

OBITUARY

of Sr. Nivarda Strasser

*09.01. 1928 † 05.03.2021



Sr Nivarda was born on 09 January 1928 in Grünau im Almtal, Upper Austria, and died in Wernberg in the early morning of 05 March 2021.

Sr. Nivarda, you were the eldest of five children, three boys and two girls. Your father was a woodworker, but already in the year of your birth, your parents acquired a small farm, a few years later a larger one and then a completely run-down estate in Pettenbach. So, you were used to helping everywhere from your childhood on. You said yourself that you got to know work and worries from your earliest youth. In 1946, your father died suddenly of heart failure at the age of 47, and your mother was left alone with her five children. After finishing the 8th grade primary school in 1942, you spent two years at the agricultural school in Oberschlierbach. This was all during the Second World War with all the deprivations. You were used to independent and careful work.

In 1945, at the end of the war, church groups were allowed to exist again and you were a committed member of the parish youth and are described by your parish priest as a "role model in the struggle for faith".

It was probably not easy for your mother to let you go to Wernberg in 1948, as she lost her greatest help. You were a great asset to the monastery, which was then still known as the "Nettle Castle". You became one of the pillars of Wernberg. On 10 December 1950 you took your First Vows. In 1952 the plan was for you to train as a nurse in Linz. Instead, you had to take over the economic management in the monastery, and in 1954, on the day of your Final Profession, you were appointed provincial economer. A rich, demanding field of activity with few financial means awaited you. During the time of your responsibility, the renovation, one must almost say the new construction of the convent's church took place. You were responsible for the installation of the central heating system, which at that time ran on fuel oil and was a great step forward for the sisters and guests. You were responsible for the extension of the sisters' house to the castle. These are the Outstanding achievements of yours.

It was not easy for you to accept your transfer to Portugal in 1979 and to rebuild once again a run-down estate there in Lamego. You toiled there until 1984 and were transferred again, this time back to Austria, to Salzburg. You spent 19 years in the house of studies of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood as a prudent housewife and sensitive companion to the elderly and sickly fathers. At the age of 75 you returned to Wernberg, however not yet to retire, though you had some health problems. You cared for the elderly sisters with great love and gladly helped them to the best of your ability. You kept many night vigils for the dying here with us. Your strength was getting less and less, your heart was giving you problems, you were prone to falling. After one of your difficult operations, the doctor described you as a "remarkable woman". In 2019, you were diagnosed with melanoma behind one eye, but were not operated on because of your general condition. You began to have great breathing difficulties, which were eased by an oxygen machine. You were less and less able to participate in community life, but were a very clear-thinking and interested sister to the last day and always grateful for visits.

Your departure in the early morning of 5 March was a surprise. We said goodbye to you with a simple "Good night", without suspecting that your morning would already be in heaven. "Be Thou My Breath Holy Spirit" has now become a reality for you. Now you have more possibilities to help us in all economic matters and we ask you for it.

We thank you for your life in our community, for all the good that has happened through you, we thank you for your patience and for your prayers.

Sr. Pallotti and fellow Sisters