

December 26, 2008

**Death Notice No. 36 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Region of the Austria-Germany, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **WILLIBALD LASINGER**, of the Greisinghof Marianist Community (Austria) who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 22, 2008 in Freistadt, Austria, in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 60<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Willibald was born in the parish of Weitersfelden, Upper Austria, on June 5, 1932, the eleventh of twelve children of his parents. He had begun the first class of elementary school in Weitersfelden, when he broke his right leg, while playing with his siblings in the barn. Although he spent a long time in a Linz hospital, as a result of his accident, he had to live with a much shorter right leg.

After elementary school he had the rare chance to attend the secondary modern school at Unterweissenbach. During these three years he lived with a guest family of this town. When he finished his school years, he became acquainted with Bro. Josef Hinterreiter of the Freistadt Marianist community, who was also from the Weitersfelden parish. Bro. Josef talked to him about the Society of Mary and the possibility of becoming a working brother. This idea appealed to Willibald, so he entered the postulate in Freistadt on March 30, 1948.

Since he had already reached the required age, he began his novitiate at Greisinghof in August of the same year, as one of the first group of novices of novice master Fr. Franz Heidlmaier. On September 2, 1949, he professed his first vows, and started to learn tailoring in the community of Freistadt, where there were several brother-tailors.

On July 17, 1955, he professed his final vows in Freistadt. As of January 2 that same year, he was no longer in Freistadt, but in Austria's capital Vienna, where he would live for almost 30 years as a member of the Marianum community. Together with Bro. Anton Hinterreiter he worked as a tailor for the brothers, not only of the community, but of much of the province. Soon he started his official apprenticeship with a master tailor of the city. In 1957, he had his apprentice's final examination and in 1962 he passed his examination for the master craftsman's diploma, as the first "master tailor" of the Austrian province.

Bro. Willibald was also busy with other duties. He took care of the sacristy and of the boys who served at the altar. He took also care of the children of the elementary school, before classes and during breaks. Because of his cheerfulness, warmth and deep religious sensitivity, he was one of the most loved Marianists in the house.

Bro. Willibald also took care of his religious formation. He followed theological courses and became able to defend his religious convictions when necessary. In the community he was always well liked and esteemed. He was enthusiastic about many activities. He believed very much in the urgency of gaining new vocations for the Society of Mary and participated in every effort.

His many years in Vienna were certainly the most important and the happiest of his life. At the beginning of the 1980's his health began to deteriorate. Unfortunately, the doctors then did not detect the cause of his health problems. When the community at the Marianum was closed on June 30, 1984, Bro. Willibald

became a member of the small Salzburg community. For five years he was still able to help in different ways. In 1989, he was sent to the Greisinghof community, because he needed much assistance. When his health became too poor for this community, he was brought to the nursing home in Freistadt. For more than eleven years he lived there. Up until his death he was a member of the Greisinghof community, but the brothers of the Freistadt community looked after him regularly. During the last years he was almost unable to leave his bed, to eat or to even speak. Yet, with unending patience, Bro. Willibald endured all the sufferings of his situation.

Requiescat in pace.