



Sr Fabiola Krausert

28.07.1941-31.08.2026

You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:13-14)*

One of the five children of Richard and Rosa Krausert, Sr Fabiola was christened Eugenie Maria. She was born in Goldbach near Aschaffenburg in the diocese of Würzburg. Her mother was a baker, and her father a locksmith and a mechanic for agricultural machinery. Her mother attended Mass every day and people appreciated her good listening and her deep faith which had an influence on her young daughter.

Sr Fabiola completed eight years of primary school and then trained as a ladies' dressmaker for three years. She worked for four years as a seamstress before entering the Oakford Congregation in Neustadt as a postulant rather than joining other sisters she knew in Würzburg. She later obtained her Senior Certificate in South Africa, as well as completing a course in reflexology and a further qualification in dress-making design. She was also able to participate in a sabbatical programme at Heronbrook House in England.

She completed her postulancy (1960-1961) and her novitiate (1961-1963) in Neustadt. She made no secret of the fact that she had her struggles with Sr Joachim Seeberger, her formation directress, finding her too strict. She arrived in South Africa with Sr Fidelia Wilp on 5 November 1963 and made her final profession at Oakford in January 1966. In the same year she obtained permanent residence in South Africa.

In the Congregation she worked as a nurse aide in Flörsheim. At Oakford she was assigned to the sewing room to make habits for the Sisters. As a student she lived in Melrose House, Johannesburg. Her teaching of sewing at our various schools took her to Oakford, Kimberley, Virginia, Manzini (where she also taught typewriting). At Koinonia she was involved in the running and administration of the house; at Villa Maria and

Emmanuel she oversaw domestic arrangements and was also involved at Orange Farm, Johannesburg, in teaching sewing skills to adults. Some of these women became her friends and companions and went on to achieve great skill in their own work.

Some of Sr Fabiola's happiest years were spent at Villa Maria and Emmanuel. She was a companion to Sr Elisabeth Elbert for several years and enjoyed stimulating conversations and discussions with many of the people who were regular visitors. She kept up friendships with some of the Salesian priests, some of whom she had met originally in Manzini. It was difficult for her to leave Emmanuel after a decision had been made for the property to be sold, and join the community at Koinonia. She lived at Koinonia until her retirement to Villa Siena in 2019.

Fabi, as she was known to those who never managed according to her to get the pronunciation of *Fabiola* quite correct, sewed skirts and blouses for Sisters, and helped keep them looking neat in ordinary clothes. She was an avid reader in both English and German, sharing books with others, and bemoaning the fact that some Sisters couldn't read what she wanted to recommend because they did not read German! She also communicated with family and friends by email and WhatsApp over many years.

Her suffering brought on by panic and anxiety attacks was a great burden to her, and her increasing loss of hearing led to isolation from much that had meant so much to her in previous years. This was also not easy for those who lived with her. She spent her final years at Villa Siena. After several strokes in the last weeks of her life, she was called into God's Kingdom on 31 August 2026. Rest in peace dear Fabi!

*The craftsmen made beautiful garments for Aaron,
as the Lord had commanded Moses. (Exodus 28:6)*