



Obituary

Sr. M. Nicoletta Koser OP

29.10.1937 – 05.07.2023



Those who go home to God remain in the family.

(St Augustine)

Sr Nicoletta Koser was born on 29 October 1937 in Offenbach am Main in the diocese of Mainz as the second child of her parents Nikolaus and Anna Koser and baptised with the name Maria Franziska. With her two brothers, she grew up in a Christian home that encouraged both her brother Gerd's vocation to the priesthood and her own vocation to religious life.

Maria attended primary school from 1943 to 1949 before transferring to grammar school for two years and finally graduating from the municipal commercial school in Offenbach in 1954.

From April 1954 Maria lived in Frankfurt, where she first completed a bank apprenticeship and then worked as a bank clerk until 1964. At a mission exhibition, she met the Dominican Sisters of Rüsterstraße (in Frankfurt, Germany), who were running a hostel for young women at the time. Soon afterwards, in August 1964, Maria entered our Congregation in Neustadt am Main. At her Reception on 29 April 1965, Maria received the name Sr M. Nicoletta. After her First Profession on 4 May 1967, she was entrusted with administrative duties at the Volkersberg Youth Centre until 1972, when she worked for another year in the administration at the Marienkrankenhaus Flörsheim.

When Sr Nicoletta was sent to study at the Seminary for Parish Pastoral Work and Religious Education in Freiburg in 1973, a heart-felt wish was fulfilled. In 1976 she qualified as a parish worker. Afterwards she lived in our community in Flörsheim until 1987 and worked as a parish assistant in the parish and in religious education. At the same time, she held the office of prioress in the Flörsheim community for two terms from 1981, before she lived with our fellow sisters in England for a few months in 1987 to improve her English language skills. This was followed by a year of study for "International Dominican Formation" at the Casa di Studio in Rome from autumn 1987.

Afterwards Sr Nicoletta exercised her apostolate as a lecturer in adult education at the Catholic Volkersberg Adult Education Centre before she was elected Provincial Superior at the Provincial Chapter in December 1988 and lived in Neustadt. The Provincial Chapter in 1992 confirmed her election for a second term until 1996; this was followed by a sabbatical with a renewal course in theology and spirituality at the Institute "Regina Mundi" in Rome, before she was assigned to the community in Diessen am Ammersee in September 1997. There she taught religious education to 7th and 8th grade learners at our girls' secondary school until 2003. After her retirement, she continued to live in our community in Diessen until 2012, when she returned to Neustadt.

Already at the end of the 1990s, Sr Nicoletta developed symptoms of Parkinson's disease, which at first were mild, but her illness was increasingly accompanied by greater and greater limitations and disabilities. All this demanded great patience from Sr Nicoletta. At the same time, she accepted the long period of her illness without grumbling or complaining, often even with humour. When she finally needed permanent support and care, she was admitted to the Caritas Senior Citizens' Centre St. Martin in Lohr at the beginning of 2017 and lived there until her death.

Sr Nicoletta told us again and again how her childhood was shaped by the experiences of war. Often, when the bomb sirens went off, her family had to go into the protective cellar where they prayed a lot. In this way, Sr Nicoletta grew in closeness and trust in God in times of need.

It was probably the beginning of her spiritual path, which she followed faithfully and purposefully in simplicity, modesty, down-to-earthness and in the joy of beauty and God's creation.

Her own experience of God urged her to pass it on in a natural way and to put it at the service of proclamation. It is precisely in this, combined with prayer, study and community, that the Dominican heritage unfolds.

Because she knew her own needs, she was open to the needs of her fellow human beings, the Church and the world, which she brought before God in prayer. At the same time, she maintained personal contact with people, encouraged or comforted them and helped them to find ways out of their distress. Until the end, people remembered such helpful encounters with gratitude, often after many years.

Both life in community and the cultivation of personal relationships were important and life-giving to Sr Nicoletta. She gratefully knew that she was supported in her daily life.

She valued especially meeting others in a friendly way and experiencing giving and receiving forgiveness in circumstances of guilt or injustice.

Sr Nicoletta consciously prepared for her death. In her spiritual testament she tells us: "Now I go ahead of you in faith and trust in the paschal and light-filled joy to be with Christ forever, because my life belonged to HIM ... He will now also take me into His loving arms, I believe and trust in that."

Sr Nicoletta departed this earth for Easter joy in the early hours of 05 July 2023. May Christ carry her in his loving arms forever.

We are grateful for Sr Nicoletta's many gifts and life witness. May she be our intercessor with God along with all our fellow sisters who have gone before us.

RIP