



Obituary

of our Sister Agathe Schwab

* 26. May 1930 † 28. July 2021

Sr Agathe - you were born on 26 May 1930 in Dornbirn and at baptism given the name Anna. You were the fourth child in your large family in Götzis. After you, the number of children increased, the youngest being the tenth.

Your mother could rely on you very soon; you were the teacher of your siblings and the helper in the household.

During the war were difficult years, especially when your eldest brother Hugo had to enlist and then died in the war in 1944.

At the age of 21 you decided to enter the community of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, whom you already knew well at that time because your great-aunt had been working in Africa for many years. So that you could still see your aunt, you were given your sending for Africa at your first profession.

A short time later your two sisters, Sr Alfonse and Sr Waltraude, followed your example and entered Wernberg and your brother Walter was ordained priest.

For 40 years you were working in various stations in South Africa, you mainly cared for orphans and later you were also engaged in adult education. A particular advantage was that you knew the Zulu language well, which you had learned from the children and the co-workers, and you were therefore able to deal with people at eye level. The local people called you "Ma Mkhize" which means "a woman who has many ideas and is ambitious".

During your home leaves, you were lovingly cared for by your family and relatives and your health was always restored. The relationship with your relatives was very important for you until the last day.

In 1995, you returned to your Austria, but your heart kept beating for the Zulus in South Africa - so you write in a report and that you often still pray in the Zulu language. - You also gave back your South African citizenship, probably with some sadness.

In Wernberg, you had to practise driving again so that you could carry out your service in the "One World Shop". You also worked in the ecumenical visiting service and organized the services in the Wernberg retirement home together with Fr Bruno. You gladly took advantage of all opportunities for further spiritual training.

With a lot of energy, you postponed getting older. Being independent was very important to you. However, slowly you had to accept help. Repeatedly you had to give up a little bit of your independence.

Moving to the sisters' wing and later to the nursing ward was difficult for you.

And here you were a quiet table neighbour and an undemanding patient in our ward, cared for and lovingly looked after by our nurses and our community service workers.

When last Wednesday your niece Elisabeth came from Voralberg to visit you, you were visibly happy and then quietly and almost unnoticed in the presence of Sr. Waltraude, you gave your life back into God's hands.

We are sure that God is also calling you by your Zulu name:

Come Ma Mkhize - Mine are you!

Your fellow sisters