

R.I.P.
Our dear sister M. Lumen Farre OSB
passed away



Benedictine convent Maria Frieden

born: March 3rd 1929, profess.: March 19th 1960, deceased: July 31st 2019

Sister Lumen was born on March 3rd 1929 in San Narcisco/Zambales (Philippines). Her parents - belonging to different native religions and living in extreme poverty - were blessed with 11 children, but only 5 of them survived childhood. A few weeks after sister Lumen's birth a Protestant pastor baptized her "Adela".

At the time she was old enough Adela was sent to a Protestant preschool. Later, when the neighbourhood's children were placed in a Catholic school, her mother encouraged her to follow their way. Adela converted and received the Holy Communion. From this time on she regularly went to Catechetical instruction after school and her religious conviction deepened. That made her love for God grow.

During World War II Adela had to pause apprenticeship. Afterwards she continued further education and finished 1948. For 2 years she could teach at an elementary school. Due to an overflow of teachers her fee did not cover the living expenses. But new gates opened up for young Adela. Two Benedictine nuns came to visit the priest's office. They talked about their life in the monastic community. As Adela had no job, she gratuitously assisted the chapel house until one of the nuns helped her to become employed as the priest's secretary and sacristan.

Adela's belief in God raised. Working with the missionary sisters she felt desire for dedicating herself to him by joining the Benedictine community founded in 1931 by abbess Edeltraud Danner OSB. Adela's mother supported this decision whereas her father refused to give his blessing. He died of a rapidly progressing illness.

This fortified Adela Farre to request admittance to the abbey - her wish was accepted. She congregated on April 24th 1957 (it was Tuesday after Easter). From that point on she was called "Lumen" (word meaning: "light").

As early as she congregated she declared her inner wish to follow her beloved "Mother Foundress" to Germany. On July 26th 1958 "Mother Foundress" and M. Gertrud Calderon welcomed her at Frankfurt Airport/Germany.

Sister Lumen did all her work freighted with abandon. She belonged to the pioneers of the Benedictine community, which - at that time - consisted of only 3 German Benedictines and 14 young Philippine sisters (who needed some time to get used to the different climatic environment). Soon they had earned the local people's respect for their demanding work. They had turned the ruinous small castle into a flourishing convent.

The agricultural work was hard - without any money for farming machines. Everything had to be seeded, reaped, threshed and ploughed by hand. Many things had to be learned autodidactically or by trial and error. The sisters had to overcome worries, fears and barriers.

Sister Lumen proudly told us about the time when she could cultivate the field with a farm tractor. During this morning routine she was alone with God, knowing that everything would turn out well. For many years she was responsible for the agricultural sector. And many years she was first choirsister, because sister Lumen had a divinely gifted wonderful voice. On some occasional ceremonies she surprised everyone by singing a special aria.

When M. Gertraud Reiter was chosen as abbess in March 1986, she nominated Sr. Lumen as her prioress. In this role she served truly devoted until 1999. After M. Gertraud Reiter's resignation Sr. Lumen asked for an administrative suspension in order to visit relatives in the USA and spend a while at the "Community Venio" in Munich/Germany.

At the age of 65 Sr. Lumen needed a surgery - her physical constitution became impaired. Therefore she was forced to consign the agricultural responsibilities to a younger sister and began to landscape the abbey garden - still being confident, positive, spirited and radiating delight. The beautiful floridity she created with God's help heartened everyone.

Due to strong pain and various inevitable medical operations she lost both legs. We were scared this would make her absolutely helpless. But an electric wheelchair provided her with mobility and helped Sr. Lumen to do things by herself.

She cut flowers and designed floral arrangements. Several times the wheelchair dangerously overturned but - it seems like a veritable miracle - only once she suffered from an upper arm fracture. The medical service employee said: "This is no off-road vehicle!"

Anyway, Sr Lumen carried on... For all festivities throughout the ecclesiastical year, as well as for name days, birthdays and anniversaries of fellow sisters, she turned our refectory into a "flower shop". How many Christmas stars, Christmas baubles and Easter eggs she might have hung up? She created innumerable decorations! At night time sister Lumen crafted cards and calendars with cut out pictures and stickers.

She wrote and sent interminable letters (genuine mail) to our sisters on the Philippines and all areas of the world - so comprehensive and above all nicer than others could ever do by e-mail. Sr. Lumen supported our atelier ornamenting candles - especially with butterfly. She helped in the kitchen: cleaning vegetables and fruits, peeling and cutting it. Drying mountains of cutleries.

Those were valuable activities which supported our community. Only strong physical pain could set boundaries for her.

On Monday, July 29th 2019 Sr. Lumen watered still the flowers in the garden with a hoss. In the evening hours breathing problems appeared. We called the doctor who directly admitted her to the hospital, where she fell asleep peacefully on Wednesday, July 31st.

On Monday 5th of august 2019 we laid our sister to rest in the monastery cemetery with the condolence of many, many people.

Now sister Lumen is reunited with her beloved "Mother Foundress" - blissfully watching her wonderful flowers from the sky...

M. Mechthild Thürmer OSB and convent Maria Frieden
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