

## OBITUARY

of our

**Sister Matthia Kanzian**

**\*02.03.1935 † 11.11.2020**



Sr. Matthia was born on March 2, 1935 in Dellach im Gailtal, Carinthia, and died late in the evening of November 11 in Wernberg.

Sister Matthia, you were the eldest daughter in your family, one daughter, Käthe, and two brothers, Franz and Josef, were born after you. You were baptized on March 4th in the name of Josefa. Your father was a "Wagner master". (carts used in farming) Who can still imagine anything like that today? You were very enterprising and a good student. You liked to play theatre and dress up - all of this also was an advantage for us in the monastery. Already at the age of 16 you went to live with a family in Kötschach as a domestic helper and were described as "helpful, solid, and eager to learn with good talents". Over the summer you were needed at home. Later you ventured further afield, to Innsbruck, where you worked with families in the household, in a pastry shop as a "buffet lady" and in a clothing factory. In all your certificates it is written that you were very honest and decent and that you left at your own request to improve yourself. Then you ventured into a hotel in the Engadin, Switzerland, where you worked for several seasons. Then you were drawn back to Carinthia, also to a guest house - until you wrote in your photo album in 1960: "Wernberg is calling"! You received your religious training here and made your profession on 08.12.1962.

Soon afterwards you went as an apprentice to the very famous master tailor Therese Raimund in Villach. Because of your efficiency, your training was shortened by one year and you passed your examination with very good results. Afterwards you were in Klagenfurt in the Salon Del Vesco and in 1971 you passed the master's examination as a ladies' dress maker. These were all steps for your assignment in Mozambique. In Heilig Blut you helped while waiting for your visa, then there was a stopover in Portugal, from where you left. In Mozambique you were in Namacha, in Manhica and in Alvor. Everywhere you brought your skills to bear, in Namacha you were also responsible for the candidates. During all these years, Mozambique was in a state of civil war.

After your return in 1979 and after a renewal course in Rome, you started travelling again. You were needed almost everywhere in Europe because you were so versatile and always willing to be involved. You were in Rome, in Heilig Blut, then 5 years in Mönchengladbach. In 1988 you came to Brig, Switzerland. There you sewed again, looked after the dining room and the sacristy. In 1991 you came back to Wernberg and worked first in the guest dining room and of course again and again in the sewing room. You were also a great enrichment for our sisters in the Dorf Tirol, in Romania, where you also gave sewing courses. Later you took over the care of the roses from Sr. Veronika, you enjoyed the work very much and you kept a

detailed record of everything. Again and again you were willing to help out in the wards and also sewed a lot for us here. You were especially happy when your work included one or the other dress or coat for sisters. Nobody knows how many parcels you packed for Romania, the Ukraine and our sisters in Africa...

In 2010 you noticed yourself that a change was taking place in your body. You had read an article and from it, you have realized that you have the Parkinson's disease. You have contacted the specialist in Carinthia yourself, and you have also joined a support group. You were well adjusted by taking good medication. In the last few years, forgetfulness has also become a problem. If you were sad, songs could cheer you up. The day before you died, we sang together and you said your voice was no longer good. But singing „In di Berg bin i gern" your face lit up and you knew all the verses by heart. When you were restless, you became calm by singing and praying. You were so pleasant and welcoming that our nurses were happy to come to your room. You were lovingly looked after by them and our sisters.

We cannot stop being amazed about the many things that have room in a single life! Not to mention all the joys, worries, hobbies or desires you experienced

You always had a good connection with your family, especially with your sister, and loved to spend your holidays with her. Lately you have often spoken about your mother and were worried about her. You also asked if Franz was there.

On the day you died, you slept right from the morning and never woke up. Your breath became quieter and calmer until you handed it over to the One from whom you had received your first breath. And you will radiate as you did when singing "In di Berg bin i gern". Thank you for being a gift to us!

Sr. Pallotti and Sisters