

In Memory of

**Sr. M. Ludgera (Hedwig) Jüngermann OSB**

Born on September 5, 1920      died on May 25, 2009



**„ My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God”...**

This verse from Psalm 84 which we sang at vespers a few hours before the death of our dear Sr. Ludgera, best expresses what she has longed for in the past weeks. God has filled the yearning of our dear Sr. Ludgera and received her in His heavenly glory shortly before the dawn of the new day on May 25, 2009.

Hedwig, so her baptismal name, saw the light of the world, together with her twin sister, Helene, on September 5, 1920 in Plettenberg, in the region of Sauerland. Her parents were Fritz and Helene Jüngermann nee Wache, who were blessed with four more children. She spent her childhood and youth together with her five siblings in the small village, Neuenkleusheim, district of Olpe on the lake of Bigge.

At the age of 25, after the World War II has ended, she entered in our congregation on November 3, 1945 in Olpe/Meschede. Here was the beginning of 64 years of lively and work-filled convent life. After two years of candidacy and postulancy in Olpe, Hedwig began her novitiate as Sr. M. Ludgera on April 28, 1947 in Tutzing. She made her first profession on April 29, 1948, her final profession exactly on the same day, three years after in the year 1951. During her early convent years, she was alternately assigned over a period of long years in Tutzing and Olpe. But from 1968 onwards until the closure of Haus Marienfried in the year 2003, she lived and worked there for 35 year. Mostly, she worked at the kitchen and/or at the laundry room. She did her work with love and with her own particularity.

Sisters who have worked and lived with her in different communities of our priory, describe her as a communicative and friendly sister. She knew how to tell lively stories about her life as a parish priest's housekeeper before she entered the convent. Through her readiness to help and her people-oriented nature, she was able to create a pleasant atmosphere at work for which many former novices are thankful until this day. She was always ready to give information to newcomers in the convent, which was not always smiled upon by the sister in-charge. And besides, the kitchen-extension in Olpe was a favourite meeting place for the children from the village whom she loved. She loved to give my gifts of pictures she herself painted. Her heartiness made her become a favourite aunt by numerous nieces and nephews who lived

nearby and who often came for visits to Marienfried, Olpe. All her life she was deeply bonded to her twin sister who died one and a half years before her.

Sr. Ludgera's cheerful disposition was coupled with a sound self-confidence. Up to her later years, she has built up opinions about certain things and brought these up with a particular friendliness and steadfastness. Sometimes she would even try to assert these with a Westphalian stubbornness which often led to prolonged discussions in the circle of sisters. Friendliness and uprightness were the most important maxims in her words and actions.

Her deep-rooted faith showed especially in her readiness to be called for service on the place where she would be needed. She accepted her new assignments and transfers in obedience. Even the inevitable transfer to Tutzing in her old age was managed by her without difficulties. She emphasised that she belonged to Tutzing as much as she did in Olpe. Sr. Ludgera was a zealous reader of the Bible and surprised some sisters with a profound knowledge of the bible during bible sharing. Her positive attitude towards life and to the people, her gratitude and readiness to help were fruits of her deep relationship to God and her fidelity to her prayer life.

The move from Olpe to Tutzing in the year 2003 meant for her an admittance into the infirmary due to advancing need for help and senile dementia. There she spent her last six years in the circle of her fellow sisters. She was observant and perceived her surroundings with alertness, she joined the daily prayer of the rosary and she told stories from her life in Olpe and her beloved twin sister. After a fracture of the femoral neck in the year 2006, the aging process sped up. She left her bed only for meals and she became totally dependent on care. What she retained was, on the one hand, her steadfastness in declining specific things and to resist things that did not suit her; on the other hand, she always had a friendly, thankful smile for everything that did her good. Even without any signs of illness it became apparent in the last days that she was on the journey to God. The Lord called her to come to Him in the last hours of the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

We are thankful for the long life of our sister, for her witness of faith, her cheerful disposition and her readiness to be taken into service wherever she was needed. At the hour of farewell, the collect from the feast of the Ascension of the Lord gained a special luminance: "God our Father, make us joyful in the ascension of your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow him into the new creation, for his ascension is our glory and our hope." From this fundament of faith, we commend our dear Sr. Ludgera to God's mercy and love. RIP

Tutzing, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Prioress und Sisters from Tutzing Priory