We are a committed community, made up of three branches: families, celibate brothers, and celibate sisters. Each branch has appropriate living space, supporting and supplementing the other branches. Fellowship itself is an element of our vocation. Each branch elects their respective superiors and earns their livelihood independently. Caring for each other and giving each other space – this is a permanent process of mutual learning.

It is our vocation to live and pray for the unity of God’s people, which is not possible without reconciliation. Jesus Christ is the centre of our lives. Through his incarnation he became our brother. Therefore, *brotherhood* emanates from him. His love has seized us and encourages us to live a life of discipleship. As men and women we are called to a common path and service as celibates or married people, taking up the tradition of religious orders and spiritual communities. We want to encourage Christians to live their lives in communities based on the gospel. We are happy to invite people into our homes to share our lives.

*“All the believers were together and had everything in common.”*

Acts 2, 44



## Prayer

Our regular prayers support us throughout the day just like pillars supporting a bridge. We start the day together in the church of the monastery, the oldest building in the village. Here we pray daily on weekdays, meeting for the Lord’s Supper in the morning and for intercessory prayer in the evening.

The Brothers’ House hosts the largest chapel, which expresses our vocation: Jesus in the centre, surrounded by his followers. Light and the altar are at the centre. We congregate around this light every day at noon, praying for the unity of God’s people, and every Sunday, celebrating Christ’s presence among us in the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist.

*“Seek me and live”*

Amos 5, 4

## Guests

Hospitality is close to our hearts. The **House of Silence** offers our guests opportunities for retreat and sharing, so that they can follow their longings and be all ears for what is essential.

The **Nehemia House**, our meeting place for young people and families, has room for school classes, camps for confirmands, and other groups. We offer a wide range of programmes designed to provide children with a direct experience of the Bible and creation.

All houses and rooms are also available for groups carrying out their own programmes.

*“The door is open, but the heart even more”*

Slogan of the Cistercians





## Work

We live on historical ground and work the land we are entrusted with. We work in order to express our hope – through books and paintings, through hospitality, through education and counselling.

We have a **bookshop** located in the village square, offering a selected range of products on three floors including spirituality, Christian literature, life in general, as well as a large corner with books for children and the young.

Our **organic agriculture** has been operating under the “Bioland” label

since 1993. It covers four areas: dairy farming, sheep breeding, conservation of the countryside, and environmental education of children.

## Chronology

**1961** In the same year that the Berlin wall is built, two celibate brothers start their communal life in Ostfriesland (Northern Germany).

**1964** Foundation of the sisters’ branch in Ludwigshafen. Foundation of the registered association “Jesus-Bruderschaft e.V”.

**1968 / 1969** Foundation of the families’ branch.

**1969** Acquisition of a farm in Gnadenthal/Taunus.

**1972** Foundation of a branch of single women in the neighbouring town of Bad Camberg. Foundation of numerous affiliates in Germany and abroad. The ones still existing are in Latrun/Israel since 1973, and Makak/Kamerun since 1974.

**1984** Acquisition of more farms in Gnadenthal.

Restoration of the historic monasterial villagescape.

Start of organic agriculture.

**1991** After the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989: Foundation of the Centre for Work and Studies in Hennersdorf near Chemnitz (Saxony).

**1993** Start of the restoration of Volkenroda monastery (Thuringia)

**2005** The affiliate in Volkenroda becomes an independent economic and legal entity.

**2007** Restructuring of the association in Gnadenthal.

**2009** Route Companionship – a new type of membership of the community is initiated.

**2011** Foundation of the “Gnadenthal Monastery Endowment”.

## Jesus-Bruderschaft e.V.

Gnadenthal

65597 Huenfelden

Phone: 0 64 38 / 81-200

Fax: 0 64 38 / 81-310

[www.jesus-bruderschaft.de](http://www.jesus-bruderschaft.de)

## Bank details for donations:

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