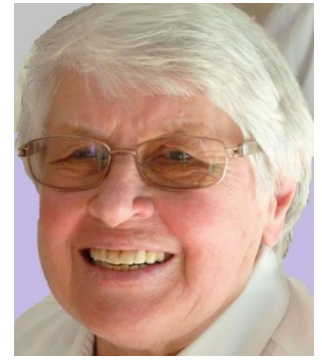




## Obituary

**Sr Maria Kollmansberger OP**

**05.05.1935 – 25.06.2022**



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, our sister in faith,

Mary, one of us, stand by us now

and in the hour of our death.

Amen.

Sr Maria Kollmansberger was born on 5 May 1935 in Altötting, the famous town of the Marian shrine in the diocese of Passau. Her parents Ludwig and Therese Kollmansberger had her baptized Maria Theresia. Together with her younger sister Traudl, with whom she maintained a good and cordial relationship throughout her life, she grew up in the Upper Bavarian tradition and way of life.

From 1941 to 1949, Maria attended elementary school and - also in Altötting - completed a dual commercial apprenticeship in the wholesale trade in 1952. After her training, she remained with her employer and gained further valuable experience in accounting before joining our Congregation in Neustadt on the river Main on 16 August 1957.

At her reception on 28 April 1958, Maria received the name Sr. Immaculata. After the one-year novitiate, she made her First Profession on 2 May 1959, together with nine other Sisters, and her Perpetual Profession on 5 May 1962.

Before she began her nurse's training at the "St. Katharinen Hospital" in Frankfurt in October 1959, she was employed for several months in housekeeping at the then girls' hostel of our Congregation in Frankfurt.

After receiving her nursing diploma in 1962, she worked at the Congregation's own Marienkrankenhaus in Flörsheim. This first period was marked by the start of the Second Vatican Council, and she herself intensively studied the "Aggiornamento", the document of "the opening of the Church to the world" with its many profound reform projects.

Inspired by the new perspective on religious life, Sr. Immaculata asked to change back to her baptismal name. She also saw it as her contribution to an enriched liturgy to choose suitable readings for the "Matins" which we prayed in our communities. In doing so, she drew from a great treasure of traditional writings, the Fathers of the Church, and soon also from the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

In practice, Sr. Maria put the concern of the Council into practice by being involved for many years in the parish council in Flörsheim and at the diocesan level in the religious council, thus helping to shape church life from the grassroots.

After Sr. Maria ended her service at the hospital in 1994, a new door and perspective opened for her. She found her apostolate at "Renovabis" in the town of Freising, where she took over the accounting for donations received. For Sr. Maria it was important to thank each donor and benefactor in personal words. Again, she showed her openness and learned how to use computers at various training courses, which were still relatively new then. During this time, she was connected to the Guttman family in Freising, to whom she was very attached until her death.

When, due to her age, she ended this ministry in 2005, she lived in our community St. Josef in Dießen and took over the organization of the room occupancy and the care of the guests until the closing of the convent.

From May 2019, Sr. Maria lived in the Caritas Senior Center St. Martin in Lohr. Soon she was a member of the residents' council there, wrote the minutes and participated in the in-house monthly magazine with various contributions, such as meditations. She was also given the task of assisting new residents to familiarize themselves with life in the house and to help them overcome some hurdles.

At the same time, Sr. Maria maintained contact with all the Sisters of our German Area in such a way that she sent each one a personalized letter with good thoughts and promised her prayers on their birthdays, namefeasts and profession anniversaries. Her creativity and sense of beauty were expressed in these letters. She loved to be sociable, with a beer, white sausage and a pretzel.

In these many ways Sr. Maria testified to her faith and thus passed on to many people what she herself had been given by God and how she experienced God's work in herself - she lived the Dominican vocation in a very natural way.

During the last months, Sr. Maria felt that her strength was diminishing, that her life light was gradually fading and that her time of farewell was near. Patiently and devotedly, she surrendered to this final journey, knowing that God held her time in His hands.

Sr. Mary departed to God, her eternal Creator, late in the evening of 25 June 2022, and placed her life back in His hands. Through the intercession of Our Lady, may she now enjoy the fullness of God's presence and behold Him in His light of love, mercy and peace.

We are grateful for her testimony of life and faith and we trust that she is our intercessor with God.

*RIP*