

OBITUARY

of our Sister Maria Judith Raich

***11.05.1939 +23.10.2020**



Sr Maria Judith was born on 11 May 1939 in Jerzens, Tyrol, and died in the morning of 23. October 2020 in Wernberg.

Sr. Maria Judith, you were already baptised in the afternoon of the day of your birth and were given the name Hildegard. You were the fifth of eight children, your mother died when you were 3 years old. One of your father's sisters, the "Bas", lovingly took care of the large group of children. You write about your childhood: "Since I had a great longing for Jesus, I was allowed to receive Him for the first time at the age of 5. That was the first time when I felt the desire to serve God, and God alone. This desire became stronger and stronger." From your very religious family three sons joined the Steyl Missionaries, and two girls - Hilda - and your sister Maria, our Sr. Amanda - became Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood. The two came to Wernberg at the age of 15 and 14 respectively.

We could tell from your mischievous smiles and some remarks that you were a very lively child. You attended the eight-class primary school in Jerzens and then briefly attended a further education school. Your sister remembers some funny happenings of this time. When you were 10 years old you became ill for a long time and it could be that the diabetes you suffered from until the end had its origin there. You also became very anxious after this illness, which was noticeable in some situations. Your younger sister was always the braver one and supported you.

In our Convent here, as well as in the Gallusstift in Bregenz or with the Mariannahiller Fathers in Riedegg, you were a pillar in the household. You also worked in the garden and briefly in our dental clinic. But for the longest time you helped on our farm. There you did a lot of good for the sisters and the farmhands. Especially you took care of the disabled staff. Your friendship with Gert, with whom you walked around the garden

every day until the end of August, is very familiar to us. You were always inventive to bring joy to others. You always had a special love for the Mother of God. As long as you could, you went every day to the chapel by the pond and lit a light for all our needs. In general, prayer and reading spiritual texts had a great significance in your life, and you liked to listen to music - especially music from Tyrol. For many years, you have also delighted us on feast days with your playing of the zither. Every year before Christmas, you set up the crib with great love.

Surprisingly, you had to be hospitalised at the end of August, complaining of abdominal pain. Because your blood sugar was fluctuating so much, the doctors had to refrain from an operation. Since your stay with the Elisabeth Sisters, you have been cared for in the nursing ward and have had little pain thanks to good medication. You were very satisfied and had a smile on your face until shortly before you died. You also enjoyed the visit of your nephew and his wife from home and the telephone calls with your sister in Mariannahill. You knew that you were going home to the love and care of God, whom you loved so much.

We thank you for the example of your religious life, lived so simply and faithfully, for bearing your illness bravely. Your great longing for God has come to its fulfilment. Now you have already met your mother and will be united with her and all the deceased from your family.

Sr. Pallotti und Mitschwestern