



**Obituary**  
**Sr. Maria Gudrun Goldmann**  
**deceased 15.08.2020**  
**at Missionshaus Neuenbeken**

Sr. Maria Gudrun – Anneliese Goldmann – was born 29.08.1938 in Wiedenbruck, Archdiocese of Paderborn. After completing her elementary education – she started training for tailoring and passed her first examination at the age of 16. All her life long she served the Congregation with her gift for tailoring. As a sister she did further training in 1964 and 1972. This included “Gesellen- und Meisterprüfung”.

Sr. Gudrun entered our Congregation in Neuenbeken 15.04.1958 and was received into the novitiate 02.02.1960. On 15.08.1961 she made her first profession, and 15.8 1964 final vows. From 1961 to 1972 she worked at Bad Kissingen, Neuenbeken and Herz Jesu Krankenhaus Paderborn.

In September 1972 she travelled to Zimbabwe via Heilig Blut. One of her initial challenges was learning the English language. Soon she was able to offer her first courses in sewing. In 1978 she became needlework teacher in the primary school at Sacred Heart Home. She offered further courses until 1983, when she was transferred to Monte Cassino Secondary School to teach both lower and upper classes. Sr. Gudrun was not trained as a teacher. Since there were illiterate children among her pupils she was qualified as a teacher. This meant she was able to teach officially and she received a teacher`s salary.

Sr. Gudrun was diligent and creative. She received significant financial support from her home parish and an ecumenical fund raising initiative called “Ökumenische Aktion Eine Welt Rheda-Wiedenbrück”. This enabled the community to furnish classrooms, buy sewing machines and provide meals for the children. Even a school and a kindergarten was built through her initiative.

In 2005 Sr. Gudrun became house superior of the novitiate convent Macheke, but returned to Monte Cassino in 2009 to take up teaching again. Now at the age of nearly 70 – she was no longer employed by the government. Gradually her health declined, and in 2015 she had to return to Neuenbeken. medical intervention brought some relief, but she was not able to return to Zimbabwe and was transferred to Neuenbeken and lived in our infirmary. Naturally, lack of action was hard for her – after her very active missionary life.

In the course of an interview in her home parish she was asked once what motivated her to become a Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood and to go to Africa. Her Answer: “God said to Abraham `Leave your home and go to a country I will show you. And you will be a blessing.` It is with this desire that I wanted to live among the people of Africa, - and simply be there.”

Her life and work in our Congregation - specially in Zimbabwe - has, indeed, become a blessing. She is remembered by many people. This has become evident through reactions to the news of her death in internet. Many of her former pupils are using Facebook to send messages of condolence and appreciation.

Sr. Gudrun was called home to God on August 15, the day of her profession 59 years ago. May this be a sign that her surrender was accepted and brought rich fruit. May she now rest in peace.

R.i.p.