



Obituary

Sr Casilda Krug OP

27.05.1932 – 05.04.2023



*Rejoice to the full in the glory that is yours,
and give thanks to God who called you to his kingdom,
alleluia.*

(Entrance antiphon, Second Sunday of Easter)

Elisabeth

Krug was born on the 27 May 1932 to Alois and Mathilde Krug in Mechenhard in the Diocese of Würzburg. She studied home science at a vocational school and worked on the family farm before entering the convent. She also gained experience in "forest work" during the German winter.

She entered the Oakford Congregation at Neustadt as a postulant in August 1951, and began her novitiate in April 1952, being given the name Casilda. Her first profession, also in Neustadt, was on 21 May 1953, with her final profession at Oakford on 9 July 1956.

Before travelling to South Africa on the SS Africa via the East Coast of Africa, she spent some time at Volkersberg. That she travelled the same route down the east coast of Africa as had the freed Zanzibari slaves who settled at the Bluff and later at Oakford, though in very different circumstances, would be noted by her in later years.

Sr Casilda was an all-rounder, working in the Oakford kitchen on several occasions, the Osindisweni kitchen and the Marifont laundry. She was boarders' mother to St Vincent's girls in Genazzano. She spent time at Magaliesburg. At Oakford she worked closely with her staff to care for the gardens and the grounds. In later years she ran a creche and taught English to some older people. The period she spent in Bedfordview in retirement at the time the Community in Oakford was closing was not what she wanted, and soon she was back in KwaZulu Natal at Ekukhanyeni in "active retirement" in the gardens and helping to keep records of the numerous AIDS patients admitted to the hospice, many of whom died because ante-retroviral treatment was not available at the time. Someone left a note in a Congregational

file which stated: "Sr Casilda is one who can be put to any kind of work and give her whole heart and soul to it."

Farming and grounds work was a life-long passion. She laid out the novitiate garden at Oakford, and began a coffee farm with 1500 young plants donated by a benefactor from Shaka's Kraal. She worked on the gardens at Osindisweni, at the Bluff and at Ekukhanyeni. She was close to nature and loved animals and was often seen walking with one of her dogs.

She participated in the Dominican Veritas sabbatical programme held in Germiston, and later in the programme at Hawkstone Hall in England.

She loved the Congregation with a passion and was a wealth of information for anyone interested in its history. The set of annals she kept related to every part of the Congregation, drawing on photos and communication from a variety of sources. She knew things about Oakford that everyone else had either never known or had forgotten. Her Oakford annals run into several volumes. The museum she set up at Oakford gathered documents and artefacts from across the Congregation. She could narrate stories about many Sisters who had lived and worked at Oakford. She knew who was buried in the cemetery and where. Her reading was wide in English and German, and she often quoted lines from poetry in her annotations to various documents.

She had been involved in the process undertaken by the Congregation in favour of people forced from Oakford land in the 1960s and who later returned. Information she provided in the land restitution process in the late 1990s was key in the Congregation's identifying the beneficiaries of houses at "Oakfordville" some years later.

Leaving Oakford was painful for her on a personal level, given her investment there over nearly forty-three years, and given her deep knowledge of the Congregation's history there. When she left Ekukhanyeni, this time to retire, for Villa Siena, she continued to keep alive in her annotated files the memories of Sisters who had died. In her twilight years she spent time in reading, listening to her favourite music and in prayer, maintaining until recently her independence.

May she now be welcomed by her risen Lord into the kingdom of heaven and see what great things he has prepared for her who loved him.

Dear Sr Casilda, go in peace and pray for us.

RIP