



## Obituary

**SR RENATE WERNER OP**

**06.01.1936 – 17.01.2022**



*Be who God meant you to be,  
and you will set the world on fire.*  
(St Catherine of Siena)

Sr Renate was born on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1936 to Karl and Philomena Werner at Bobingen in the Diocese of Augsburg. At baptism she was given the name Rosina. After 8 years of schooling at the Primary School in Bobingen she enrolled at a Vocational School where she studied for three years. She then completed six months of professional training in housekeeping, cooking, and childcare. It was during this time that she met our sisters and entered the convent at Neustadt in August 1953 with a group of young women including Srs Ruth, Dietharde, Ingrid, Priscilla and Lidwina. She received the habit in April the following year and made her first profession in April 1955. As a young sister, she worked at Freckenhorst and on the Volkersberg and arrived in South Africa in June 1965.

Sr Renate obtained a diploma in Hotel Catering Management through the International Correspondence School in Cape Town while working at Osindisweni as caterer. She spent herself preparing meals for the hungry patients and the sisters in the community. She worked well with the staff who grew to love her and to appreciate her work ethic and the generosity with which she shared her talent and skills. She was always ready to learn the traditional menus of the people of different cultures for whom she cooked.

When she left Osindisweni, the staff were well trained to take over and were grateful for having learnt so much from her. She had gained many friends during her time as supervisor of the hospital kitchen and people often asked after her whenever they met our sisters.

She was highly appreciated for her hard work and the enormous amounts of energy she displayed when she joined the communities at Magaliesburg and Koinonia. She

had no difficulty moving to the different communities where the sisters found her easy to work with and always ready to serve.

Sr Renate served as Local Superior at Osindisweni for seven years and on the Regional Council for four years. She spent time on Sabbatical at Hawkstone Hall and Heronbrook House in England and lent a hand in clearing up during the closure of the house in Burghwallis.

She retired to Bedfordview cottage in 2010, then moved to Villa Siena in February 2013, during which time she had a corneal transplant operation. Sr Renate had great problems with her eyesight but that did not affect the pace of her walking. She always walked fast wherever she was going, and people had to move out of her way when she came along the passage with her walker. She had a great love of nature and enjoyed working in the little garden outside her room. Her little porch had many pots, seeds and cuttings and she planted geraniums one year and decorated the tables on the verandah. She looked forward to shopping days. Sadly, her last shopping day landed her in hospital and unable to walk again. She was always positive about getting better and returning to her room in Villa Siena but the Lord had other plans for her. She endured months of suffering and made use of this time preparing to meet her Lord. God in His great love and mercy called her to new life where she will surely intercede for us and for all those whom she loved.

*RIP*