



In Memory of Sr. M. Beata Gut, OSB

* April 29, 1927 - + April 23, 2008

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." We sang this psalm at the deathbed of our dear Sr. Beata. All her life, she faithfully followed the Lord, her Shepherd, and let Him lead her; put her hopes on Him and trusted in Him. On Wednesday, April 23, the moment has come for her wherein her hopes were fulfilled and her wants satisfied.

Sr. Beata was born in Weilers, in the county of Wangen. She was born into a family wherein five children already existed: Anna, Josef, Rese, Martin and Gottfried. Her mother met a hard fate already in the early years of marriage. Her husband suddenly died of blood poisoning before she knew that she was pregnant with her son, Gottfried. In her great need, she sought a new husband and a good father to her children. She found and married Josef Gut. The first child from this marriage was Sr. Beata. She was born on April 29, 1927. She was baptised with the name, Josefine, on May 1, 1927 in Kisslegg, diocese of Rottenburg. On the following years there came four more siblings: Monika, who died as a baby, Marga, Rupert and Bärbel. The family was big, work on the farm was hard and life was simple and poor. In spite of that, it was a beautiful childhood in the circle of many brothers and sisters in a religious parental home.

When Josefine was five years old, the family had a second stroke of fate. The farm totally burned down in one night. The father and the elder siblings were still able to escape but the flames blocked the way of the mother and the younger siblings. So the mother rescued the children by throwing them from the window from the first floor. She jumped afterwards and broke her leg. Suddenly, the family found itself without means. The children were put up at their relatives' and friends', until a new house was built. Josefine was put up at her aunt's in Kisslegg. This aunt was very pious and so, the child also experienced in this home practised faith. Josefine went to a kindergarten run by religious sisters. And that early, she already had the wish to become a religious sister herself, as she had confided to her sister, Marga.

In 1934, Josefine began school. The way to school was far - there were four to five kilometres to hurdle. She attended grade school for eight years, and from 1942 to 1944, the agricultural vocational school. After that she diligently helped on the family farm in the kitchen and farming.

The seed of religious vocation, which already began at kindergarten, grew and became stronger. In 1944, she was decided to become a missionary sister. She wanted to learn nursing, go to Africa, preferably to the leper patients. It was her parish priest who brought her attention to the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. In 1946, only at 19 years of age, she asked for admission. She entered on November 4, 1946. She began her novitiate in 1947 and received the name, Sr. Beata. She made her first profession on October 16, 1948 and, three years later, the final profession.

Her wish to become a nurse had come true. She took up nursing at the nursing school of the hospital of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters in Tutzing. On March 13, 1953, she passed the state examination with a grade of "excellent".

However, her other wish, which was to go to Africa to the lepers, was not fulfilled. She fell ill with kidney tuberculosis. One of her kidneys had to be removed. In 1960, she underwent a gastric resection.

From 1953 to 1969, Sr. Beata was stationed here in Bernried. She worked as a nurse in the former school for home economics; gave domestic care-giving lessons on a part-time basis, and did various tasks in the boarding school. Then, she herself became sick. In order to

stabilise her health, she went to Kerschlach from 1970 to 1972 where she helped at the parlour.

In 1973, Sr. Beata came back to Bernried and remained here. For many years – until 1992, on her 65th birthday, she worked as a nurse for outpatients, cared for old people and those who needed care in Bernried. She also helped in the further development of the out patient station in Bernried. In her quiet and thoughtful ways, she lent an ear to those given to her care and so, was appreciated by her patients and their families accordingly. She was always on the move, on foot and later, on a small moped, visiting patients. She also gave seminars for caregivers. The participants gained knowledge in the care of their sick family members at home. Even today, many people from the village are grateful for Sr. Beata's service. On January 13, 1992, the town of Bernried rewarded her the "Hofmarksmedaille in Gold" (gold medal) for her long years of selfless work in social services.

After her retirement from the out patient station, Sr. Beata still helped do household chores and garden work, also, partly, in the care of our sisters in the community. Later, for some time, she was the sacristan in our convent chapel.

Sr. Beata possessed a good memory; she could remember events and anecdotes from long ago and she had a sense of humour. She was fond of the community life, she contributed to the atmosphere of amusement in the community and took part in almost all community activities as long, and as much as she could. Unfortunately, she had a depressive disposition, which periodically robbed her of her strength and caused her to be fearful of mental and physical overload.

Our Sr. Beata was a great Marian devotee. The prayer of the rosary was always important for her. In 1965, she organised the Legion of Mary in Bernried and gathered children and adults alike. Up and until the last few years, she still participated in the meetings of a small prayer group. Also, St. Joseph belongs to her loyal companions whom she asked for help.

Sr. Beata was plagued with illness for many years. In the last years, she suffered from osteoporosis, complained of bad eyesight, heart problems and bilious attacks.

During dinner last Tuesday, as Sr. Beata complained of pains which initially seemed like bilious colic. The discomforts became worse on Wednesday morning and she was brought to the hospital on the emergency ambulance. The diagnosis was – intestinal infarction. It became obvious that death was near. Right away, some sisters drove to the hospital to be with her. Father Fichtl gave her the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. And in the following hours, with songs and prayers, we accompanied Sr. Beata on her last hours of journey with our songs and prayers. At 4:00 p.m. she stopped breathing. She lay so peacefully and eased – redeemed from oftentimes, a hard life.

Today, we look up with gratitude to Sr. Beata. She stood loyally to our community. She loved praying and celebrating with us. It was nice to have had her as a sister for so many years. Now, we rejoice with her as she can now, like the Psalm says, "dwell in the house of the Lord for ever". She will be a good intercessor for us.

Bernried, April 28, 2008

Sr. Erika Glötzl and the sisters of Bernried