



OBITUARY
of our
Sr. M. Gunthild Ackfeld,
† 16. 08. 2023
in Paderborn

Sister Gunthild was born in Paderborn on 22 February 1934. Her home parish Wadersloh, near Lippstadt, belongs to the diocese of Münster. At her baptism on 1 March, she was given the name Katharina.

After 6 years of primary school from 1940-46 - she attended the girls' secondary school "Brede" near Brakel, a private church school, until 1950, and then the Marienschule in Lippstadt, a girls' secondary school run by the Sisters of Christian Charity - until she obtained her secondary school leaving certificate in 1952. This was followed by a practical housekeeping year at her parents' home. From 1953 to 1955 she attended the nursing school in the former Herz-Jesu Hospital in Paderborn. After passing her exams on 9 March 1955, she completed a practical nursing year at the Josef's Hospital in Warendorf. Afterwards she was again employed in her parents' household until February 1957.

On 16 February 1957, Sr. Gunthild entered our Congregation in Neuenbeken. She was clothed on 1 February 1958 and made First Profession on 2 February 1959, her Final Vows on 2 February 1962.

Shortly after her first profession, she began her service at the Sacred Heart Hospital in 1959. In November 1962 she moved briefly to St. Joseph's Hospital, then was back at Sacred Heart Hospital from 1963 to 1965. From February 1965 to October 1974, she was in charge of the 33-bed male surgical ward at St. Joseph's Hospital. The head physician of the hospital, Dr. Houtermans, greatly regretted her departure, calling her "an excellent ward sister in every respect".

Sr. Gunthild now moved to Neuenbeken to the St. Elisabeth infirmary, and on 7 April 1976 she moved to Altenbeken as a community nurse. Since 1 January 1978, she belonged to the Caritas nursing station / social station for care of the elderly and sick of the Caritas Association Paderborn. The inclusion of her usual, unbureaucratic work in the team of the Caritas nursing station placed new demands on Sr. Gunthild, because she now also had to share part of the organization and administration. After initial difficulties, she was a great enrichment for patients and the nursing team. "Through her prudence, modesty and wisdom and her argumentation in team discussions, she very often pointed out essential things in dealing with patients ... She knows how to combine her great nursing skills well with her talent in social and interpersonal areas," a testimonial from the Caritas Association states. After further training in

community nursing in Koblenz, which she passed with very good results, she worked for a good three years at the Paderborn Social Centre and was stationed in Altenbeken.

In February 1985, Sr. Gunthild first returned to Neuenbeken to be sent to the old people's home in Bous in October of that year. Here she now looked after the chapel and the sewing room. In 1988, she came back to Neuenbeken, helped out in the house and was responsible for the Anna Home as a nurse. In 1999, she was sent to Ruppichteroth to look after the sick in our old people's home. In 2002, she went on a last trip, this time to Maria Veen, where she helped in the house and chapel part-time until she returned to Neuenbeken in October 2012.

She lived quietly and modestly in the infirmary, was grateful that she was always connected to our church through the television, especially on the days of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. As long as she could, she liked to pray the rosary in church. Although she suffered from not being able to remember many things, she was grateful for all the services given to her and for every visit. Often in conversation, we heard from her the sentence: 'I am grateful that I can give thanks'. In a letter that was intended for the superior, she formulated her conviction with the words:

"The Lord goes all ways with us, not a hair falls from our head without the Lord's knowledge'. So all things have their meaning. So let all that happens, joy and sorrow always and at all times be for His greater glory and for the salvation of souls that yet none shall be lost and all shall praise the Father."

She asks forgiveness of all those she has caused grief in her life - and wants to be good to all those with whom she has struggled. She concludes with deep gratitude to God and thanks for all the goodwill she has received from her family, fellow Sisters and all the people she has met.

And so, we too thank Sister Gunthild and commend her to the Lord, who will richly reward her for everything. May she rest in his peace and joy.

R.i.p.