

**In loving memory of our
Sister Christophori Kneringer who departed
this life on 4 June 2022**



*“The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want” Psalms 23:1*

These words, which speak of the caring qualities of Jesus, the shepherd, held a fascination for Sr Christophori. She herself had to care for the wellbeing of others almost from childhood. Sr Christophori, Johanna Kneringer, was born on 09-October 1931 in Erl -Tyrol, Austria, to Johann and Katharina Kneringer. She was the eldest of eight children – three girls and five boys and therefore learnt from a very early age to take responsibility. Being an innkeeper’s daughter in the village of Erl, which is famous for its passion plays, she got to know a great variety of people. Her family’s participation in the Erl Passion Plays helped her not only to interact with people from childhood on but also fostered the development of her spiritual life.

There must have been some raised eyebrows when the 19-year-old young vivacious Johanna Kneringer, decided to enter our Congregation in Wernberg on 15 September 1950. Sr Christophori received her entire religious formation up to Final Profession in Wernberg. She was received into the Novitiate on 07 December 1951 and made her First Profession on 08.12.1952. Three years later she committed herself for ever to Christ through her Final Profession.

Sr Christophori served our Congregation on 3 different continents: Europe, North America and Africa. Already before her entry into the Convent she had been engaged in clerical work. When she was transferred to Canada in 1959, she worked in the office of St Bernard’s Convalescent Hospital, Willowdale. In 1964 she was transferred to Mariannahill and worked in the administration office in St Mary’s Hospital.

Since Sr Christophori was also endowed with good leadership skills, she was almost uninterruptedly in leadership positions from 1973-1998. She was Provincial Superior of the Austrian province for nearly eleven years, Superior of Mariannahill Hospital for 4 years and Provincial Superior of the Eastern Cape Province, for over eight years. In 1998 Sr Christophori was needed in the Provincialate at Bethany Convent, Pinetown, to help the provincial bursar. This was followed by a two-year service at the Tre Fontane Guesthouse, Mariannahill, in 1999. She remained Assistant Bursar

of the Mariannahill Province during that time and even, when she had been appointed superior of Mariannahill Convent in January 2002. She was a multi-talented sister

In 2004 Sr Christophori moved to the Sacred Heart Home, Ixopo, to become Superior again. Unfortunately, she fell ill in 2006 which relieved her of the burden of leadership in the Congregation which she carried for almost thirty years. In January 2007 she took over the financial administration of the Sacred Heart Home, Ixopo, and served loyally till her health failed her. On 17 January 2018 she was admitted to the Mariannahill Infirmary. In the early morning of 4 June 2022, a few weeks before the celebration of her 70th Jubilee of Religious Life, she returned to her God whom she had served joyfully and with great dedication.

Sr Christophori loved singing and reading. She was a welcoming person and an attentive listener. Her strong sense of responsibility was an example not only for her fellow sisters but also for the people with whom she worked. Sr Christophori had a sense of loyalty to those dear to her and was blessed with many longstanding friends. She kept a close relationship with her family. When her declining health made it increasingly difficult for her to speak and answer calls from her family, 2 Sisters became her spokespersons. At one of the last times, the Sisters started to sing her favourite hymn to Our Lady. It was a joy to hear Sr Christophori join in as well as her family miles away.

Her strong commitment to Christ and the members of our congregation gave her the strength to work hard to further the growth of God's Kingdom. She never spared herself and could say with St Paul:

"I am able to do everything in Him who gives me strength". (Philippians 4:13)

R.I.P.