



Obituary

Sr Maria Muth OP

10.10.1938 - 03.02.2022



*"I am the one for whom God waits!
I am awaiting the One who is awaiting me.
Embrace this season with hope.
It will lead you to your inmost depths
where God is contemplating you."*

Macrina Wiederkehr

Sr Maria was born on 10 October 1938 in Rüsselsheim in the diocese of Mainz (Germany). Her parents were Johann Joseph and Maria Cäcilia Muth. She was an only child but grew up with her cousins who were very close to her.

She received ten years of primary and secondary school education, then trained for three years as a retail sales lady. Once qualified, she worked for six years as a sales assistant and as an office clerk.

She entered the convent in Neustadt in January 1960 and in October of the same year, she received the habit and was given the name Clementine. She later changed back to her baptismal name, Maria. She made her first profession on her 23rd birthday, 10 October 1961 in Neustadt. She worked at Flörsheim and spent time in Chingford, England, learning English before arriving in South Africa in March 1963 with Sr Cordelia. Her parents were present at her final profession in Oakford in July 1965.

She was transferred to our convent in Greytown where she took up duties as mother in charge of the boarders and studied for the National Senior Certificate by correspondence. During this time, she also had some experience in teaching. She was assigned to Oakford where she was given the responsibility of bursar, working with Sr. Clare and later on with Sr Alexandra, and Sr Clara. She worked in the Oakford office for 14 years where she had strict control of everything to do with money. Not a cent was wasted.

In August 1981 she returned to Germany in order to care for her mother who was frail and alone and needed care. She returned to South Africa after her mother's death and spent two years in the Generalate before going on sabbatical to Little

Falls, Minnesota, USA. On her return in 1995, she was transferred to Magaliesburg, where she worked as assistant administrator for Boystown for twenty-five years. Here she was greatly appreciated for her work ethic, dedication to duty and her reliability. In addition to her work at Boystown she was asked to take on the responsibility for the finances of the South African Area. This she did for 23 years. More recently, she and Sr Justina were on a course in the USA for Sisters entering to retirement.

After long years of faithful service to God and to our Congregation her health began to fail. It was not easy to get Maria to let go of her work, to leave her community at Magaliesburg and retire to Villa Assumpta. There was always far too much to be done and no one to match the quality of her service. She was meticulous in her work as she carried out God's plan for her by sharing her financial skills and witnessing to God's presence among those who worked with her. This was her way of sharing His love and compassion in an institution that housed children who are desperately in need of love. She eventually arrived in Villa Assumpta at the beginning of last year and enjoyed a few months of retirement until the Lord called.

Maria loved nature and for many years, she and Sr Angelina climbed the mountain in Magaliesburg before breakfast every Saturday. She loved the ocean and walks on the beach. She loved playing "Rummikub", and, as with her work, had a meticulous way of arranging the tiles on the table. And, like a good daughter of St Dominic, she loved a glass of good red wine.

Her last days were days of letting go and letting God. She spent many hours gazing up at a precious picture of Mary with Child and the crucifix, which hung on the wall next to her bed. She also had a deep devotion to St Dominic. She never complained and certainly did not want any 'fuss'. Many of us experienced being 'dismissed' by her - she wanted to be left alone.

She will be greatly missed by all those of us who appreciated her friendship and love. May she now see her God face to face and enjoy meeting all those who have gone before her.

RIP