



## **OBITUARY**

**of our Sister**

**Maria Beate Gander**

**\*30.09.1934 † 15.10.2022**

Sr. Maria Beate was born on 30 September 1934 in Lienz, East Tyrol, was baptised on 2 October with the name Anna and died on the morning of 15 October 2022 in Wernberg.

Sr. Beate, you were the 8th child of your parents, who were farmers. After you, the family was enriched by another son. Two of your siblings, a brother and a sister are still alive. You attended the eight-grade primary school of the Dominican Sisters in Lienz. Two of your aunts were sisters there, you also had great aunts there. Very early on, you wanted to become a kindergarten teacher because you liked children very much. However, you didn't have enough money for the education. Therefore, you worked for your parents for five years until you were allowed to take the entrance examination for the kindergarten course at the teacher training college in Innsbruck in 1953. You were musically gifted and had a beautiful voice; the special thing was that you could yodel! You completed your training with good results and got your first job in a kindergarten in Lienz, first as a helper, but soon as an independent director.

In your free time, you were involved in the Catholic Youth, you loved to go to the mountains - you even conquered the Großglockner! Your whole family was enthusiastic about the mountains and you were also all involved in choirs or music bands. The annual theme of the Catholic Youth in 1957 was "Christ's kingdom to all peoples", which inspired in you the desire to go on mission.

07 September 1958 is the date of your entry into the monastery of Wernberg. You spent your novitiate here, took your Temporary Vows on 3 May 1961 and your Final Vows on 3 May 1964. In the same month, you were transferred to Bad Kissingen in Germany, where you worked for two years as an educator in the St. Josef Children's Sanatorium. In January 1964 you were called to Bregenz/St. Kolumban to head the kindergarten. Sr. Waltraude was already working there in the parish. Until the opening of the kindergarten in Wernberg in 1971 you were the very popular "aunt" there. Here in the convent you built up the kindergarten and ran it for 23 years. How many children did you give a good time and helped them to develop? Your

cheerfulness, musical and artistic talents complemented your pedagogical talent. You were particularly attentive in organizing many festivities throughout the year.

In your retirement, you were active in the Sisters' dining room, in the host bakery, in the laundry and in the herb workshop with Sr. Hedwig Maria. One can truly not speak of "retirement"! For some years you were also house assistant. You were always a much sought-after member of the Sisters' choir. Your "retirement" only began when you really went into another phase of life. You took time to read, pray and listen to music. You were always in good contact with your large family and were especially loved by nieces, great-nieces and -nephews. Only this March you came to the nursing station. We noticed that you were taking a step back, to put it that way. You became more and more quiet, but always friendly when someone spoke to you. You liked to sit in the corridor and look out when the children were brought or picked up. In the last days they even sang for you. Only a few days you were completely bedridden.

You became quieter and quieter. On the morning of the feast day of St. Theresa of Avila you were taken home to our Lord.

We thank you for your life in our community, for your sign of hope in suffering, for all your goodness, your friendly nature, your prayers, for many small, faithful services which remind us of you.

Sr. Pallotti and Fellow Sisters