



In Memory of our

Sister M. Adeltrudis Wochner, OSB

born March 30, 1902, died March 4, 2006

*„I shall satisfy him with long life and
let him see my salvation“ (Ps. 91)*

This Introit of Holy Mass today, the First Sunday of Lent, fits so well to our dear Sister Adeltrudis, who would have reached the age of 104 years by the end of this month. And also the rainbow in today's reading which Gertrud von Le Fort once called "the bow of peace with God above the clouds" would be a fitting picture of her life, because all of her life, Sr. Adeltrudis was a friendly peacemaker radiating love and benevolence. That is why she was loved by everybody, and our oblates who cared for her these past years, were very much attached to her.

Adelheid Wochner was born on March 30, 1902 in Ruschweiler, Archdiocese of Freiburg. Her parents were Fridolin and Adelheid Wochner. Her father was a carpenter and farmer. She grew up with three brothers and sisters on a farm in the beautiful Black Forest.

All through her life she retained her robust farmer's nature and her love for farming, and so we find her also at her tasks in the garden, piggery, poultry, kitchen and in the fields. From the rich proceeds of her work she generously shared with all who were not blessed with such goods.

In 1922, Adelheid entered in Tutzing, started her novitiate on July 28, 1923 with her new name Sister Adeltrudis. On August 15, 1928 she pronounced her temporary vows, and on August 15, 1927, she bound herself for ever to the Congregation by her final profession.

Already the following year, on September 17, 1929, she was missioned to South Africa. Through the years, we find her on many mission stations, always occupied in the above-mentioned areas of work, always very diligent and dedicated. For six years, she was superior in Fatima.

One co-sister writes about her: "Sr. Adeltrudis was highly appreciated and loved because of her benevolence and understanding as superior, also with the monks, particularly with the brothers, as well as with the people of the surroundings. One never heard her judge other people's failures or weaknesses. She was well-read and liked to discuss about the things she had read. She was grateful for every act of love, and in her later years, she never complained about her infirmities. She was a quiet person of prayer, a saint for our time!"

Another sister writes about her work: "Sr. Adeltrudis was responsible for the poultry, the garden and the pigs, where she had a helper. Fatima Station had a big sugar farm which was run by a brother and where several laborers were employed. To provide the laborers with meat, an ox had to be slaughtered from time to time. These slaughter days were very strenuous for us sisters; everything had to be processed on the same day because of the summer heat and our insufficient accommodations. Sr. Adeltrudis was always very much concerned that everything went smoothly and peacefully."

With energy and strength she taught the young men assigned to work with her. Long after her departure, some of them still asked for her and even asked for a souvenir of the sister.

In later years, her health failed increasingly. On February 11, 1997, she returned to Germany and remained in Haus St. Benedikt. As long as she was able to do so, she read much and spent much time in prayer. Karl Rahner was her favorite author.

Shortly before her 100th birthday, she fell and suffered a fracture of the leg and thus became bedridden. Also in these last years of her life, Sr. Adeltrudis' true greatness became manifest; she never lost her humor, she did not complain and was content and grateful for everything.

We know our dear Sister Adeltrudis is now in the shelter of God's eternal love.

R. I. P.

Tutzing, March 5, 2006

Superior and Community of Haus St. Benedikt