



Obituary

Sr Martha Meinert OP
18.11.1936 – 08.08.2021



Christ says:
Heal those ... who are sick, and say,
"The kingdom of God is very near."

Lk 10,9

Sr Martha was born on 18.11.1936 as the second child of Bernhard and Antonia Meinert in Borghorst, Germany. At her baptism, she received the name Martha Katharina. She grew up with two sisters and a brother. Sr Martha attended primary school and was then employed as a seamstress for seven years.

She entered our Congregation in Neustadt on 01.08.1959. At her reception into the novitiate, she received the name Sr Henrietta. She made her First Profession on 05.05.1961 and was then transferred to the convent in Freckenhorst. There she helped with the housekeeping at the adult education centre before she was sent to Chingford, England, to train as a general nurse.

With her qualification as a nurse, she fulfilled the entry requirements for South Africa. After a short stopover at home, she left for Johannesburg. For more than 25 years, she worked in our hospital in Osindisweni. During this time, she returned to her baptismal name Martha.

Later she was assigned to our retreat and formation house Koinonia in Johannesburg. From there she returned to Burghwallis/England for three years to help as a nurse.

From 1998, Sr Martha lived again in Germany and worked as a nurse first for two years with her fellow sisters in need of care in the convent of St Josef in Dießen, before she took over the responsibility for the nursing station in Neustadt until 2018. Sr Martha had high standards for herself and in caring for the sisters entrusted to her. She found a balance to her often stressful work by watching football on television, reading the newspaper and taking an interest in current affairs. Despite all the challenges of everyday life, she retained an almost mischievous sense of humour.

From South Africa Sr Martha travelled to participate in a three-month pastoral renewal course in Dublin / Ireland and after her return to Germany had an accompanied three-months sabbatical at Münsterschwarzach.

Sr Martha always maintained good contacts with her family and was very close to her siblings until the end. She grieved deeply the sudden death of her youngest sister a few years ago. During the last days her siblings visited her in hospital, she could not show her joy and her affection for them because of failing strength. It was nevertheless a matter of concern to her that the following day we called her brothers and sisters on her behalf to express to them once again Sr Martha's gratitude for their visit.

Sr Martha never wanted to be a burden to our community. Until the end, she walked the ground floor every evening with her walker and reliably made sure that all windows and doors were locked. After a necessary stay in hospital this spring, Sr Martha was admitted to the Caritas Senior Centre St Martin in Lohr. There she was cared for with great dedication. Her strength was dwindling visibly, which she was able to accept in full consciousness. Strengthened by the anointing of the sick, she completed her earthly life in the early hours of 08 August 2021, on the 800th anniversary of the death of our Father St Dominic, patron saint and founder of the Order.

We give thanks for the life and calling of Sr Martha to our community. May God be her reward and give her a full life with Him. May she remain close to us through her intercession with God.

RIP