



OBITUARY

Sr. Christine Hess OP

13.05.1941 - 05.04.2020



The joy of the Lord
is our strength.

Alleluia

(Neh 8,10)



Sr. Christine Hess was born on 13 May 1941 in Frankfurt, Germany, as the second of three children. At her baptism, her parents Theodor and Elisabeth gave her the name Gisela.

From 1948 to 1956, she attended elementary school. She then completed a hairdressing apprenticeship and worked as a hairdresser in Rüsselsheim from 1959 to 1961. In 1962, she began training as a nurse at the Hildegardis Hospital in Mainz. There she worked as a qualified nurse until she joined our Congregation in 1967. She may have been inspired to take this step by her sister Beata, who had joined the Sisters of Divine Providence in Mainz. From the beginning, she felt the call to go to the people of South Africa. Shortly after her reception, she left for South Africa and spent the novitiate at Oakford, where she made her First Profession on 13 July 1970 and her Final Profession on 28 July 1974.

After her First Profession, she worked as a nurse in our hospitals Marymount in Johannesburg and Marifont in Pretoria, as well as in the Oakford Clinic. She completed her midwifery training in Durban in 1979-80 and was employed again in Marifont until 1981.

In 1981, Sr. Christine returned to Germany and worked in our Marienkrankenhaus in Flörsheim. From there, she supported her parents, who lived in Rüsselsheim and were in need of care, until their death.

She served in various wards in the hospital: in the surgical and orthopaedic ward and in the ward for new-borns. Because of her friendly, calm and peaceful manner, she was especially popular with young mothers.

With the closure of the neonatal ward in 2006, she moved to the recovery room of the operating department. There she looked after the patients with great patience and prudence and many people in Flörsheim remember her well from that time.

Health problems made it necessary for her to give up her beloved job in the hospital. At the end of 2014, she came to Neustadt and actively and in her friendly way helped her older fellow sisters with their everyday life.

In 2018, Sr Christine became very ill herself and from then on needed care. After a long hospital stay, she was admitted to the St. Martin Senior Centre in Lohr in March 2018. Here, too, she was concerned about her fellow sisters, with whom she was already connected from her visits to them. In May 2019, the difficult but necessary decision to move her to the protective department of Haus Lehmgruben, Markttheidenfeld, had to be made. There Sr Christine experienced until her death the loving care and attention that she had given to other people throughout her life.

Her strong, unshakable, yearning relationship with Christ was remarkable. It carried her through all the ups and downs of life and gave her strength, endurance and patience in her loving attention to people. This was particularly astonishing because of her delicate stature. Nothing was ever too much. She had always a smile on her face. Because of the corona pandemic, we were unable to accompany Sr. Christine in her dying. It was comforting news for us that on the evening of Palm Sunday she walked quietly towards her God with a palm branch in her hands. May she find the fulfilment of her longing and life in abundance with HIM.

We are grateful for the life of Sr. Christine, knowing that she will be our advocate with God.

RIP