

OBITUARY
of our
Sr. M. Adelinde Konzett,
+ 16. 10. 2022
Missionshaus Neuenbeken



Sister Adelinde - Agnes Juliana Konzett - was born on 13.03.1930 in Dalaas, Vorarlberg, Diocese of Feldkirch. Throughout her life, she gladly and enthusiastically told of her homeland, as well as of her first job in the household of a family in Switzerland. She entered our congregation in Wernberg on 02.09.1952, was clothed there on 07.12.1953 and made her first profession on 08.12.1954, and her final profession on 08.12.1957.

In 1957 she attended the domestic science school in Villach and was transferred to Lisbon on 21.08.1958, where a new house of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood was being established. At first, she worked as a cook in a children's day-care centre of the 'Santa Casa' Institute. With pencil and notebook in hand and attentive eyes, she learned the specialties of the local cuisine in a convent without knowing the language. She became so good at it that families later ordered her delicious specialties for years. In addition, to her work as a cook in the convent's own day center in Lisbon, she contributed to the sisters' income with this activity. From 1959 to 1964 she cooked in a hospital kitchen at the Santa Casa Institute in Almeirim, a good 70 km from Lisbon. There they still used wood for heating, even when it was 40 degrees and more in the shade. Fellow sisters worked in the hospital, mainly as midwives and in the pastoral care of the local church. Sr. Adelinde could tell countless stories about customs and traditions of this area. She maintained friendships with some of her co-workers in the kitchen until their death. A few years ago, when the hospital was converted into a day-care centre for children and the elderly, she was invited and the past came back vividly to life for her.

In September 1964 she returned to Lisbon and was there until 1977. After a two-year assignment in Mönchengladbach, she returned to Portugal in May 1979 and was now assigned to Lamego - in the north of the country - where the Congregation had acquired an old estate. Again she was with the first group, this time as head of the house. She worked energetically in the garden, vineyard and house. Her zeal infected everyone. Soon vegetables could be sold at the city market, so that people were amazed at these sisters who did their own work.

After five years in Lamego, Sr. Adelinde came back to Lisbon to work in the kitchen. For her, this meant not only cooking, but every week she took the first tram at 5:15 in the morning to the market in the city to buy fruit and vegetables for the children, staff and sisters. (Until the end of the 1980s, the sisters had a kindergarten, which was then converted into a day nursery where school children up to grade 4 were also looked after).

Sr. Adelinde therefore took care of many people. She had great skill in buying good and inexpensive goods, which were later collected by the school's own bus. Of course, she was there again. Only then did she start cooking - and after the meal, washing up by hand, as she refused to use a dishwasher.

Before Sr. Adelinde celebrated her 80th birthday, she was relieved in the kitchen, but continued to bake cakes and biscuits for the community. She now devoted more time to the garden, where she planted herbs for ointments, tended the front garden and pruned shrubs and trees, harvested and preserved fruit.

She also joined a prayer group that listened to people in their distresses and then prayed intensely for them for healing of their needs. She also received the Charismatic group weekly. This group prayed and sang late into the night, which demanded a lot from an early riser like Sr. Adelinde. With zeal and not minding the weather, she brought communion to the sick, with whom she prayed sensitively. For many years, she devotedly cared for many a needy person, until she became tired and slow and had to give up one task after another.

In the last two years, the sisters of the community in Lisbon became increasingly worried about Sr. Adelinde. She often had to be taken to the emergency room because she had fallen and injured herself in the house and garden or on the way to church. So, she finally came to Neuenbeken to our infirmary in April 2022. Here she met familiar sisters from her time in Lamego and Lisbon. She could speak Portuguese with them, which eased her disorientation somewhat. So she was lovingly accompanied until she peacefully fell asleep on 16.10.2022.

Together with our sisters in Lisbon who drew this picture of Sr. Adelinde's life for us, we thank God for our fellow sister who worked so actively as a missionary until her old age. May she now receive the reward of her Lord and live with Him in peace and joy.

R.i.p.