



OBITUARY
of our
Sr. M. Reinhild Jäger
+ 05.08.2023
in Paderborn

Sister Reinhild was born on 15 August 1931 in Frankfurt am Main, Diocese of Limburg, and was given the name Ruth at her baptism. After primary school, she attended secondary school, from which she was discharged in 1947 with the "Mittlere Reife".

She then worked in the domestic field at the St. Elisabeth Hospital in Frankfurt until the end of February 1950 - as preparation for the nursing profession. There she was employed both on the ward and in the operating theatre and dressing room. From April 1950 to the end of March 1952, she attended the nursing school at the Marien Hospital, also in Frankfurt. After this training, which she completed with very good results, she worked for good seven years at the Elisabeth Hospital, now exclusively in the operating theatre. She "was exemplary in every respect. She performed her duties with great prudence and conscientiousness; at the same time, she was skillful and hard working. She spared no sacrifice and was always ready for action," says the hospital management's testimony. The hospital's clergyman says that she attended daily church services, was considered a "dear and very agreeable person" among the staff and that everyone was very reluctant to see her go.

Thus, Sister Reinhild entered our Congregation as a "seasoned personality" on 15 February 1960 in Neuenbeken. The beginning of religious life may not have been easy for her. As she told fellow sisters, she was not sure at first whether this would be the right path for her. However, she was clothed on 1 February 1961 and made her first profession on 15 August 1962 and her perpetual profession on 15 August 1965.

In mid-September 1962, she was sent to the then Herz-Jesu Hospital in Paderborn, where she worked as an operating theatre nurse until August 1975. Then she moved to our St. Joseph's Hospital in Paderborn as the head operating theatre nurse. For almost 20 years she performed this service with prudence and conscientiousness. Doctors and nurses appreciated her energy and readiness for action, - for beginners she was an excellent guide because of her clear, consistent instructions and commands.

On 1 October 1994, Sr. Reinhild left the responsible service in the operating theatre and continued to work in the wards with a reduced number of hours; from 2001 still on a voluntary basis. From 2010 onwards, she walked the wards daily to take patients' food orders and also to advise them if necessary. In addition to her work in the operating theatre, she played the piano and the flute and enjoyed singing, and was instrumental in organising the liturgy in the church service and the Liturgy of the Hours as well as other celebrations in the sisters' circle.

In March 2015, after a fall, Sr. Reinhild came to the infirmary at the Mission House. Several of her chronic illnesses contributed to her often depressed mood, which intensified over time, so that she had been longing to go home for a long time. On the night of 5 August, she had another serious fall, so that she was admitted to St Joseph's Hospital and operated on the same day. It was touching for us that one of the former doctors, who held her in high esteem, could be notified and assisted in the operation. Very quickly, however, it became clear that Sr. Reinhild was on her last journey. She died on the evening of 5 August. The following Sunday we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. In the sermon we heard the following:

A person is more than what we can see, more than the physicality. We never recognize the real dignity if we do not sense the light that shines in the person. The transfiguration of Jesus tells us: the fullness of life is completed in the revelation of one's own glory. When the divine song in us raises its voice, when the invisible in us gains visible form, then we have reached our goal in life.

God has fulfilled Sr. Reinhild's fervent wish. He called her home - and this at the place of her many years of blessed work. She died in the presence of our Sr. Waltraud Röhrle, who reported how they prayed with her afterwards, together with the hospital chaplain and a nurse. A truly dignified farewell!

Christ, whom Sr. Reinhild served in so many sick people, will have received her, as he himself says in the Gospel of Matthew, "Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of what has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For in as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me."

R.i.p.