



IN MEMORY OF OUR

SISTER M. BERGIT WALTER OSB

born 18.11.1911 - died 03.12.2005

*Let us be watchful, be ready!  
Come, let us adore, for the Lord is near.*

When we sang this verse at the invitatory of Lauds today, we remembered our dear Sr. Bergit who quietly went home to the Lord last night, at 22:45.

Sr. Bergit was born on November 18, 1911, in Schonach, Diocese of Freiburg, in the beautiful Black Forest. She was the 13th of the 15 children of her parents, Alexander and Pauline Walter. At Baptism she received the name Hulda. Her father worked in the local clock factory.

Sr. Bergit loved to tell about her big family which, though poor, was very happy. When the children returned from school, they received a piece of bread and then helped diligently at home to minimize the housekeeping costs. In her lively, jolly way, Sr. Bergit would tell us little episodes which showed us how life was in this big family.

Her eldest brother became a priest, and two of her sisters did the housekeeping for him. One sister became a Benedictine nun in Waldshut. Sr. Bergit survived all her brothers and sisters. She kept good contact with her nephews and nieces, many of whom came to celebrate her 90th birthday with her.

In the newspaper of her native town we read on the occasion of her 90th birthday: "Already as a young girl, Hulda Walter bore the wish to go to the missions to Africa. Thus she entered in 1934 the Congregation of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. There she made her first profession on April 24, 1937. 14 days later, together with 3 fellow sisters, 1 priest and 2 brothers, she already left for Hamburg and from there traveled the long way to Durban, South Africa.

The German missionaries had founded their first mission station in Eshowe, Zululand, with a boarding school, followed by other stations. In Eshowe, Sr. Bergit pronounced her final vows in May 1940. She served in various stations and at different tasks, in the kitchen, laundry, garden and household. She also cared for the many guests. For a long time, she was the only driver in Nongoma.

She made good use of her musical talents: In her free time, she used to instruct native children how to play various musical instruments. She was also in charge of preparing songs and prayers for the religious services.

Sr. Bergit was also very good at organizing celebrations, and she knew how to involve also the other sisters and the brothers in the celebration. She guided and instructed her native co-workers so well, that later these could do their assigned tasks independently. In a letter, they thanked Sr. Bergit for all they had learned from her.

In 1999, Sr. Bergit returned to Germany for good and since then, lived in Haus St. Benedikt. In an unfortunate fall in 2003, she fractured her femur bone, and since then had to stay in the infirmary. We recommend our dear deceased Sister to your prayers.

May the Lord grant her eternal joy in His Kingdom.

Tutzing, December 04, 2005  
Superior and Community of Haus St. Benedikt