



Obituary

Sr Emma Becholt OP

07.05.1937 – 03.02.2022



*Whether we live or whether we die
we belong to the Lord.*

Rom 14:8

Emma Bechold was born in Burgsinn near Gemünden (Germany) on 7 May 1937. Her parents Thekla and Johannes Bechold had two other girls and a son besides her and ran their own farm. Emma grew up there and gained a lot of practical experience, which she was later able to put to good use wherever she was. After finishing 8 years of primary school, she attended a vocational school for home economics and worked on her parents' farm.

The family was the place where the Christian faith was convincingly lived and communicated, so that both her sister Agnes and she herself recognised their call to religious life.

Emma entered our Congregation in Neustadt, Germany, in January 1957, and on her reception in September 1957 was given the name Sr. Conradine. Later she changed back to her baptismal name. Together with six other Sisters she made her First Profession on 2 May 1959 in Neustadt and three years later her Final Profession.

The first years of her religious life Sr. Emma worked in Flörsheim in our former "Marienkrankenhaus" (St Mary's Hospital) in the housekeeping area, before she was sent to "Walsingham House" in Chingford, England, in 1964 to work in the management of the house. There in England she spent almost 50 years of her religious life, with an interruption of a little more than a year, when she once again helped in the hospital kitchen in Flörsheim.

After training in pastoral care, Sr Emma first entered youth work in 1970 and later worked in a parish. In 1982, she again assisted in the running of the house in Chingford. After her return from Flörsheim, she took charge of a nursery in Preston for four years. In 1990, her ministry was needed in Burghwallis where she again became involved in home economics.

Finally, she spent 16 valuable years in Bentley. Here she worked heart and soul in the parish, visiting the sick, bringing them communion regularly, playing the organ and running a bookshop. Her heart was drawn to these encounters and she remained in lively contact with many until the end.

In 2013, Sr Emma returned to Germany and spent a year in Flörsheim. She became involved in the small community there and visited the old and the sick. She then moved to our convent in Dießen am Ammersee where she was mainly involved in looking after guests until the convent closed. She spent only a short time of her twilight years in Neustadt. She became ill and had to transfer to the Caritas Senior Centre St. Martin in Lohr for care.

Sr Emma's life was colourful and varied. Every day she made time for prayer. She loved to be in silent adoration before the tabernacle and to meditate on the life of Jesus while praying the rosary.

She naturally lent a helping hand, wherever she went. She approached people with her kind, humorous, outgoing and relaxed manner, and took time for them and their concerns, worries and needs. Sometimes this happened over a cup of tea, sometimes it happened when she took holy communion to the sick, where she carried Christ to the people and with Him gave them a good and hopeful word on the way.

Throughout her life, Sr Emma remained very close to her family, especially to her sister Agnes at the "Sisters of the Redeemer" in Würzburg (Germany). She enjoyed spending her annual holidays there and felt almost at home. Her sociability did not diminish even in old age and with increasing frailty. She used the telephone and wrote letters to share her life and take part in the lives of others.

When recounting her life, she expressed gratitude for all the good she had received from God's hand. She also accepted her serious illness with this attitude and trust.

On 3 February 2022, Sr Emma gave her life back into the hands of her Creator and Saviour.

May she live in His love and be an intercessor with God for us and for the many people who mourn her death.

RIP