



IN MEMORY OF

SR. M. INIGO OELLER, CPS

Born: January 25th, 1939

Born into Eternal Life: August 2nd, 2023

“My heart is ready, O God my heart is ready”.

Sr. Inigo (Paula) Oeller was born on 25.01.1939 in Sarleinsbach, Austria in the Diocese of Linz.

Through reading Mission Magazines in her Childhood Sr. Inigo felt the call to become a Missionary in Africa. As a teenager, she admired the way of life of her married sisters who had families and children but God had a different plan for her. Through the help of her parish priest, she prayed and discerned for God to give her a life where she would serve Him. By Chance in 1961, on the feast of the Precious Blood she and her friend visited Wernberg. (the Provincial House and Formation house in Austria). Sr. Inigo in her words says; “Seeing how happily the Sisters celebrated that feast in the church and among themselves, I knew that this congregation was the place in which God called me to serve him... soon I sent the application to join and I was accepted. On 14th October 1961, I entered in Wernberg and since that time I felt belonging to the congregation.” (from her diary)

Sr. Inigo was received into the novitiate on 07.12.1962 and made her first profession on 03.05.1964 in Wernberg Austria. She further says; “After my first profession, I was missioned to the East African Province. My desire was fulfilled when on 26th January 1966 I arrived in Kenya. I never suffered from Homesickness because I had made a pact with the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be my permanent home wherever I would be. In Kenya and Tanzania, I served on different stations as a nurse/midwife. For 6 years I worked at Upendo Children’s Home in Tanzania. There I remembered my childhood wish to have children, now there I had many of them to care for. The motto of Father Founder and Mother Paula our Co- foundress inspires me “All for the greater Glory and Honour of God and the salvation of souls. Also, the devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus makes my life meaningful”. True to her words, those who shared life with Sr. Inigo attest that she had a close relationship with Fr. Founder and mother Paula. She did everything for the glory of God. Her continuous prayer was “Dear Lord put me wherever you want me to serve you in life. Sister Inigo pronounced her final vows at Riruta Nairobi on the 15th of August 1967.

She worked from 1966 to 1972 in Kagwe and Riruta Dispensary in Kenya. She was then transferred to Tanzania where she worked most of her life time. She served in our health facilities in the Dioceses of Morogoro, Zanzibar, Tanga and in Upendo children's home in

Moshi. In Zanzibar she worked so hard in the dispensary. She made the dispensary acquire a new name of “Hospitali ya Magonjwa ya Ngozi”. People from Pemba and Unguja visited the health centre. They still ask for the Dr. Sister Muzungu wa Ngozi. She had a passion for development and wherever she was sent she worked hard and sought for donations to support the community. It was not just the health centre where she had been sent to work, but got involved in the development of the entire community. She will be remembered for her generosity.

Sr. Inigo served in leadership role several times. She worked in the capacity of a house superior in various communities and once as a provincial councillor.

She was a truly “Valiant Woman” who used her natural, God-given gifts of intelligence, determination, endurance, hardworking, compassion etc, to the fullest in whatever capacity she served. She gave herself completely to the tasks entrusted to her, besides keeping a keen interest in all that was happening in our congregation. She was a community-minded person, always very welcoming and did not like to miss recreation. She got involved in getting to know what happened in the world. She was fond of listening to the world news from BBC, Al Jazeera among others. This formed part of her prayer and also involved other members in the community. She was very jovial, humorous, full of jokes and cheerful. Always bringing life to the community. She could write her own poems and would recite them even at her old age.

Just as she prayed in entering the religious life, she lived her vows fully. Obedience was her second nature. Even when she got incapacitated due to her ill health, until the last day of death she followed through what was requested of her. This made it easier for those who served her to give her the required services. She was ready to go wherever she was sent. In all her mission stations she had a great interest in the spiritual growth of the co-workers and she always organized prayer sessions and prayed with them.

Throughout her life, Sr. Inigo kept very good and close relationships with her family members, relatives and friends and with her home Diocese Linz who supported her very much financially in her mission work. The family remembers her as a very direct and honest person. She enjoyed working in the garden and appreciated nature. She was excellent at motivating people to give money for the mission. Her visits to her family was exciting. She brought them some tropical fruits and African items. She was a peoples person. We appreciate all who supported her in the missions.

Having retired from active mission due to old age and declining health Sr. Inigo moved from Kifungilo Tanzania to Riruta Kenya in our Provincial house on October 2020. During this time she devoted a great deal of her time to the prayer apostolate, which she kept as long as her health could allow.

During her last two years, she bore her infirmities and weakening health bravely and without complaining. On the afternoon of the 2nd of August, the Lord called her home to be with him for ever.

We thank Sr. Inigo for who she was, for what she did for us, our province and our congregation and for the many lives she touched with her love, concern and care, especially the poor and the needy whom she had a special place within her heart. **May God reward her now with His eternal life and peace in His kingdom.**

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith, all that awaits me is the crown of glory”*

2 Timothy 4:7-8

REST IN PEACE SR. INIGO OELLER!

TILL WE MEET AGAIN