

Sister Mechtildis Okos Of The Holy Heart of Mary



April 25, 1920 - November 2, 2009

Eulogy

Sister Mechtildis Okos, the eldest child of Peter and Maria Okos was born on April 25, 1920 in the village of Opole in Upper Silesia and baptized Cecilia. Later she was joined by two sisters and a brother. Cecilia attended the primary school and then the domestic trade school for eight years.

In 1937 she visited Sister Gertrude Duda, a distant relative of the family and Sister Arsenia Lins, the novice mistress from Altenhohenau and expressed her desire to enter the convent. Cecilia wanted to enter an Order from which she would be sent on mission. Sister Arsenia helped the young Cecilia reach the conclusion to enter the Dominican Order and requested that after the novitiate she be sent to California to work.

On November 21, 1937 Cecilia entered our Congregation at Altenhohenau with two other postulants and received the habit on July 31, 1938, and given the name Mechtildis. After one more year she made first profession on August 12, 1939.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the young Sister Mechtildis was drafted into the "*Arbeitsdienst*" the work service for the war effort. On January 5, 1940 she and two other sisters were driven to the camp for work service for the *Third Reich* at Eschenbach, Germany. It was hard for her to exchange "her white habit" for the service uniform. After ten months she was let go and allowed to renew her three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

At this time Sister Mechtildis was entrusted with a new workspace—the Church and the sacristy at Altenhohenau for the next ten years. On March 2, 1950 she was transferred to the Wallgau region in Mittenwald for service at *Paxheim*. There she learned how to run the kitchen in the priests' resort house and was eventually put in charge of it. It was difficult at the start because *Paxheim* was being remodeled at the time and the kitchen was under construction. Nevertheless this experience afterwards resulted in an enriching and beautiful time for her.

In May 1961 Sister Mechtildis came back to Altenhohenau where she remained until July 1964. Sister then went back to Wallgau to work in the kitchen. Despite her lack of training, she was entrusted with the tasks of housekeeping there until January 9, 1975 when all the sisters were called back to Altenhohenau. Sister Mechtildis was given the new task of serving as the educator for a group of boys 13 years and up. In 1991 she was assigned to the office of Prioress, which she held for six years. This responsibility filled her with a heavy heart because the children's home she so loved had to be closed.

Sister Mechtildis loved flowers and herbs in the convent garden and was frequently outside. This was the case one day when she fell and broke her right wrist and had to use a walker.

On June 28, 2009 the 85th anniversary of our presence and ministry in Germany, Sister enjoyed visiting with Sister Gloria Marie Jones, Congregational Prioress, Sisters Luz Maria Quintero Reyes and Johnellen Turner, Congregational Councilors, and Eva Beehner from the United States; and Hermanas Maria Rodriguez Galvan, Regional Prioress, and Rosaleen Stoiber from Mexico. It was at this time that Sister Mechtildis celebrated the 70th anniversary of her profession. From her closest relatives present for the occasion, Sister learned news of her beloved homeland—Poland.

After having suffered a stroke on September 22, 2009, Sister Mechtildis went to the Salzach Inn Clinic and on October 12 was transferred to Maria Stern in Wasserburg, where she received excellent care. On the eve of All Souls Day Sister received the Sacrament of the Dying at 8:45 p.m. and later went home peacefully to her Creator.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister on the afternoon of November 5. On the altar were Reverend Henry Sitko, CSSR, Prälat Günter Lysok, Pfr. in Riche from Ramerberg, and Deacon Simon Frank from the parish at Griestätt. Sister Cecilia Canales, Congregational Vicar, who was to hold visitation with our Sisters at Sts. Peter and Paul Priory, had arrived in time for Mass.

Burial in the adjacent cemetery followed Eucharist. All in attendance were invited to a lovely dinner reception in the convent.

Sister has reached her other home in heaven where Christ tells us: "He has prepared a home for all who love Him." Sister Mechtildis dearly loved the Lord of life and death. May she now enter into the joy of the Merciful One and be loved for all eternity.