



Obituary
of our
Sr. M. Stefanis Lipp
+ 29.09. 2023 at
Missionshaus Neuenbeken

Sister Stefanis was born on 7 December 1931 in the community of Rückholz in the Allgäu, Diocese of Augsburg, and baptised on the same day with the name Genoveva. She was the third of four children of her parents, who owned a farm and a sawmill. She attended primary school from 1938 onwards. In the summer months, she was a shepherd and nanny with a farmer from the age of 7 to 12. After the 8 years of primary school and the two years of rural vocational school, in addition to temporary work in a bakery and a course on animal husbandry, she worked in the parental estate in housekeeping and agriculture. In 1950, at the age of 19, she made a retreat in St. Ottilien. 1 October 1953 she entered our Congregation in Neuenbeken.

In 1954/55, she first attended the domestic science school and was clothed on 1 February 1956. She made her first profession on 2 February 1957 and her perpetual profession on 2 February 1960.

From April 1960 to July 1963, Sr. Stefanis was assigned to the Mariannahill Missionaries' boarding school in Arnsberg. In 1964/65 she trained as a state-certified economist at the Meinwerk Institute in Paderborn and then came to the Sacred Heart Hospital in Paderborn. In June 1965, she moved to our Marienheim - a home economics school, later a vocational school or pre-vocational nursing school - and took over the practical training of the students there. In this capacity, she was recognized by the District President in Münster as a qualified workshop teacher, which she completed in a further training series for workshop teachers in 1976/77. Since 1973, the Mission House has taken in trainees for the profession of certified housekeeping assistant, whose supervision Sr. Stefanis took over. She dedicated herself to this task with great conscientiousness and tried to give the young people not only a good, technically sound education but also a piece of life experience along the way.

This is how our long-time procurator, Sr. Maria Irmgard, attests to Sr Stefanis' work in 1981.

In 1981/82 Sr. Stefanis attended the VOD training seminar for women religious in Munich, because the housekeeping school in Neuenbeken was closed in 1982. After completing her training in Munich, she first came to the gate in Neuenbeken and was deputy to the superior. In January 1987, she moved to the Bergfriede old people's home in Bous as matron. After the end of her second term, she returned to Neuenbeken in October 1993 to work as a housekeeper in our educational house (Franz Pfanner Haus). In 1996 she took over the service at the gate of the Mission House and continued as assistant to the house superior. In 2002 she was transferred again, now to the neighbouring Altenbeken, where she was the leader of the small community until 2011 and took care of the household and church laundry. At the beginning of 2019, she returned and still did sewing and mending work until the end of the year.

Sr. Stefanis had been in our infirmary since May. After a stay in the hospital and the diagnosis of a severe blood disease, she consciously looked forward to her departure. She was always friendly and affectionate and enjoyed her visiting relatives. When they had left, she wished to come once more to St. Joseph in the garden, to pray there and to look up into heaven, which she did. The next day she said that she was finished now and only wanted to sleep, which our doctor allowed her to do. Two days later, on the feast of St. Archangels, God took her to Himself. May she now live forever in His peace.

R.i.p.