



## Obituary

**Sr Gisela-Maria Schnatz OP**

27.09.1942 - 29.12.2020



Praise Yahweh, my soul!

I mean to praise Yahweh all my  
life, I mean to sing to my God  
as long as I live.

Ps 146,1-2

Sr. Gisela-Maria Schnatz was born on 27 September 1942 in Aschaffenburg as the second of three children of Johann and Thekla Schnatz and at her baptism was given the name Gisela Rosa. She attended elementary school from 1948 to 1956 and from 1956 to 1960 the commercial business school, where she trained as an industrial clerk. She completed the practical training for this in a printing company. She then worked in her profession and entered our Congregation in 1965.

After her novitiate and First Profession on 14 October 1967, she was sent to the community in Diessen, where she attended secondary school. Sr Gisela-Maria completed her matric at the Bavarian College in Augsburg in 1971. She returned to Neustadt and made her Final Profession on 4 September 1971.

She then began studying for a teaching diploma at the University in Würzburg, majoring in mathematics and physics. Due to illness, she had to quit this course after a year and a half. After she was stabilized, she moved to Mainz to study English and geography. During this time she lived in the convent in Flörsheim.

In 1978 Sr. Gisela-Maria returned to Diessen as a secondary school teacher and taught at our girls' secondary school until she retired in 2004.

During a sabbatical she took a guest semester in theology at the Philosophical-Theological University in Benediktbeuren. Once again, Sr. Gisela-Maria returned to Diessen and became the bursar of the convent - a responsibility she exercised, as she had done many years before, with great care. She also looked after the sacristy.

In 2015 one could notice changes in her which signalled the onset of deepening dementia. Sr Gisela-Maria was therefore transferred to the convent in Neustadt,

where she was looked after and cared for until she was admitted as a fulltime patient in the special care unit of Haus Lehmgruben in Marktheidenfeld in January 2019. Here she soon felt at home, showing a caring attitude towards her roommates. However, in the last few months she became increasingly weaker. She contracted Covid-19 and died peacefully on 29 December 2020.

Sr. Gisela-Maria did not have an easy life. Due to illness, she was rarely on the sunny side of life. There were limits to her, which she felt and with which she learned to live. At the same time, she fulfilled the tasks assigned to her reliably and conscientiously. She was grateful and had a friendly nature, often paired with quick-wittedness and humour, and had an eye for the needs of others. Often she shared what she had and made sure that others were not wanting for anything. She loved music and choral prayer and knew most of the songs and psalms by heart. One could feel that she had an intimate relationship with Christ, out of which the things of life were ordered and clarified. In spite of all confusion, she was able to go her way faithfully because she trusted in the faithfulness of God.

We are grateful for the testimony of the life and faith of our Sr Gisela-Maria and entrust her to the loving and merciful heart of God, to whom she can now sing and play with all her heart.

May she live in God's peace and be an intercessor for us.

*RIP*