

Sr Mellita did pioneering work and always lent a helping hand

On 30 April 2022, Sr Mellita Wolf celebrated her 70th anniversary of religious profession in the convent at Neustadt. Sr. Mellita was born on 27 April 1931 in Hausen, a village near Miltenberg, Germany. She was born the eldest of four siblings and attended school during the Second World War. On 30 April 1950, at the age of 19, she entered our Congregation in Neustadt and made her First Profession on 30 April 1952.

From 1953 to 1955 she worked in housekeeping at the girls' hostel in Frankfurt. In 1955 she left Germany as one of the pioneer sisters for St. Alberts's, the Dominican House of Studies for the Dominican Fathers in Oakland, California (USA). At the time she lived there, the house was full of young friars. Our sisters lived in a small convent on the premises and looked after the domestic work for the brethren. Later, the sisters founded other convents in the USA. "We cooked and did the housekeeping," Sr Mellita says. In addition, she learned English to keep contact with the people.

Sr. Mellita lived and worked in California until 1973, when, after a year of study in Rome in 1974 - again as a pioneer - she was sent to the new foundation in "25 de Mayo"/Argentina (South America). She was in charge of catechesis in the parish until 1979. As the community grew, another convent was founded in Oberá, where Sr Mellita worked in the care of the elderly until her return to Germany. Even today she maintains contact with Argentina, naturally also in the national language, Castilian Spanish, which she learned from the people during her work there. She still keeps in touch with some of her friends in Argentina.

In 1991 she returned to Germany. At the Marienkrankenhaus in Flörsheim am Main, she was put in charge of the bed centre for another ten years, before taking over the gate duty and looking after guests at our St. Josef's convent in Dießen am Ammersee from 2002.

Since 2018, Sr Mellita has spent her retirement at the Caritas Senior Centre St Martin in Lohr. She is in good health and still active and supportive in helping to fold the washing in the laundry of the senior citizens' centre. With her cheerful and easy-going nature, she always has a good word for her fellow residents.

"You have always given your energy and strength to the community and to the people and for the people, and nothing was too much for you in the tasks and work of everyday life," Sr Hilke praised Sr. Mellita in her tribute at the jubilee celebration.

Sr Mellita looks back with gratitude. Her courage and confidence in life have enabled her to succeed in everything she has tackled. "It was a good life, I got along everywhere because I always helped where I was needed."

Original Text (in German): Martina Schneider