



Obituary

SR EVA-ANGELIKA HERBST OP

21.05.1961 – 29.12.2021



Lord, you know everything;
you know that I love you..

Jn 21:17



Angelika Margareta Herbst was born on 21 May 1961 in Würzburg. She was the only child of her parents, Berta and Edgar Herbst. Her parents were both teachers and nurtured her from the beginning. They encouraged her to become independent at an early age. Her sheltered childhood was abruptly cut short by her mother's cancer and early death in 1974. Even the fact that her father remarried two years later could not comfort Sr Eva-Angelika. Her father's cancer and his death in 1985 were again painful experiences of loss for her. It became all the more important for her to get to know her family ties more deeply beyond the death of her parents, and she pursued some serious genealogical research.

After graduating from high school in 1980, she first learned the gardening profession before beginning her theology studies in 1982 and graduating in 1987.

She entered our Congregation in September 1989. At her reception, she chose the name Eva-Angelika which she saw as pointing to a mission to become a "messenger of life". On 8 August 1992, she made her First Profession and six years later her Final Profession.

Already in her second year of novitiate, she worked in educational work among youth at Volkersberg. After her First Profession, she completed the practical part of her studies and, in 1995, passed her exams as a pastoral counsellor. She worked as a youth education worker at Volkersberg until 2005 and then as a pastoral counsellor in Lohr, St. Pius. From 2012, she worked in the team ministry of "Maria Regina im Spessart, Heimbuchenthal".

In order to get to know the Congregation more deeply, she took the opportunity to share life and work with our Sisters in California for six months before her Final Profession.

Later she was also able to visit the communities and places of mission of our Sisters in South Africa, and to report on them in our mission magazine "kontinente". Here her journalistic talent came to the fore; she presented the texts in an exciting and interesting way for the readership.

Yes, Sr Eva-Angelika was versatile, creative and inquisitive. She tried to get to the bottom of things, to understand them herself and to make them understandable to others. She produced illustrative material for lessons down to the smallest detail. She sought and loved theological discussions and the learning of foreign languages.

Sr Eva-Angelika was a proud and convinced Dominican, which found expression in preaching, teaching and liturgical singing.

The confrontation with the diagnosis of "tongue cancer" in autumn 2020 challenged her existentially. In her usual way, she tried to find the underlying cause of things here too and often prayed to God: "Why just THIS?" In good moments, her life strategy was to be mischievous and humorous. During this time, her parents and the fate now shared with them were always present.

In spring 2021, the course of her illness made it necessary to find a place of care for Sr Eva-Angelika where she could receive intensive nursing and emergency care day and night, so that she could feel safe at all times. Just at this time, the "Gesellschaft für spezialisierte Pflege" (Society for Specialised Care) opened a residential community in Marktheidenfeld, where she moved in as the first resident and where she was accompanied and cared for until her death.

It was a new and difficult learning process for Sr Eva-Angelika to accept help and support and to practise letting go in order to finally, trustingly, surrender into the hands of the incomprehensible and merciful God.

On the morning of 29 December 2021, we lost Sr Eva-Angelika, the youngest Sister in our German Area of the Congregation. May she now be our intercessor with God.

RIP