



OBITUARY

of our Sister

Maria Anita Grafeneder

*** 13.02.1937**

+ 05.04.2020

Sr. Maria Anita was born on 13 February 1937 in Achleiten, parish of St Nikola on the Danube, and died on 5 April 2020 in the hospital in Villach.

Sr. Anita, as quiet as you were, you left us on Palm Sunday morning. A few days ago you told me: "On Maundy Thursday I will come to eat in the refectory and then I will stay there". Now you are invited to another feast.

You were the third of four children of your parents who were farmers. You always liked to learn and you were very skillful at all the work. For me you are the example of a generation of women from religious farming families in Upper Austria with several children. A brother who was gifted was allowed to go to the Petrinum and he became a priest. You, his sister, just as intelligent, naturally worked after school on the farm of the family and then went into service with other farmers, at an inn or with tradesmen. You received excellent marks from the school and all your employers. We in the convent profited from the fact that you were intelligent and multi-talented. You always enjoyed further education and took courses of various kinds in agriculture. In your last certificate of work, it says, "it is a pity that such people are lost to our status (the marital status)".

Already in 1957, you contacted the Convent in Wernberg and had the pastor issue you a certificate of good conduct. Then after three years, in 1960, you entered there. Already in 1964 you were asked to take over our pig breeding. At that time you certainly did not think in your dreams that this would be your place of work for 43 years. You joined the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood to go to the missions. Through your work in pig breeding you have helped many sisters and projects financially. We could never have renovated our church without this and other undertakings. You were a valued expert in your field throughout Austria and people from far away came to learn from you. You were also extremely patient with all the novices who were assigned to help you and who had no background in this work - I was one of them. For many children and young people of our guests the visit to the pigsty was a highlight. You met them with great pedagogical skill.

Until your 70th birthday you managed the pig breeding farm with great commitment, love and skill. Giving up this life's work was a serious and difficult step for you. You then took over tasks in the sisters' kitchen and did it to our joy until the end.

For many years you had heart problems. Almost exactly one year ago you got an artificial heart valve, you went to rehab. Then you had problems with your back, which had been worn out by decades of hard work. Again and again you got better, then worse again. You complained of nausea, and you were repeatedly in hospital for observation and treatment. At the beginning of February, you took a big upswing and said yourself "Now I am really well". Even during the last few weeks you did not notice a serious deterioration of your condition. You were complaining of nausea. Only during the night from Saturday to Sunday did you experience severe breathing difficulties. In the morning the emergency doctor was called and you were admitted to the intensive care unit. There you were given a pain infusion and oxygen. While the doctor in charge was on the phone with me and I told her that I would come quickly, you fell asleep calmly.

You were closely connected with your family, especially with the next generation, especially the boys appreciated you very much. In your room, on the wall, the words "faith, love and hope" are written in capital letters. Those three words always gave you strength. Right until the end, you said, "I've had a fulfilled life." Sr. Anita, we think of you with great gratitude. May God reward all your goodness for us all and be an advocate for us!

Sr. Pallotti, on behalf of all the Sisters