

OBITUARY

of our Sister

Michaeli Biberauer

* 11. 02. 1932 † 23. 12. 2023



Sr. Michaeli was born on 11 February 1932 in Linz, Upper Austria and she died on 23 December 2023 in the hospital of Villach.

Sr. Michaeli, you were the fifth child of your parents Theresia and Michael Biberauer and at baptism were given the name Gertrud. Five more children were born to your parents after you; altogether, you were eight girls and two boys. After finishing secondary school in Linz, you did an apprenticeship as a men's tailor and graduated from the vocational college with very good results. Immediately afterwards, on 7 September 1949, you began training as a Missionary Sister at Wernberg convent. The „virus“ of the spiritual vocation infected seven siblings in your family. The two sons became priests, six daughters entered in Wernberg. Some of them later realized that this was not the vocation of their lives. You, Sr. Michaeli, are survived by Sr. Goretta and Sr. Mechtild. Both are spending their old age in Wernberg after many years of service in Africa.

Your talent for textiles was soon recognized in Wernberg. After your apprenticeship with Sister Meinolfa, you passed your apprenticeship examination in Klagenfurt. You learnt the craft of gold, silver and bead embroidery. You continued to develop your talent and passed the master craftsman's examination in Linz in 1964. From 1969 to 2012, you ran the paramentic workshop in the convent of Wernberg with great success. Countless liturgical vestments were made by you and under your direction. Paraments were a flourishing branch of business at the missionary monastery. You write: "Our mission is to produce liturgical vestments to make the church services dignified". And then, "our real mission is the mission to the people that God gives us, no matter where we are".

Another of your talents was music. You directed the sisters' choir from 1972 and the church choir in Gottestal from 1979 to 2005. You stayed and worked here in the convent from 1949 to 2023, which is also a record.

From 2015 on, your eyesight began to fail - no wonder, given the strain and you became weaker. Various illnesses caused you difficulties and you had to undergo heart surgery. Corona took its toll on you and your breathlessness increased. Nevertheless, you were only in the infirmary for a short time. A few days ago, your breathlessness became so severe that we had to admit you to hospital. Your two sisters were still with you on the last day. You then fell asleep peacefully in the early morning. You obviously wanted to sing in the heavenly choir on Christmas Day!

Sr. Michaeli, we thank you for your life in our community, for your testimony of a true Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood, for the many beautiful things you have created, for the music, for your sign of hope in suffering, for all your goodness.

Sr. Pallotti and Fellow Sisters