

OBITUARY

of our sister Neophita Marter

***02.07.1937 +21.01.2021**



Sr. Neophita was born on July 2, 1937 in Weißkirchen/Bela Crkva, in Banat, now Serbia and passed away in the night on January 21, 2020 in Wernberg.

Sr. Neophita, you had a very eventful, adventurous and difficult life in your childhood. You were the eldest of three daughters of the winegrower Karl Marter and his wife Marija. In 1942 your father had to go to war, in 1944 he came home once again, soon after he was considered missing in action. Only in 1958 he was officially declared dead. On October 1, 1944, your mother, aunt and you three girls were taken away by German soldiers. This was the last opportunity, because Russian soldiers were already bombing your home. You repeatedly told how difficult it was to escape via Hungary to the Czech Republic and then to Austria. Your mother was badly wounded, but you children, accompanied by your aunt, went on. Only much later did you learn that your mother was alive and could come to you. What traumas have remained with you from those years? You went often hungry. At that time, no one talked about help to come to terms with all that had happened ... On top of that, your youngest sister died in 1945. You were housed in various camps and also privately - sometimes well, sometimes unworthily. Where did your vocation for a religious life come from and especially to our Congregation? You write that a Don Bosco Father gave you religious instruction and also later kept in touch.

Like your sister, you attended the secondary school of the Sisters of Holy Cross in Linz and then the technical school for ladies' tailoring. You always had a great love for children, so it was natural for you to train as a kindergarten teacher. Soon after graduation you were sent to Denmark to pass on your talents to the little ones in the convent's own kindergarten. You said that you learned Danish from the children. For 45 years, you were in Denmark, interrupted by a course in Rome and a sabbatical in Mariannahill/South Africa. In addition to being head of the kindergarten, you were also head of the community and had various pastoral duties. In 2010 you came back to Wernberg. You helped first in the monastery store, then also with office work, you were very popular with the children of the refugee

families. During these years you were also very busy with your early past and relived many a difficult issue.

For some years your forgetfulness increased, which also was a burden for you. You still helped with the dishes and when you were asked to help, you did it with great care. When you didn't know something, your answer was always "I can't know, I haven't been here long." Forgive us if we were sometimes impatient with you and paid too little attention to your situation. You were always very polite in your behavior. Since Christmas you have taken little part in the life of the community. At the beginning of January an examination showed still that you had good blood values. Sybille, our head of nursing, nevertheless arranged for you to be admitted to the hospital. There you were diagnosed with acute leukemia. Nobody thought that it was so acute. On 20.01. your name day, we were allowed to take you home. You spent your last hours lovingly cared for by your fellow sisters and fell asleep peacefully.

Sr. Neophita, we thank you for your life with us; for all the good that came into the world through you - especially in Denmark. After so much searching for home, you have finally arrived and surely you have already met your father.

Sr. Pallotti and Sisters