

**Obituary**  
**Sr. Maria Ruth Schneider**  
**† 2 April 2024**  
**in the Missionshaus Neuenbeken**



Sister Maria Ruth, Johanna Schneider, the younger Sister of Sr. Judith who for many years was the Procuratrix General of our Congregation, was born on 24 March 1934 in Kladrau, the District of Mies, in today's Czech Republic. Her birth place belonged to the Diocese of Prague.

In 1945/46 up to three million Germans were expelled from the country. The family first came to Brandenburg and later lived in Rhineland-Pfalz. After leaving the primary school, Johanna - according to her fellow sisters - learnt the men's tailoring trade.

Sister Maria Ruth does not wish an obituary. Therefore, here are only her further dates:

She joined our Congregation in Neuenbeken on 1 October 1952. From April 1953 to March 1954, she attended our housekeeping school also in Neuenbeken.

On 1 February 1955, she was accepted into the novitiate and made her First Profession on 2 February 1956. She was assigned to the reception in Neuenbeken and at the same time helped to train the students in the housekeeping school. In January 1958, she was transferred to our former Herz Jesu Hospital and she returned to Neuenbeken in October. She made her Final Vows on 2 February 1959. On 9 February she passed her driving test and she was the first sister who drove the car in the mission house.

At the end of September 1961, she went to Lisbon, where she took over the daily transport of the children to the kindergarten in the CPS-owned minibus and she also worked in the house and garden. She returned to Germany in September 1965. After a temporary work in Mönchengladbach, she travelled by ship to Lourenço Marques in Mocambique in July 1966, where she arrived on 13 August 1966. She initially worked in the newly built novitiate house in Namaascha. She then replaced Sr. Borgia in the X-ray department of the tuberculosis centre in Lourenço Marques, now Maputo. She carried out this important service until she returned to Germany in 1974. From August 1974 to September 1975, she attended the technical college for geriatric nursing in Würzburg, from which she graduated with distinction. She now took over the ward service as a geriatric nurse in the Bous retirement home, later as a residential area manager. She worked in Bous for 37 years, from 1998 also in the pastoral care, the sewing room, at the gate, was looking after the flowers and helping to serve meals; she was also briefly a house assistant.

Sister Maria Ruth returned to Neuenbeken on 12 October 2012. She now lived in retirement, the apostolate of prayer determined her day, as well as small services. She helped in the mending room on an hourly basis until 2018. Her last years on our infirmary were difficult for her, as not only was she losing her sight, but also her hearing. She wished she could go home. Nine days after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, God granted her wish; unexpectedly for us, she died at midday on Easter Tuesday, 2 April.

We thank Sr. Maria Ruth for her manifold and faithful commitment to our Congregation. May God in his goodness reward her richly, and may her eyes now see with joy the greatness of his glory.

R.i.p.