

OBITUARY

of our

Sr. Walfrieda Leutgeb

***09.08.1937 † 21.09.2022**



Sr. M. Walfrieda (Hedwig) Leutgeb, was born on 9 August 1937 in Liebenau near Freistadt in Upper Austria, Diocese of Linz. Hedwig was the sixth of twelve children of her parents Johann and Maria Leutgeb.

She entered in Wernberg on 2 February 1957, started her novitiate on 2 February 1958 and made her First Profession on 3 May 1959. After that she remained in Wernberg for a short time.

On 6 April 1960 she was sent to Lindau on Lake Constance in Germany, where she worked in housekeeping with the Mariannahill Missionaries. Immediately after her Final Profession on 3 May 1962, she was transferred to Mönchsdeggingen, where she again worked in housekeeping until she was missioned to Palencia in Spain in August 1967. There she worked in the convent of the sisters and also learned Spanish during this time and she got quickly into contact with the staff of the house. She kept up this contact until her old age.

On 1 February 1982, she was transferred from the CPS community of Palencia to the Palencia Seminary, where she worked as a sacristan in addition to housekeeping duties.

During her 20 years (1967 - 1987) as a missionary in Spain, Sr. Walfrieda was an outstanding personality, to which the many people she met can testify, both young and old alike.

Her many practical skills made her the most "desirable" sister in the community. If there was a technical problem, it was Sr. Walfrieda who always found a solution. She took everything with cheerfulness, kindness and humour. A remarkable quality was her willingness to help wherever she was needed. She got never tired of explaining things and making them understandable.

Sr. Walfrieda embodied the virtues of a Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood as they are laid down in our Inner Spirit: Surrender to God's will, rootedness in God, self-denial through faithfulness in little things and generosity in making sacrifices. God was indeed the centre of her life and mission; he was her source of strength. Through her self-giving she inspired her fellow sisters and many people she met during her missionary

life in Spain and later in the Netherlands. She was known for her goodness and special care for the Roma and Sinti and other disadvantaged people in Palencia who came to the house throughout the year. No one left without taking an encouraging and kind word with them.

She consciously lived by the principle: Everything for and with God! After her assignment in Spain, she was transferred to the mission convent „Heilig Blut“ in the Netherlands, where she worked in the refectory and also cared for the visitors at the gate.

With much love and attention Sr. Walfrieda cared for the guests, she knew about the wishes of the regular guests and fulfilled them as best she could. From January 1996 on she worked full time at the gate until her health no longer permitted it. Even then, she still found opportunities to offer her services.

Bringing joy to the community and actively participating in community life was a lifelong concern of hers. Her kindness was not lost even when health and age-related ailments set in.

We are grateful for the many signs of love and goodwill that Sr Walfrieda showed her fellow Sisters in the community and to the people she met.

On Monday, 19 September, Sr Walfrieda did not feel well at all and she could not get up any longer. She asked for the Superior and told her, fully conscious and with a smile on her face, that she was going home to her Father in Heaven. She asked her to send greetings to the Sisters and her family; she thanked her for everything and blessed her with the sign of the cross on her forehead. It then took a good two days until she fell asleep peacefully at night on 21 September.

In a conversation a fellow sister once said: "With Sr. Walfrieda one could feel at home. May she now have found a home with her Father in heaven and may her contagious smile reach us from heaven.