



## ZUM HEIMGANG

unserer Schwester

**Leonardis Untergruggenberger**

**\*15.03.1935 † 01.01.2022**

Sr. Leonardis (Rosalia) was born on 15 March 1935 in Moos near Maria Luggau, in Carinthia, Austria, and she died in the early morning of 1 January 2022 in a house run by Caritas in Maria Elend.

It is probably no coincidence that you, with your love for the Blessed Mother, were called home on her Solemnity! Dear Sr. Leonardis, you write in your curriculum vitae: "On 15 March 1935 my mother gave me my life. I was the last of five children, four of whom are still alive. From the age of 6 to 14 I attended the primary school close to my home, then for three half-years the rural further education school." When the eldest brother, a half-brother, married and took over the farm, you and your younger brother helped in the house, stable, forest and field. You go on to write "But now God has given me another purpose." The priest of Maria Luggau mentioned your piety "every day and in all weathers little Rosele was at Holy Communion despite the long way. It also always showed quite a great love for the Mother of Grace."

On 2 November 1953, you entered the convent in Wernberg, made your novitiate here and gave yourself to God on 8 December 1955, the Feast of Our Lady. Due to your versatile training you were immediately employed in the household in our house in Bregenz, then again in Wernberg and in Heilig Blut. Your burning desire to go to Africa was fulfilled, although a doctor advised against it. You came to Lisbon to learn Portuguese and then in 1959 you set off by ship for Mozambique, which was still a Portuguese colony at that time. The entire period of your stay in the country was marked by the freedom struggles of FRELIMO. None of us can imagine what our sisters had to go through during that time.

Sr. Leonardis, you were also needed in the former Lourenço Marques, today Maputo, in Sao Paulo and Malehice for the household. You cared for poor people and gave them clothes, you worked with the Red Cross for first aid; that makes a colourful bouquet! You were then assigned to the novitiate in Namaacha. All the circumstances and the political situation were not conducive to your nerves and in 1973 you came to Mariannahill on sick leave and a year later you returned back to Wernberg. Through medication, your condition of health stabilized.

Our Sisters in the infirmary benefitted from your care and loving attention, and they loved you.

In 1996, you were ready for a new assignment; you went to the Abbot Pfanner Home in Langen, Vorarlberg, which was run by our sisters. Here you were able to use your motherly skills again for the benefit of the elderly; you always had great patience. How many dying people did you accompany in their last hours? You were always an enthusiastic singer with a good voice, so you were a great support at church services and in the parish. Very early, you were given permission to distribute Holy Communion.

In 2012, you returned to Wernberg - not too early for retirement at the age of 77! You helped where you were needed, also in the liturgy. In 2017, your health deteriorated. Here in the house we did not have the appropriate possibilities that you could receive the care and support you needed. In the Caritas home "Haus Klara" you felt comfortable and said to us "Here I am at home". You were also very well looked after. You enjoyed the visits, mostly from Sr Monika. You sang and prayed together. On 30 December, I had the opportunity - unfortunately no longer with you - but to sing and pray for you. Before that, completely apathetic, you opened your eyes and hummed a melody. You had not been able to swallow for weeks, you were given fluids through a tube. It became clear that you would soon leave this world. On the day of your death, we learned that your brother Hans had died a few days ago. So, brother and sister are together again.

We thank you for your life in our community, for all your goodness, for many small, faithful services.

Sr. Pallotti and fellow Sisters