



**Obituary**  
**of our**  
**Sr. M. Claudette Rehm,**  
**† 14. March 2024**  
**at Missionshaus Neuenbeken**

Sister Claudette, Magdalena Rehm, was born on 27 September 1938 in Ringschnait, Biberach, Diocese of Rottenburg, as the eldest of 6 siblings. Her father was the honorary mayor of the village, and so, after completing the primary school, she initially helped him in the mayor's office; at the same time, she attended the commercial vocational school in Biberach to acquire the necessary skills in shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. From 1957 to 1959, she was employed by the municipal administration in Biberach. She had no difficulty in familiarising herself with the job and - as stated in a reference from 1959 - "completed all her work with expertise, diligence and dedication. She was loyal and conscientious. She did her work in a skillful reserved manner, which made her highly valued by her superiors and colleagues."

On 12 April 1959, she wrote for the first time to Neuenbeken. Already for a long time she had wanted to become a missionary sister and had been encouraged in her plans by the Mariannahill magazine. She was unsure whether she would be suitable for the job, as she had no knowledge of foreign languages. After mentioning her training and work in administration, she added: "If you can't use me for the office, I am of course prepared to take on another job, e.g. in the household or in nursing."

Magdalena entered Neuenbeken on 3 July 1959. She was received into the novitiate on 14 August 1960 and received the name Sister Claudette. She made her first profession in Neuenbeken on 2 February 1962 and her final profession on 2 February 1965.

Immediately after her first profession, she was transferred to the then Herz-Jesu-Hospital in Paderborn. In addition to working in the office, she obtained her driving licence in 1967, attended a short seminar on hospital administration and a further training course for human resources in Cologne-Hohenlind. In 1973, she obtained her commercial assistant certificate from the Bielefeld Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

In October 1975, she moved to the office of the St. Josef hospital, also in Paderborn. In 1975, she took part in a seminar on "Introduction to the problems of cost and performance accounting" in Cologne-Hohenlind and a "Management seminar for key employees in charitable organisations" in Paderborn.

On 14 July 1976, Sister Claudette was called to the Provincial Secretariat in Neuenbeken. Until 2018, she was the provincial secretary during the terms of office of six provincial superiors. She handled the correspondence within the German Province, with the Generalate and with our sisters worldwide with tireless diligence and prudence.

In 1981, she took part in an English course at the adult education centre, which she passed with flying colours. In 1986, she completed a three-week course in archiving and filing in Passau, and between 1987 and 2001, various courses on working with computers and the Internet. In 2006 she was able to take part in the tertiate in Rome/Monte Cucco.

Neuenbeken without Sr. Claudette? One could almost say that an era is coming to an end - she was a good spirit in our house, often enough the "last resort", as she was told at her golden jubilee and confirmed with a word from the theologian Johannes Bours:

"... the coming of God as a blessing does not always have to be a blessing with words. It can take place in moments of saving action."

We are very grateful to our fellow sister. She was one of those of whom Mother Paula says in her Inner Spirit that they "are just as active in the direct service of the Most High and in the service of the mission as those sisters who work directly in the mission through education, teaching or nursing". In this way, Sister Claudette's initial desire to "collaborate in the spreading of the Kingdom of God ..." has been fulfilled.

In April 2021, the Sisters of the Generalate thanked her with the words: "It is so good to work with someone who cares as much as you do as a secretary beyond your "job"... Thank you for all you do and are." Then, they recall the "Profile of a CPS-Secretary", in which we can certainly recognise our Sr. Claudette:

"Love for the Congregation, spirit of service, transparency and confidentiality, faithfulness and loyalty, availability and ability to communicate, team spirit and co-operation, commitment in communication and always up to date."

May God in his goodness reward her abundantly!

R.i.p.