

## In Memory of our Sister Alveria Haid

died on October 26, 2009 in Tutzing



*“The spirit himself testifies to our spirit that we are children of God. Being children, we are also heirs; we are heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ; if we suffer with him we shall also be glorified with him.”* We read this verse from Romans on Sr. Alveria’s day of death, and she started out “to be glorified with him.”

Paula was born on June 26, 1912 to the couple Haid in Konstanz, Diocese of Freiburg. She had six siblings and grew up in a family of hard-working people.

After completion of elementary school Paula decided to start training and work as a business woman. One day, at the publications-booth of the Trinity Church in Konstanz, she read about the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing and in her heart grew the desire to become a missionary herself. She gave up her job, and in 1932 she entered the Mission School in Tutzing. In 1936, after having completed this course, in Tutzing she was told that she was too weak to bear the hardships of missionary life and therefore could not become a missionary sister.

Thereupon Paula worked for a short time in the parental market garden. It was just before the start of the war. Then she took up nursing training in the city hospital of Konstanz.

After having passed the exam she received unexpectedly the invitation from Tutzing to come again. On July 2, 1940 she entered as a candidate and had her clothing on April 27, 1941 and received the name Sr. Maria Alveria.

Shortly after, on May 8, 1941, the GESTAPO expelled a number of Sisters from the Motherhouse. Thus Sr. Alveria, still a novice, came as a nurse to the hospital in Schwabing, Munich. In November 1941 the novitiate could be transferred to St. Ottilien and Sr. Alveria was drafted for nursing service in the military hospital there.

On April 27, 1942, Sr. Alveria could celebrate her first profession in St. Ottilien. For her final profession on April 27, 1945, Sr. Alveria with three companions went the day before by bicycle to Tutzing. They were greeted there by the Sisters with bewilderment and astonishment because of the danger from low-flying enemy planes. The day after their final profession the 4 Sisters biked back to St. Ottilien.

In August 1945, after the end of the war and the closure of the hospital, Sr. Alveria came to Tutzing and there joined the ambulant nursing staff.

In 1946 she was transferred to the convent in Wessobrunn where an auxiliary hospital of the City of Munich had been established. In 1952 this hospital was closed and with this, her engagement as nurse found an end.

After various assignments in the convent, last in the laboratory of the recovery home for children established in 1956, she had to take over the administration of the hospital in Tutzing. After 3 years she was assigned to the administration in Wessobrunn.

This description of her way of life was written by Sr. Alveria herself. She simply describes objectively her way, not mentioning the fears, the plight, and the privations of this difficult time. We can only surmise them between the lines.

Sr. Alveria was a sociable person. During the long years of her activity in the administration of the convent and the recovery home for children in Wessobrunn she was described by Sisters and employees to be amiable, warm-hearted, understanding, somewhat reserved. She was helpful, benevolent, understanding for the needs of others. One got the impression of her being a balanced and patient person. She considered it important to point out the positive in people. She found strength in her union with Christ and in her faith. Often people asked for her prayers for their various intentions.

Sr. Alveria stayed in lively contact with her family. She enjoyed their letters, phone calls and visits and made the concerns of her relatives her own.

During the last years of her high age Sr. Alveria was ever more in need of nursing care, so that in June 2006 she was brought to the infirmary of the Sisters in Tutzing. There, too, she was happy about every visit.

The last two days before her death she was more sleepy than usual, and then fell peacefully asleep in the early morning hours of October 26, 2009.

Wessobrunn, October 27, 2009

The Sisters of Wessobrunn