



OBITUARY
of our
Sr. Dominica Maria Wieser
+ 08. 01. 2023
in the Missionshaus Neuenbeken

Sister Dominica - Ingunde Wieser - was born on 30 April 1943 in Kirchdorf an der Krems, in Upper Austria, in the Diocese of Linz. Shortly after her birth, her mother died and she was initially placed in an infant home until the following year when her father remarried and took her back home. In May 1949, she came to a Portuguese foster family in Évora, southeast of Lisbon, on a Caritas children's transport. She spent two years there. She wrote about this time in a personal review: "I think that these experiences in Portugal, but especially the life in a practising Christian family and the many parish activities, were the origin and source of my vocation as a missionary sister."

After graduating from high school in 1962, she entered our congregation in Wernberg on September 1, was clothed on December 7, 1963, and made her first profession on May 3, 1965.

In October 1965 she came to Holy Blood, studied two semesters of natural sciences at the University of Cologne, and from April 1967 at the Paderborn Pedagogical College to receive her teacher training. After her teaching year in a school in Mönchengladbach, she made her perpetual profession in Holy Blood on 15 August 1971.

In 1 October 1971 she was sent to Lisbon to work as a teacher in our small Order-owned primary school. She was recognised as a Portuguese teacher and director of public schools in 1975, but our school was closed in 1976. In 1978, Sr. Dominica was appointed as a religious education teacher at the German School in Lisbon. For reasons internal to the Order, however, she had to end this activity after four years. On 1 January 1980, she took over the office of Superior of the House in Lisbon. In October 1986, she was transferred to Lamego in the north of Portugal and worked at the secondary school there until 1989, again as a religion teacher.

At the end of 1989, at the request of the General Administration, she prepared for an assignment in Korea; she arrived there on 11 January 1990, attended a language school for a year, worked in the house and helped the young sisters to learn English. For two years she assisted a younger sister in a parish in Seoul, according to her own statement, she was "responsible for the housework and had English conversation with a group of mothers and young people".

In April 1995 she returned to Austria and was already called back to Lisbon in September 1996, her second return to Portugal. She gave German lessons to the four- and five-year-olds, taught them music and worked as a catechist. She helped the schoolchildren - the kindergarten had meanwhile turned into a day-care centre - with

their homework. In 2009, this activity also came to an end, as the day care centre was closed.

Now she received an invitation to help the sisters in Denmark as leader of the small community in Birkerød. In 1959, the congregation had bought the Nordvanggaard estate, established a parish and built a kindergarten and a home for the elderly. In 2015 it was sold because we Sisters were no longer able to afford the maintenance of the buildings and the land.

Sr. Dominica returned to Lisbon for the third time in 2013 - after a two-month stay in Neuenbeken due to illness. She now helped out in the house and did translations from English or German into Portuguese when necessary. She was also active in the parish council of the German Catholic community in Lisbon and tried to keep in touch with the elders, Germans and Austrians. Looking back on all the missions she did in the different countries, the saying of our Founder can come to mind: "Our mission field is the Kingdom of God, and that knows no borders". Sr. Dominica worked everywhere with her typical cheerfulness and optimism.

When she had a leg amputated due to a serious illness, she took this as a missionary assignment to accept and bear her suffering with a positive attitude towards life. On 3 November 2021, she came to us at the Mission House, where she accepted the loving care of our staff and sisters in the infirmary with great gratitude. Her friendly nature and hearty laugh will always be remembered. On the night of 8 January - the feast of the Baptism of Jesus - she passed on to eternal life.

The Gospel of the feast day seemed like a parable for this event: In the immersion she was referred to dying, in the emergence she was lifted into new life. The Father's word to Jesus - according to the Greek text - "You are my Son, my Beloved" she may now hear from him - so we believe - "You are my beloved daughter". The little word "Schatzerl" (treasure), with which Sr. Dominica liked to address people in a friendly manner, also points in the same direction. May she now enter into God's joy and share in His life forever.

R I P