



In Loving Memory

Sr. M. Pietra Aumer, CPS

Born: September 9, 1935

Born into Eternal Life: February 06, 2021

*"Rejoice in the Lord, and pray without ceasing
in everything give thanks to the Lord our God,
to the Lord our God, to the Lord our God -
In everything give thanks to the Lord our God."
[Cf 1 Thessalonians 5:18]*

Sr. Pietra [Maria Johanna] Aumer was the second child born to Augustin and Theresa Aumer in Greiskirchen in Upper Austria. She grew up in a faith – filled and devout family. Their family closeness remained even as her brother Ernst, his wife and their parents went home to the Lord. Sr. Pietra's niece and nephews shared this strong bond with their 'Tante Mitzi' and kept contact throughout Sister's final days. The war years greatly impacted Sister's life and memories; reliving the times *in the bunker* surfaced again and again as she declined in health and present day awareness.

Wernberg, Austria was her place of entrance, formation, First Profession in 1959 and Final Profession in 1962 [both on December 8]. Wernberg was her holy ground, the place she returned to often in heart and spirit. Here too, Our Lady became her special companion through all her days – a rosary was never far from her hands, nor a *Salve* far from her lips. Sister was known to promise the local police officer, the city mayor, the volunteers, and the homeless stranger on the street, a decade or two for their safety and intentions - all on the same day.

Her life became a CPS tapestry as she studied nursing and midwifery, came to the States to study English for her mission to Korea, [1968] then back to the States where God planted the small seed of her life [1970]. This seed became a tree with a multitude of branches that spread to encompass the many different people she met in ministry. And, she called each one friend.

Sister was stationed for 42 years at Holy Family Manor in Bethlehem, PA. [With a 5 year break in Shillington as Procurator-1978-1983]. She was a nurse, an educator of Care-Givers, a Supervisor, a Chaplain, a Volunteer, and the go-to person for every committee, needed activity and celebration. She was tough and she was valiant, she was stubborn and she was loyal, she was strict and she was compassionate, she was feared – and she was /is loved.

Sr. Pietra had a CPS heart as wide as the world and all were welcomed. Her nursing skills included a gift for journeying with the dying and with families who had lost a loved one. She often said that her work with the elderly was her mission and her passion: *'it is so beautiful to be with those who are on their way back to their Creator.'* Sister believed her special love of the elderly

and dying was rooted in our charism, as it enabled her to fully live and bring redeeming love to those who needed it most. Over the years she received many recognitions, citations and nurse of the year awards.

Sister loved the color purple; she even painted her room various shades of purple. Perhaps the meaning of purple matched her personality: spiritual, creative, calming, compassionate, kind, opinionated, and introspective. She definitely was a community person. One of her greatest joys was the Tertiate in Mariannahill where the threads of call and charism, ministry and prayer, joy and solitude began to weave a new pattern in her life tapestry.

In 2015 at the age of 82 she was approached about retirement from nursing. The computer age of reporting was not to her liking and neither was the thought of retirement. *"The years have flown by"* she said *"and 'retirement was a word I didn't want to hear. Now the time has come, but - I can still volunteer."* And so she continued to visit the residents and staff, to pray with and to encourage them and to bring hope.

Towards the end of 2017 Sr. Pietra began to experience one health issue after another; the surgeries and anesthesia began to take their toll. Sister returned to Shillington and in a blink of an eye it seemed that her health deteriorated to the point where nursing home care was needed. St. Joseph Villa, run by the Bernardine Sisters, OSF, became her home. We are grateful for their loving care, Sister was only minutes away and most important to her – she was able to attend daily Eucharist. And then, in April of 2019 Sister had a severe stroke which left her paralyzed on the left side and diminished her cognitive abilities. Four weeks ago she was diagnosed with Covid-19 and moved from the nursing home, to the hospital, to a Covid Palliative Care Unit. When she seemed to be recovering, pneumonia once again set in. It was as if the Lord said: *'Enough, Pietra, lay down your burden and come home.'* And she as always responded: *'Yes, Lord, let my life sing one last time: In everything give thanks to the Lord my God!'*

Once again, we watched and prayed from afar as our Sister lived her last days of struggle alone. She who made sure that her patients never died alone was alone with her God. We phoned – did she know our voices? We will never know, but she did know the VOICE of the ONE who called her home and without hesitation - she followed.



**Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood
North American Province**

You have redeemed us, O Lord, in your Blood.