



In Memory of Sr. Reginberta Klopfer OSB

*16. September 1926 † 20. Mai 2011

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me.
In my Father's house there are many places to live in." (Jn 14:1-2)

These words from the Gospel of St. John we had heard during Holy Mass, shortly after Sr. Reginberta had started her last journey to the Father's eternal dwelling place. She slept peacefully into eternity after her long sufferings.

Zita Klopfer was born to the farmers' couple Gabriel and Anna Klopfer né Brütsch on September 16, 1926 at Beuren/Aach near Singen, Archdiocese of Freiburg, as the third of three daughters; she received baptism one week later. As she recalled, she had a carefree and fine childhood. After completing primary school 1933 to 1940 she attended for two years a commercial school at Singen. Afterwards her service was shaped by the difficult years of World War II; at first during the labour service; after this she underwent training as Flak-Assistant at Eriskirch, and then she was conscripted for war-service at Rehling/Feldafing from 1944 to 1945. Later she hardly talked about the experience of this time.

After the end of the war Zita attended a domestic science course at Hegne; then she worked from 1947 to 1953 as secretary in the cotton-twist-mill Arlen at Volkertshausen. During this time she persistently heard the Lord's call to follow him in religious life, and finally she asked for admission in Tutzing, where on September 15, 1953 together with her older sister Emma she was accepted as candidate. Together the two sisters started their novitiate on February 4, 1955 at Bernried: Zita received the name Sr. Maria Reginberta, and her sister Emma became Sr. Maria Autberta. On February 7, 1958 they made their first profession, and on February 7, 1959 the final profession at Tutzing. During this year her father, with whom she had a special relationship of confidence, died unexpectedly.

The first field of work for Sr. Reginberta was the cellarer's office and the Mission-Procure at Tutzing, while her sister Sr. Autberta found her apostolate at Wessobrunn. In preparation of her mission-apostolate in Tanzania Sr. Reginberta was sent to London in 1962 for an English-Language course. On March 21, 1963 she travelled by plane to Dar es Salaam. In the priory of Ndanda she worked for two years in the hospital-administration at Nyangao. From 1965 to 1980 her apostolate was in the hospital-administration at Ndanda, and during this time she was involved also in the construction and extension of the hospital. From 1978 to 1984 she took actively part in the management of the priory as priory councilor. After her return to Nyangao in 1980, also here the

hospital was renovated and extended from 85 to 150 beds. Everywhere, in all her undertakings, Sr. Reginberta served with great conscientiousness and faithfulness.

In the year 2000 she was allowed to spend some time of renewal in the Convent at Ettiswil in Switzerland, from where she returned with new strength to Tanzania. Now she remained at Ndanda and became the co-worker of Sr. Lia in the Lepers' Colony with hospital for Leper-patients at the Mwena Camp. This apostolate was terminated in 2007, as Lepra could now be treated in outpatient-clinics. Even now Sr. Reginberta did not yet retire, but assisted within the community wherever she was needed: e.g. in the Sacristy, in the Refectory, and in the care for Sr. Lia.

During all these years she took her homeleaves and stayed in contact with her relatives and friends, especially with Sr. Autberta, who once was able to visit her at Nyangao for several months. Their married sister died early; but her children and other relatives remained especially attached to their two aunts in the convent.

After 45 years of missionary apostolate in Tanzania the health of Sr. Reginberta got worse, and she suffered increasingly under the heat. This is why she asked for a transfer to Haus St. Benedikt in Tutzing, where on October 3, 2008 she found a new home. Her love for nature and the view of the mountains caused her again and again to praise her Creator and surely also helped her to feel soon at home at Tutzing.

Sr. Reginberta enjoyed very much to be able to stay nearer to Sr. Autberta. The two sisters met frequently and spent their vacation together, until Sr. Autberta was called by God after several months of suffering in July 2010. During the time of her illness Sr. Reginberta visited her almost daily; it must have been during this time that Sr. Autberta promised her to "fetch her very soon".

In Haus St. Benedikt Sr. Reginberta still did not feel like retiring: in her typical readiness to help she took over service in the Refectory, read to one sister who could not see well anymore, and took her also out for short walks. Besides she was eager at prayer and a good support for the common Office, especially when it was sung, and she joined every day the common Rosary prayer.

This is why on February 25, 2011 the stroke with left-side paralysis came like a thunderbolt from sunny sky. On the same day she received the anointment of the sick. Everything possible was done for her; but maybe the transfer to the neurological Rehabilitation-Department for Stroke-Patients at Feldafing Hospital had been too early. Unfortunately she there suffered from a very bad bedsore, and from end of March onwards had to be treated in the Benedictus-Hospital at Tutzing. In the beginning Sr. Reginberta had still courage to face life; she never complained and patiently underwent the necessary treatment. But then it became clear that her will to live was broken and her strength visibly diminished. Rays of hope during this time were the visits of the sisters, who prayed with her, and also the visits and letters of relatives and friends; for these she always was very grateful. Since May 19 she was no more responsive; in spite of this her decease in the morning of May 20 at 7:35 came unexpectedly fast. Jesus called her into the dwelling place of his Father, just as we had heard this passage in the Gospel of St. John. We miss Sr. Reginberta, but we are grateful to God for her life with us and for everything, that during her 45 years in the Lord's vineyard in Tanzania she could do and for all her prayer. R.I.P.

Tutzing, May 21, 2011
Superior and Sisters
Haus St. Benedikt