



**Obituary of**  
**Sr. M. Helene Hachmeier CPS**  
**+ 17.01.2023**  
**In the Missionshaus Neuenbeken**

Sister Helene, Bernhardine Hachmeier, was born on 11 August 1933 in Elsen near Paderborn (Archdiocese of Paderborn) and baptised on 14 August. She grew up with three sisters in the "Stadtheide", a part of Paderborn, and first attended primary school, then from 1944 for one year the Pelizäus Gymnasium in Paderborn. In June of that year, her mother died and her father enrolled her in the reopened St. Michael's Grammar School of the Augustinian Choir Women in 1945. In 1951, after completing her secondary schooling, she came to Neuenbeken to attend the mission school because, as she writes in her curriculum vitae, she was sure that God had "called her, and specially for the mission". After Oxford exams and postulancy, she was clothed in Neuenbeken on 14 August 1955 made her first profession on 15 August 1956, and her perpetual profession on 8 September 1959.

After her profession, she learned shorthand and typing, was employed at the Herz Jesu Hospital in Paderborn from January to April 1957 and then went to Cologne-Hohenlind for training as a medical-technical assistant. She passed the state examination there in March 1959. After a compulsory practical year at the Herz-Jesu Hospital, she was awarded the professional title of nurse after passing a corresponding examination with "very good". In a basic course and corresponding advanced courses for teaching nurses in Cologne-Hohenlind she attained the teaching qualification and from 1963 to 1967 she directed our nursing school at the Herz Jesu Hospital. Later she remained active as a second "teaching nurse" in both the nursing school and the nursing auxiliary school. In 1966, she joined the laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital and was head MTA there from 1981 to 1997. She took part in several further training courses for medical-technical assistants, e.g. for clinical chemistry and hematology.

In 1981, her original wish to go to the missions was fulfilled when she spent several weeks in our hospital in Turiani, Tanzania, where she was able to share her knowledge.

Sr Helene was always spiritually interested, liked to listen to religious lectures, was close to the so-called charismatic congregational renewal, which was particularly represented by Professor Heribert Mühlen from Paderborn and found expression in faith courses and blessing services. The aim was to communicate a living Christianity that is realised in the authentic experience of the unity of faith and life. In 1991, at Sr. Helene's request, the group of our Associates, the Precious Blood Mission Circle, came into being, which she led. She also founded and accompanied various prayer groups.

From 1992 to 1996 she was a member of the Provincial Council and for one year in 1992 she was postulancy leader. In 1997 she left the ministry in the laboratory and began training in hospital chaplaincy - later additionally in bereavement counselling. Until 2007 she was employed as a chaplain in the Brüderkrankenhaus, first paid later on a voluntary basis.

In 2016, Sr. Helene moved to the Neuenbeken Mission House. Even in her retirement she did not remain inactive. She continued her work with the Precious Blood Mission Circle and prayer groups - such as the Jesus Prayer - and was involved in teaching German to refugees from Syria. The children of the Syrian family on our compound loved her and liked to call her their "grandma".

As a result of the onset of pneumonia, Sr. Helene came to the infirmary. Although the acute illness could be averted, she remained very weak and was ready to go home. After receiving the anointing of the sick the night before, she died on the night of 17 January, the feast of St Anthony, the father of the monks. This is remarkable as she herself held the writings and life of the ancient desert monks in high esteem.

May she now be allowed to see what she believed in, and may God richly reward her for she did for Him and His kingdom during her life.

R I P