

“When I learned about being awarded with the **Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany** (Verdienstorden der Bundesrepublik Deutschland), I was highly surprised. I never expected anything like that. The laudation mentioned mainly my engagements in war ridden countries (Iraq, Sudan), in areas of starvation (Niger), in the Democratic Republic of Congo during the last elections (2005), in the border area of Somalia (peace promoting), and during the heavy floods in Nepal in 2007. Mention was made of my missionary engagements in Kenya, Tansania and India. Last but not least the laudator had even knowledge of my volunteer work in different local organisations such as the Christian-Jewish Dialogue group of Augsburg, or my engagement in our local parish. Listening I just couldn’t believe that all this is about me, is part of my life! When I was handed out the document signed by Bundespraesident Horst Koehler, together with the medal, I realized that it was REALLY about me! Now I am back again to normal day life, continuing with all the small and larger tasks. One of them is preparing classes for a group of senior citizens to maintain and improve their physical and mental activities and capabilities.”

- Marianist Affiliate Felicitas Samtleben-Spleiss