

Obituary
Sr. Maria Georg Loos
who passed away
07.11.2020 at
Missionshaus Neuenbeken



Sr. Maria Georg – Ursula Huberta Loos – was born 20.10.1943 at Mariaschein, a place of pilgrimage that was famous in Sudetenland. After World War 2 the area belonged to then czechoslovakia. The people were evicted and came to the area of Weimar in Eastern Germany. There Ursula started her primary education and attended class 1. In 1950 her mother fled with her to Western Germany – like many other people. Even as a child - in spite of all fear and insecurity - she says was aware that there is something like miracles: strangers put their own freedom at stake to help them on the way. All her life God remained for her the God of wonders and surprises. And she responded with readiness of heart.

They then lived in Weil/Rhein, where she attended primary school followed by high school in Lörrach until 1958. At the age of 14 she came to Neuenbeken and attended the “Mission School”. Her desire was to go to the missions – as a teacher. But her life turned a different direction.

After her Oxford examination in 1963 she entered in Wernberg and was received into the novitiate 7.12.1964. She made her first profession 3.5.1966. After a year of Juniorate in Heilig Blut and a short time in Mönchengladbach she was sent to Canada to train as a physiotherapist - instead of doing a teachers` training in England as had been envisaged. The plan now was to prepare her for helping disabled children at Ikhwezi Lokusa, Umthata. 15.8. 1969 she made her final profession in Willowdale.

In 1973 she was transferred to Mariannahill to offer physiotherapy to patients at St. Mary`s Hospital. Very soon she was asked to help out at St. Francis College for some weeks - teaching Physics and Chemistry. These “few weeks” turned out to become “30 years at the College”. She was physiotherapist and teacher, though she was not trained for teaching. When the Biology teacher dropped out in 1988, she started teaching full time at St. Francis. In parallel she studied with Pietermaritzburg University to obtain her teacher`s diploma.

Apart from formal teaching Sr. Mary Georg engaged in many extra-mural activities with her students. She writes:

“We engaged ourselves for “Dialogue and Reconciliation” between nations, tribes, races and religions. We travelled across country to offer workshops in schools, including white schools.

Since all my students were Khosas, Zulus and Sothos invitations as such were a sign of good will between different races in a country that was still marked by apartheid. We had contact with Moslems, Hindus and Buddhists, as well as adherents of the Bahai religion and natural religions of Africa, and we prayed together in the burning intentions of our time."

To her own surprise the junior sisters were entrusted to Sr. Mary George in 1989 - to prepare them for final vows. She rendered this service for 10 years.

2004 was another year of surprises. Sr. Maria Georg was destined for Rome as General Secretary. Simultaneously the sisters of Eastern Cape suggested her as Provincial Superior. 4 years later- she was elected General Assistant and moved from Mthatha to Rome.

In 2008 she was mandated to care for CPS associates worldwide, and organized an international meeting in Mariannhill in 2010.

The same year she moved to Neuenbeken as new Provincial Superior. From 2013 to 2017 she was chairperson of the diocesan representatives of the different religious communities. As a sign of special connection, Auxiliary Bishop König, responsible for the religious in the diocese, has celebrated the funeral service with us.

In 2018 Sr. Maria Georg`s second term of office as provincial Superior ended. She wanted to go to our small community at Maria Veen near Münster, where the CMM run a big high school. Her desire was to contribute to the life of the school and the students. But plans changed once again. Due to serious illness further missionary service became impossible. For a long time she struggled bravely with the illness. In between she spent time with her sister to recover from draining chemotherapy.

In 2019 her booklet "Encounters with God in Every Day Life" was printed. She tells moving stories from her life, e.g. about Ricky, a ten-year old boy in Toronto. He was totally paralysed, and under artificial respiration at the time of the encounter. He could only indicate "yes or no" by raising his eyebrow or turning up his nose. When the respirator was removed Ricky greeted Sr. Maria Georg with a radiant face and said: "Sister, I am sooo happy when you die." The statement puzzled Sister somehow, and he explained: "When you die and come to heaven, I will be there already. And then I can tell everybody that I am your friend." Facit of Sr. Maria Georg: If it`s like that, why should I not look forward to meet all my friends and relatives again, who will be waiting for me there together with Ricky.

The conclusion of the booklet sounds like a resume of her whole life:

"Again and again I am surprised at God`s plans and ways for my life. And I am grateful for all the trust and help that he always gives me."

In the evening of 7.11.2020 God called Sr. Maria Georg home after a long way of suffering. She fell asleep gently and quietly. May God reward her richly for all she contributed to his kingdom as a member of our Congregation - in Canada, Africa and Europe. May she now see him face to face, the God of her surprises.

R.i.p.