

„Wir danken gerne“

Dear Friends,

In these challenging times, we have in the many conversations about the course of our birthday party certainly gained an essential insight that human fellowship and true friendship are the most precious treasures in our lives.

Despite the cancellation of all celebrations, we spent wonderful hours with our children and grandchildren. These have brought us very close again to how happy a person can be when he feels that his family is living!

It is now a matter of the heart for us to thank everyone sincerely for the diverse birthday greetings that we have received from our companions in life by letter, email and phone call.

They all contained many heartfelt lines and words that made us permanently happy. Special thanks go to the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung for the publication of a booklet in which many of my friends have shown and assessed the collaboration with me.

We have received personal congratulations from our Federal President Frank Walter Steinmeier, former Federal President Christian Wulff and our Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel, the CDU Federal President Ms. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, our State Prime Minister Armin Laschet, from Prof. An Hermans, the Chairman of the European Seniors Union, from Prof. Dr. Otto Wulff and Helge Benda, the federal and state presidents of the Seniors' Union and from the family of Prof. Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, who have been close friends with us over the years.

The initiatives from the CDU parliamentary group, especially its chairman, Mr. Bodo Löttgen, made us happy, the appealing record of my political work, and the reactions of the chairmen of the other two parliamentary groups from my time in the State parliament, Prof. Friedhelm Farthmann (SPD) and Dr. Achim Rohde (FDP).

From our hometown Pulheim we were happy to receive the congratulations from our mayor, Frank Keppeler, from council members, long-standing friends from politics and our large, very lively associations.

We were more than pleased with the way in which everyone dealt with our life path in all its facets with great sensitivity. We were surprised and very impressed by the extent to which our request for a donation to build a "stationary hospice" in Pulheim was followed!

Let us draw a conclusion: our "Dinner for two" - which in the end happened almost literally - was a precious jewel on our way of life together, for which we sincerely thank God, but also each of you.

At this point we would like to express a special thanks to the parish of St. Kosmas and Damian and to the close friends in Pulheim, who intensively prepared a wonderful course for our birthday party well in advance and actively supported us in the measures to be taken due to the cancellation!

Once again, what came to us from WALES as a saying for life applies:

"Don't be afraid of tomorrow; because GOD is already there! "

In lasting friendship.

Your birthday children.

Hildegard and Bernhard (signed)