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Tribute to Dr. Hans-Martin Sass

With great joy I share in the “Festschrift” of Dr. Hans-Martin Sass. The special date of your 80th is an excellent opportunity to express the appreciation and gratitude for your partnership and friendship since 2011.

I know that the life and work of Dr. Hans-Martin Sass has been extremely rich and blessed, and I would like to expand more on our study and common research. The first contact with Dr. Hans-Martin was motivated by a request for information on the life and work of Fritz Jahr. The contact, in fact was with the department of the University of Bochum (Zentrum für Medizinische Ethik), with the aim of obtaining more material on this author. I received a prompt answer and in a few hours, I received the materials available on Fritz Jahr. At the time, I wanted to submit a paper to the “IX National Congress of Contemporary Philosophy of PUCPR II Hans Jonas National Colloquium”, in Curitiba, PR, Brazil. The Bioethical Imperative of Fr Jahr could be an interesting contribution - and it was!

As of this date we have kept in touch by email, also later on Skype, always envisaging the publication and expansion of the thinking of Fritz Jahr. The Eighth International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation, (May 2012, São Paulo, Brazil), in which I met Dr. Hans-Martin Sass personally, was a very special moment for the exchange of ideas and expansion of knowledge on Fritz Jahr.

In the first half of summer 2012/2013 I took part in the doctoral research in Germany (Heidelberg University) under the title: “The contribution of Fritz Jahr’s

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bioethical approach towards the ecological focus of Practical Theology". The time spent in that country gave me the opportunity to participate in the event: 1927 - Die Geburt der Bioethik in Halle (Saale) durch den protestantischen Theologen Fritz Jahr (1895–1953) – (1927 – The birth of Bioethics in Halle (Saale) through protestant pastor Fritz Jahr (1895 – 1953), organized by the Interdisciplinary Circle of Bioethics in Medicine in Poland and Germany, the University of Halle Wittenberg.

In these years of contact and exchange of experiences and knowledge, I consider as major themes that I inherited and multiplied in my own field of expertise, especially in teaching and advice in the area of bioethics: The relevance of Fritz Jahr for bioethics, the vision of the world as a living being, the interaction and integration of all living beings, and the theological approach of Fritz Jahr.

I not only became familiar with the ideas of Dr. Hans-Martin Sass, but also got to know him as a person. He is a busy human being, concerned with others and sensitive towards them. A straightforward person that, despite the very knowledge and experience, has so much to teach and also to learn from those who still have a long path ahead of them.

On the occasion of two video conferences on the discipline of bioethics for undergraduate students of Theology (2014, 2015 – Brazil), Dr. Hans-Martin Sass conveyed much of his knowledge on Fritz Jahr and his developments on bioethics, but not only that, he made everyone feel at ease with his sense of humor. In addition, we cannot omit and forget the provocations of a great event that happened in 2014: Germany - world football champion! And who could forget Germany's 7x1 victory against Brazil? When he appeared on the screen dressed up as someone who had just become a champion there was a sudden friendly atmosphere and, of course, recognition of a deserved victory!

Dr. Hans-Martin Sass, I am using this simple, straightforward manner of participating in this tribute, because like your work and teachings, and also your example of engagement and persistence, as a person, your concern with the human being has left marks and deserves full recognition. Thank you, in the hope that I may be able to share much of your knowledge and your friendship. Thank you!