



OBITUARY

of our Sister

Ancilla Maria König

***1.12.1935 † 27.12.2022**

Sr. Ancilla Maria was born on 1 December 1935 in Winzendorf near Pöllau, Steiermark, and died on 27 December 2022 in Villach Hospital.

Sr. Ancilla Maria you were the first child of your parents Leo and Theresia König. Already on 2 December you were baptised with the name Maria. In the course of the following years three more daughters were born. After the birth of Anni in 1944 your mother died. After your father married again, three children were given to the family, including a son. You were like a little mother to these siblings of yours. The care you showed until your stroke on Christmas Eve has been planted in the early years of your childhood.

From 1941 to 1949 you attended primary school, and from 1949 to 1953 you had private lessons with Prof. Bernauer. This gave you the basis for the final examination of the secondary school at the Eggenberg School Sisters. You then attended the nursing school in Graz, which you completed with very good results in 1957. As a qualified nurse, you then worked for three years in the dental outpatient clinic.

On 1 September 1960, you entered Religious Life with the Missionary Sisters in Wernberg, completed your novitiate there and made your profession on 3 May 1963. You spent two years there in the infirmary until you were called to the Josef Hospital in Paderborn in 1965. For eleven years, you were the head nurse on the surgical and urological wards. When you left, the head physician expressed his great regret. In addition to your excellent medical and nursing knowledge, he appreciated your empathy and reliability. During this time, you always continued your professional training.

Your further path led to Denmark in 1976. In Birkerød, on the Nordvanggaard estate, our sisters ran a nursing home for about 20 old people. There you were needed as a nurse and manager. You could still use your perfect Danish later with guests in Wernberg. Together with the sisters of the nearby kindergarten, you were a strong Christian presence there. In 2010, you asked to return to your home province of Austria. You wanted to be closer to your sister Hermine who was diagnosed with a head tumour. You had good contact with your extended family and everyone loved Aunt Maria.

All your skills and talents were very much needed and appreciated at our infirmary and nursing station. You soon said that you were needed here more than at Nordvanggaard. You settled in very quickly. In 2010 you wrote to our Superior General that you wanted to take time for conversations and care in responsibility for the whole person. You put care for others first. Even as you became more forgetful in 2019, care for others was still present. "I have to help," you often said. And "is Sr. Aloisa already taken care of?"

Even the large "retirement certificate" from 2021 displayed in your room could not stop your willingness to help. Your mobility often caused the nurses great concern, because you even walked down the stairs with the rollator. Only in the last few weeks did you become a little calmer. On Christmas Eve you were as lively as ever, but in the early hours of the morning our night nurse noticed a change and called the ambulance. You could no longer speak and no longer reacted. On Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day, nurses took turns visiting you in the hospital. We sang Christmas carols for you, prayed or read to you. We don't know what you heard. You received the anointing of the sick and were very calm. On the feast day of John, the favourite disciple, you were taken home in the morning.

We thank you for your life in our community, for your goodness, for your untiring commitment to the sick. You were surely expected in heaven by your parents, of whom you often spoke!

Sr. Pallotti and fellow Sisters