



Obituary

Sr. Maria Hildegard Hagspiel

who died 14.03.2021 at Missionshaus Neuenbeken

Sr. Maria Hildegard– Paula Hagspiel, was born 24.06.1932 at Hittisau, in Vorarlberg/ Austria, Diocese of Feldkirch. After elementary school and a vocational training in housecraft she worked in Switzerland from 1953 to 1957. A testimonial describes her as independent, diligent and reliable in her duties in the household and small shop.

In November 1957 she followed her sister, our Sr. Lucilla, and entered our Congregation in Wernberg. She was received into the novitiate 7. 12. 1958, made her first Profession 8.12.1959 in Wernberg, and final vows 2. 2.1963 at Heilig Blut. In March 1963 - after a course of Klagenfurt Diocese - she received her certificate as catechist, with a special focus on the aspect of “mission”.

In February 1961 she was transferred to Heilig Blut, and from there to Rønne / Denmark. After some years engaged mainly in the domestic field, she did a training in Geriatric Care from 1967 to 1968 in Aachen. She then served in the senior home at Birkerød/ Denmark for 18 years, interrupted only by a renewal course at La Storta in Rom in 1975. 1969 she did a correspondence course in “Growth in Faith” offered by the diocese of Linz.

In 1986 Sr. Maria Hildegard came to Neuenbeken where she helped caring for our seniors in Annaheim and St. Elisabeth, including night duty. From 1995 to 2007 she was in charge of the tea kitchen distributing the food for the sick. As long as her condition allowed it she also helped in the team that prepares the vegetables for the whole house.

Her strength decreased, and from 2015 prayer became her main apostolate. In September 2020 she moved to our “Krankenstation St. Elisabeth”. During the night of Laetare Sunday 2021 our Lord took her home. The funeral was on 17. March. Her sister, our Sr. Lucilla stationed in Heilig Blut for many years, did not feel well enough to attend the funeral.

Sr. Maria Hildegard was a quiet person, but had a hearty way of laughing. She was circumspect and conscientious in her work. A note left by her may well express her understanding of her spiritual life and service: “To live united with Him, make room for Him generously, and try to make Him present in everyday life, to ask Him to do everything with us. Love alone is what matters.” A second note says: “The death of a Christian is not the end of life, but the radiant beginning of new and real life. A word by Isaiah that we hear in the liturgy these days seems to express this in its own way:

“Now I create a new heaven and a new earth.

The past will not be remembered and will no longer come to man`s minds.

Be glad and rejoice for ever and ever for what I am creating.” Is 65, 17, 18

Sr. Hildegard after her long years of faithful service now enter the eternal joy and peace of her Lord.