



Obituary

Sr Albertina Mauel OP

10.11.1930 – 01.12.2022



*I experienced myself as a member
in a community of pilgrims on this earth,
on the way towards a common goal.*



Sr Albertina was born on 10 November 1930 in Leverkusen, Germany, as the eldest of three children of Theodor and Carola Mauel and baptised Hildegard Elisabeth. Embedded in a devout and loving family, she tragically experienced the horrors of war. When her father was conscripted to "Michaelsberg Abbey, Siegburg", during the last years of the war to provide protective accompaniment for people living there, the family moved there with him. The abbey became the target of a bombing raid at the end of December 1944, in which Hildegard's father died and her pregnant mother was buried under the rubble, but saved. As her mother needed months of care afterwards, Hildegard looked after her younger brother. The experiences of this time were fundamental for the rest of her life: Hildegard's concern and care for children was formed and she developed a sense for any need and distress of people.

After attending elementary and secondary school, which she had had to interrupt during the war, she acquired the prerequisites for training as a child care worker, kindergarten teacher and after-school care worker in Cologne in 1947. Immediately after her training, she was appointed head of the kindergarten of the parish of "St. Albertus Magnus" in Cologne from 1951 to 1953, before applying for a job as a kindergarten teacher for the children of the German Consul General in Finland after another four years at various municipal institutions.

During her professional work, the essential question and search for her vocation became more and more pressing for Hildegard. Finally, on 1 March 1958, she entered our Oakford Dominican Congregation in Neustadt/Main. On 15 September 1958, at her Reception, she was given the name Sr Albertina. After her First Profession on 10 October 1959, she took over the kindergarten in the village of Neustadt, where she worked until 1971. This was also the time of her Final Profession on 9 October 1962.

From 1971 to 1972 she trained as a remedial teacher at the "Remedial Education Seminary" in Würzburg and worked at the district hospital in Lohr until the

rehabilitation centre "Haus St. Michael" in Neustadt was opened in 1977. Here she worked in therapeutic support of mentally ill people until 2002.

While working, she attended the theological correspondence course in Würzburg, which gave her own theological and spiritual searching and questioning a new breadth. At the same time, this foundation served her in communicating her faith. Wherever she was, she used this gift: whether in "Action Missio", in additional offers for those in rehabilitation, in grief counselling, with people who were thrown off track by life's circumstances, or with seekers, she made no distinctions in her encounters with people.

Her commitment in the parishes of Neustadt and Erlach deserves special mention. When the parish priest's position in Neustadt became vacant, Sr Albertina was given the task of a parish administrator by the diocese of Würzburg. She worked with great commitment to ensure that pastoral care was secured locally until a new pastor was appointed and beyond.

In all her activities, Sr Albertina lived out of a deep relationship with God. She understood how to relate life with all its facets to God. She was a joyful person and pleasant to deal with. An atmosphere of well-being and often of celebration quickly spread around her. We could often experience this in the community. Her accordion was always at hand, and she congratulated us on various feast days with personal verses.

Her increasing visual impairment and a serious illness of many years did not prevent her from remaining open to people or from visiting them.

After Sr Albertina had to be operated on following a fall, she needed increasing care even after the rehabilitation measures. Her strength diminished, she was admitted to the Caritas Senior Citizens Centre "St Martin" in Lohr. Here, too, she was devoted to other people. At the same time, she sensed her approaching death and with it the approaching God coming towards her. She completed her life on 01 December 2022.

Through her life Sr Albertina left behind unmistakable "traces of blessing", as she called it in a brochure years ago.

We are grateful for her testimony of life and faith. May she be our intercessor in God's presence.

RIP