

## OBITUARY

of our Sister Emanuele Grebien

\* 21.02.1937 † 29.12.2021



Sr. Emanuele was born on 21 February 1937 in St. Lorenzen ob Eibiswald, Steiermark, Austria, and she died in the early morning of 29 December 2021 in Wernberg.

Sr. Emanuele, you did not have an easy life from early childhood on. Your mother died when you were only 4 ½ years old. Your Sister Paula took good care of you, so that - as you said yourself - you did not lack anything. When you were 13 years old, your father remarried and then you were only used as a labourer. As soon as you could, you left home. You found a job as a nursing aid in the hospital of the Sisters of Mercy at Mariazell. There you experienced a piece of home, especially with the Superior, who was like a mother to you. You were very enterprising; you got your driving license and bought a scooter. You liked to go on excursions with the Sisters, who wore winged bonnets at that time. When you refused your father to work at home during the summer, the break with your family was completed. However, you always felt at home with your relatives, especially with your niece Maria.

You were a devout young woman and the positive experiences with the sisters probably influenced your decision to enter the convent in Wernberg on 1 November 1960. You received your entire religious formation there. On 7 December 1961 you entered the novitiate, you made your First Profession on 3 May 1963 and your Final Profession on 3 May 1966.

You were very skillful and helpful in many ways. Unfortunately, your wish to become a carpenter was not fulfilled. After your profession, you worked for a short time in Lindau with the CMM and in Heilig Blut. Then you were in Wernberg helping with the care of the guests, you worked in the laundry and in the house. For 20 years you were stationed in the „Franz Pfanner Home“ in Langen. There you worked not only as a nurse, but you were also a valuable support in technical matters of the house. In 1999, you returned to Wernberg to assist the house economist and to care for the garden and the parks. You had always a “green thumb”, the magnificent geraniums in front of the windows were grown and cultivated by you for years.

Even before you entered the convent, you had an operation on the thyroid gland and the damage was irreparable. For decades, you had to live also with diabetes - and despite your ailments, you were always ready for any work and you never lost your sense of humour. In February 2002, on top of everything else, you suffered a stroke.

Your favourite season was carnival. You loved to dress up, preferably in a police officer's uniform and often you had a fitting joke at hand.

Since autumn, you have often complained of tiredness. A few days before Christmas, you were diagnosed with acute leukemia. You were admitted to the hospital, but you refused any therapy, as you had stipulated in your living will some years ago. You only wanted painkilling medication. You very consciously received the anointing of the sick to strengthen you. You even spent Christmas Day - your name day - with us in the community, but on St. Stephen's Day, you needed oxygen and had to go back to hospital. You came back to Wernberg the evening before you went home. In full consciousness, you asked us Sisters for forgiveness for the injuries you had inflicted. „I think, I have done enough“, you said.

As your legacy, a goat in Burundi jumps around and gives milk; a baby of a single mother gets a starting parcel. This is what you decreed on Christmas Day for the money given to you. This gesture was so typical of you!

We thank you for your life in our community, for all your goodness, for the many small, faithful services. Now you will be active in the garden of paradise, - only enjoying is not in your nature. We miss you!

Sr. Pallotti and fellow sisters