

**Obituary of our
Sr. M. Carel Redelstein,
died on 25. 04. 2023
in the Missionshaus Neuenbeken**



Sister Carel, Klara Maria Redelstein, was born on 26 August 1929 in Schussenried, Baden-Württemberg, in the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. October 1952 she came to Neuenbeken to the mission school. After her exams she entered our Congregation in Heilig Blut on 29 September 1956. She was clothed there on 13 August 1957 and made First Profession there on 15 August 1958, Perpetual Profession on 15 August 1961 in Morogoro, Tanzania.

She first went to London for university studies in September 1958, returned to Heilig Blut on 5 August 1960 and was missioned to East Africa on 13 September 1960. In Mhonda, Tanzania, she began her service a week later as a teacher in the Teachers Training Centre, from January 1964 in Morogoro and from January 1969 in Tabora.

After a year at the Kalimoni/Thika Catechetical School, she was appointed novice directress in Riruta in 1974. She did this service for six years. She then worked as a Religious Education Adviser in Bura for four years. In March 1984, she was given a new assignment in Morogoro as secretary of the bishop. She did this for ten years. In 1994 she went to Machui, Zanzibar, as a Project Supervisor.

Sr. Carel maintained very close relationships with her extended family. During her home leaves, she fascinated many of the nephews and nieces with her reports, and some visited her in Africa, thus gaining interesting and first-hand impressions of the life and work of the missionaries, as well as of the local people. Amelie, a temporary missionary, shared an advice she received from Sr. Carel: "Go as a learner, with an open heart and open eyes. I wish you beautiful moments and those that will make you grow." Some of her nieces and nephews also volunteered for longer assignments as mission helpers, one even found a job with Misereor, an organisation involved in development work, and 10 years ago a grand-nephew went for another development project in Mwanga near Moshi, for which she had already laid the foundation stone, so to speak.

After her return from East Africa to Germany, old memories were exchanged and new stories told during many visits. In the end, Sr. Carel was even able to receive a visit from her first great-grandnieces, a great joy for all four generations!

After her home leave, which began in August 1998, she came to Heilig Blut on 15 November of that year. She helped with the sewing there, but was transferred to Mönchengladbach in June 2000 and was installed as superior and she accompanied also dying residents at the Home until August 2004.

On 5 August 2004, Sr. Carel came to Neuenbeken and in October began a new ministry at the Agnes Fröhlich House in Cologne, where she helped in the shop, among other things. On 10 October 2006 she returned to Neuenbeken. Now she was active in translating and in offering German lessons to our African sisters. She helped in the mending room and was involved in helping homeless people until 2009. In the house she still did small services until she finally

retired in 2014. At the infirmary where she now lived, the prayer apostolate and visiting her sick fellow sisters were her last missionary service.

In a retreat in 2014, Sr. Carel dealt intensively with the process of dying. She formulated texts which she identified as "obituary"; she made suggestions for songs to be sung at her funeral Mass which we considered; she expressed how she wanted to use the time before she went home: - to be able to thank God wholeheartedly for all that made up her life in joy and sorrow, - to have repented of all that hurt love and did not correspond to God's image of her, - now (2014) begin to let go of what separates from God in order to belong fully to HIM. And she asked God:

"Do not deny me Your grace, Your help in my weakness, Your love in my not-loving, Your light in my darkness, Your Holy Spirit in my inability."

Sr. Carel died on the night of the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, where we heard of the sending out of the Apostles: go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15).

May God reward Sr. Carel for all her commitment to Him and His Kingdom, may she be an intercessor with God for all those who love her, and may she live in His peace.

R.i.p.