

Obituary

of our Sister

Rudolfine Schaar

***10.12.1935 † 06.02.2022**



Sr. Rudolfine was born 10 Dezember 1935 in Bergl near Hermagor, Carinthia; she died 06 February 2022 in Wernberg.

Sr. Rudolfine you and your twin sister Elisabeth were the third and fourth child of your parents Franz and Maria Schaar. You were seven altogether. You grew up in Bergl at about 700m above sea level in the Gailtal. Your family had a farm, and through a lot of manual work and frugality, your parents could feed the family. During the Second World War there were often 20 people living in the house; besides the parents, the grandparents, as well as a sister and a brother of the father. Later on, an aunt came from Vienna with four children, who had fled from the Russian occupation forces. Two Polish forced labourers and a Russian woman were assigned to the family. Cash only came into the house when a calf was sold. Your father had to join the "Volkssturm" (the German peoples army) in the winter of 1944/45, from there he brought a virus back with him and died at the age of 43 in January 1945. Your mother was left alone with seven children and the old parents; the forced labourers went back home. You also said that there were four farmers on the Bergl, three of them were members of the NSDAP (a radical nationalistic party) and they checked very much on the Catholic family Schaar. Your family always meant a lot to you.

All this has shaped and moulded you. After primary school, you attended the agricultural vocational school. You received further training at the domestic science school run by the school sisters in Döllach. You helped on your parents' farm and were very active in the Catholic Rural Youth. During these years, your decision to become a missionary sister matured. On 01.10.1960, you entered Wernberg and after the novitiate, you made your profession on 03.05.1963. Due to your versatile training in housekeeping and your amiable nature you were very much in demand in our guest dining room, in the kitchen in Bregenz, in the Abbot Pfanner Home in Langen, again here in Wernberg and then in the Generalate in Rome. When asked where you liked to be the most, you immediately said: I liked to be everywhere, but Rome was my favourite. You worked there in the kitchen and garden for 17 years. Back in Wernberg in 2006, you took over the care of the park and the flowers with great love. Wherever there was

a spot, you planted small plants, especially the inconspicuous flowers were preferred by you. Yes, but no one could look after orchids like you. In the spring of 2020 you were diagnosed with a cancerous tumor that required immediate surgery. It took a long time to heal and you were no longer allowed to work in the soil. Unfortunately, open wounds soon developed on one leg, which had to be amputated a year later. You took great pleasure in "excursions" in your wheelchair around the garden, where you always discovered flowers that you had planted.

Sr Rudolfine, you were always friendly, kind and obliging. Your true greatness showed itself in the way you bore your suffering, especially towards the end. Always grateful, always ready to find something beautiful, but consciously accepting the pain: "Others suffer much more and our Lord has taken it all upon Himself". You stroked your remaining leg. Almost always you crocheted on a very colourful blanket. Each row had a different colour - so much cheerfulness radiated from this work of yours. You were very grateful for the television, on which you could celebrate the services with the community. "Who invented this", you kept saying. You became quieter and quieter. On the night of 6 February you were taken home to our Lord.

We thank you for your life in our community, for your sign of hope in suffering, for all your goodness, for many small, faithful services, for all the flowers that remind us of you.

Sr. Pallotti and fellow Sisters