



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma



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Biography of Death Notice N. 25

The region of Austria-Germany recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brothers, **Josef GR NST UDL** of the Marianist community of Greisinghof, Tragwein, Austria, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 16, 2022 in Tragwein, Austria, at the age of 81 with 63 years of religious profession.

Josef was born on July 11, 1941 in Rainbach near Freistadt, Austria to Maria and Josef Gr nst udl. He was the first and only boy of five children. After his first year of primary school in Rainbach, his parents moved to Freistadt, where he attended primary and secondary school at the Marianum. In 1954, he entered the Marianist postulate in Freistadt. After that, he completed two years of study at the teacher training school at Vienna's Marianum, Scheidlstrasse.

Josef arrived at the Greisinghof novitiate in 1957 along with novices from Germany and Switzerland. On September 2, 1958, he made his first vows. He did his last years of high school, including his baccalaureate, at Albert Le Grand

high school, Vienna. After a 21-day retreat, he professed his perpetual vows on August 15, 1962.

He was in charge of the religious magazine "Marianist", supported the mission in Korea and was secretary to the provincial, Fr. Alois Handlbauer. From 1965 to 1973, he worked in the General Administration of the Society of Mary in Rome alongside Assistant General Bro. Albert Kessler. Thanks to his gift for languages, Josef was fluent in Italian, French, English and Spanish.

Beginning in 1969, he began studying Church history at the Gregorianum in Rome. Josef completed his studies and received his degree with a specialization in archival science. He worked in the Vatican archives and would gladly have stayed there until he finished his doctoral studies. However, new tasks awaited him at the Marianum Scheidlstrasse as an administrator in the school. He was also the provincial treasurer. At the same time, Josef was responsible for the boarding school under the direction of Fr. Franz Kerschbaummayr.

In 1979, he underwent surgery for a brain tumor, which had seriously threatened his life. However, like so many other physical handicaps, he bore them with great patience. The departure of the Marianists from the Marianum Scheidlstrasse in 1984 was a major turning point. This school was handed over to the Christian Brothers. Josef was assigned to the community of Semperstrasse, where he was superior and responsible for the hostel for university students. This responsibility lasted for six years. At the same time, he was the treasurer of the province. In 1996, he moved to Greisinghof. There he found better working conditions as an archivist, collaborated in the formation house located at Greisinghof and translated many writings of the congregation. Until 2019, he was superior of the community.

Josef had a great love of the Catholic Church and also the Orthodox Churches of the East. He was very interested in bishops all over the world. Many files filled his room. His historical knowledge was amazing! However, he also had his difficulties within the community. His strong faith made him a Marianist who was able to continue his work even when very difficult situations were present. Josef's faith was built on the strong basis of his love of God and his piety. His vast Marianist knowledge, especially of Blessed Jakob Gapp, was an invaluable enrichment for the Region of Austria-Germany. Because of his love for the

Society of Mary, he opened his vision to the presence of the Society in other parts of the world.
