



## Obituary

**Sr. Maria-Linus Rudolf OP**

**02.10.1931 – 04.04.2023**



*"Death is the side of the whole that is turned towards us.  
It's other side is called resurrection".*

Romano Guardini

Sr Maria-Linus Rudolf was born on 02 October 1931 in Weseritz/Czech Republic. Her parents, Adolf and Anna, had her baptised with the name Anna. She grew up with two siblings and attended the primary school and citizen school in Weseritz from 1937 to 1945. During the Second World War, the Rudolf family shared the fate of many people from Egerland; they were displaced in 1945 and found refuge and acceptance in Bavaria.

In 1946 Anna began a commercial apprenticeship in Altötting, where she gained professional experience for another four years after graduation, before working for another year in Mühlbach am Inn.

From here she entered our Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena of Oakford/Natal in Neustadt on 15 July 1954. At her reception on 29 April 1955, Anna received the name Sr Maria-Linus.

On 3 May 1956 she made her First Profession in Neustadt. She was soon sent out to South Africa and went to our Motherhouse in Oakford/Natal, where she made her Final Profession on 2 February 1962.

Here she was initially "Mother in Charge" at the boarding school of St. Aloysius for four years. In addition to this task, Sr Maria-Linus used the time for private studies and completed these to receive the National Senior Certificate in Pietermaritzburg. In 1960 she was then sent to Manzini in Swaziland (Eswatini) where she taught at St Theresa's High School until 1965, after which she taught for a year at St Aloysius School in Oakford.

From 1966 to 1969 Sr Maria-Linus lived in our community "Villa Assumpta" in Pietermaritzburg to complete her Bachelor's degree in Geography and Afrikaans at the University of Natal. Until 1980 she taught at our St Mary's Girls' Senior School in Oakford, before a new phase in Sr Maria-Linus' life began.

From 1980 to 1981 she attended a study programme for leadership in religious communities in Denver, Colorado. Sr Maria-Linus was then transferred to Germany, to our convent of St Joseph in Diessen. The community elected her first as Subprioress and then as Prioress. In addition to these tasks, she supported with her experience the formation team in the formation of young sisters.

After her term of office, Sr Maria-Linus moved to Flörsheim in 1987, where she assisted in the administration of our St Mary's Hospital. She also became involved - after a special course - in the pastoral care of prisons in Frankfurt-Breunigheim.

In 1992 Sr Maria-Linus worked for a year in our study house in Rome before returning to the community in Diessen in 1993 to complement the team of the porter's ministry.

In December 2018, Sr Maria-Linus joined her close companion Sr Reinhilde Glöckner at the Caritas Senior Centre St Martin in Lohr. At that time, both were still well enough to familiarise themselves with the new surroundings and to make short trips into town.

Sr Reinhilde passed away in the spring of 2020. Her death deeply affected Sr Maria-Linus, as she had been very close to Sr Reinhilde for many decades through their joint studies and school duties. This was a gap in her life, so to speak. Her physical and mental strength declined rapidly. Subsequently, she fell seriously ill with Corona and her physical strength diminished greatly. However, it was noticeable that she looked forward to her 90th birthday together with her family and our sisters and enjoyed the festive day.

Soon her strength decreased noticeably, her range of movement became smaller and smaller and it became increasingly difficult to talk to her and exchange ideas. Nevertheless, she seemed content.

Sr Maria-Linus was an open-minded, worldly experienced and multi-talented woman who put her gifts at the service of people and community. Throughout her life, she maintained close contact with her family and also remained in lively exchange with friends as long as she could.

A few weeks ago she fell in her room, had to be operated on and - although she weathered the operation well - this was the beginning of her dying process.

In the early morning of 04 April 2023, Sr Maria-Linus departed into eternity. Her longing was to be eternally secure in God and His love.

We trust that Sr Maria-Linus, along with all our departed sisters, will be God's intercessor for all who knew, loved and cherished her.

*RIP*