



## Obituary

**Sr Reinhilde Glöckner OP**

18.07.1934 - 20.02.2020



God, you do not ask me how I have performed,  
what I have accomplished,  
how great my works are.  
You ask about the love in my actions;  
the compassion in my conduct;  
the simplicity of my life.  
Let me, like Mary and with Mary,  
glorify your greatness.



Sr. Reinhilde was born on 18 July 1934 in Hambach near Schweinfurt and baptised Reinhilde. Her parents were Adolf and Pauline Glöckner. She was the eldest of three girls. She attended elementary and secondary school. The war left large and deep wounds in the family. The father had been missing in Hungary since 24 December 1944. During the bombing, their house was destroyed except for the kitchen. In this environment, the mother took care of her three daughters. Memories of her childhood and youth were always painful for Sr. Reinhilde. When we celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of Profession last year, Fr Lieblein, a friend since her childhood, spoke very impressively of this time.

After secondary school, she worked at SKF (a world-leading technology provider) in Schweinfurt in bookkeeping and thus contributed to the upkeep of the family. During this time she was active in youth work, first in her own town and then as area leader for the District of Schweinfurt. She enjoyed this work and it was certainly pointing the way ahead to her later life and work.

At the end of July 1957 Reinhilde entered our Congregation in Neustadt. She received the habit in April 1958 and was given the name Sr. Juliane. On 2 May 1959, she made her First Profession. She then worked in our Marienkrankenhaus in Flörsheim until August 1960: on the ward, at night duty and in the X-ray department. After a short home leave, she went by boat to Durban, South Africa, and from there by car to Manzini, Swaziland.

In Manzini, she completed her high school diploma in addition to her work at the boarding school. Then she attended the University of Natal, in Pietermaritzburg,

South Africa, and successfully completed her BSc UED. She had no permanent residence visa for South Africa and was thus often checked by the police and asked to leave fingerprints. After completing her studies, she was appointed school principal in Oakford at our Secondary Boarding School for African girls. These were difficult and challenging years for Sr. Juliane. Courageously and with insight, she successfully campaigned for the Ministry of Education to expand the Secondary School into a High School with matriculation. This opened the way for African girls to obtain a university entrance certificate and take up studies at a university. The school, Sacred Heart High School, has always had excellent examination results.

Sr. Juliane was elected to the leadership of the Congregation at the 1980 Congregational Chapter. She saw this service as a time of "being on the way". Among other things, she went to Misiones, Argentina, a total of nine times and helped to build the community and the house in Obera.

As a Congregational Councillor, she looked ahead to the future and was looking for ways to work with other Congregations.

In 1992, after her time of office, she had a well-deserved Sabbath year in California and attended a spiritual counselling course at the University of Berkeley.

Then Sr Juliane returned to Germany and changed back to her baptismal name, Reinhilde.

After the German reunification, the bishops tried to promote spiritual life in the new federal states. Sr Reinhilde experienced this as a personal call. From 1993 to 2000, she worked in Küllstedt in the Eichsfeld, Diocese of Erfurt, as a parish community assistant. In the 72 parishes, she was particularly involved in work for women and seniors with days of reflection, retreats for seniors in the retreat house in Heiligenstadt, or weekend meetings for parish councillors. She looked back with gratefulness and happy memories on this time in Eichsfeld. Sr Reinhilde was one of the quiet people who was sensitive and attentive to the needs of people. In this way she "moved mountains".

In 2000, she was called to be the Prioress in Dießen. In the 6 years of her term of office she tried to be there for the community. In 2006, a transfer to Neustadt was planned. However, this did not happen. After a short time of rest, she went back to Dießen and contributed her experience in the care of the elderly and the sick in the parish. She happily performed this task until her age and health set limits and she could no longer move about easily. However, she always remained open to people's needs, cultivated contacts and took people's concerns with her in prayer. She had a

special relationship with God and Our Lady. As a result of the proposed closing of Dießen, she moved to the "Caritas-Seniorenzentrum St. Martin", in Lohr, in December 2018.

More and more, the afflictions of old age and illness came to the fore. Despite physical and mental pain, she accepted this time from God's hand without complaining. She went to her God consciously and prepared. "I go to the light, to love, to life" (St Therese of Lisieux). This is how she expressed her dying on her remembrance card, designed by herself.

May she be an advocate for all of us from her new life.

*RIP*