



Sr. M. Johanne Brendler
Born
3 July 1930
Schönfeld/Ostritz, Saxony

Born into eternal life
9 September 2020
Missionshaus Neuenbeken

Sister Johanne was born on 3. July 1930 at Schönfeld near Ostritz in Saxony, a place which belonged to the diocese of Breslau but is meanwhile part of Poland. She was the oldest of 5 girls in the Brendler family and baptized Gertrud Maria. In 1937 she began school in Schönfeld but a few years later she transferred to Ostritz where she attended the primary school until March 1945.

In her curriculum vitae she writes that on 7 Mai 1945 the greater part of the village had to be evacuated from one day to the next before the approaching war front. Polish and Russian troops occupied it until at the end of June when all inhabitants east of the Neisse River were deported. The Brendler family was accommodated by a farmer until April 1946. During that time Gertrud Maria hired herself out to another farmer in the village and also attended the domestic science school at Bernstadt. In July 1948 she went to Görlitz where at the Saint Charles Hospital, run by the Sisters of Mercy of St. Borromeo, she was grateful to be able to attend Mass on a daily basis and sometimes even the devotions, whereas at her previous place of work the Catholic church had been more than one hour away

As can be ascertained from a written statement of 1949 by the hospital she “worked mainly as an assistant to the gardener but occasionally also made herself useful in the wards. Conscientiously and diligently she tried to fulfil all the duties given to her, so that with her we lose one of our best employees. By her calm and modest behaviour, she also endeared herself to her colleagues.”

On 30 September 1949 she entered our community at Neuenbeken. From 1950/ to 1951, she attended the domestic science school. On 14 August 1951 she was received and on 15 August 1952 she made her first profession followed a year later by her final profession.

First, she helped in the bakery in Neuenbeken and in 1954 went for one year to Mönchengladbach where she was assigned to the kitchen. After returning to Neuenbeken, she was in November 1955 sent to Kissingen to take charge of the laundry, garden and stable. Two years later she returned to Neuenbeken, from where she was sent to Ruppichteroth in 1958 and in May 1961 to Wernberg to take care of the laundry, kitchen and dining room. In November of the same year she was transferred to Heilig Blut. For about 20 years she took care of the laundry and electric installations of the motherhouse. From 1968 on she was a member of the council of what was then the Central Province. In 1982 she came back to Neuenbeken and took charge of the laundry of the mission house. For a while she looked after the

residents of St. Joseph's and very specially our confused Sr. Diemut. Afterwards she continued to run the laundry until 2012. In 2010 she was fortunate to participate in a 5-week long tertiate at Mariannhill; in 2013 she served temporarily at the Agnes Fröhlich Haus in Cologne and later for several hours a day in our dining room. Since 2019 she lived in our infirmary.

Though we knew that Sr. Johanne's health was deteriorating over the past few days her sudden death still took us by surprise. Fortunately, her relatives had lately still seen her. May she now, who never spared herself working for the community, rest in peace and hear God, whom she faithfully served, say to her: "Good and faithful servant, now enter the joy of your Lord."