

Blessed Father Paul Josef Nardini - A Visit To Germany

Sister Eleanor Krieg brought Sisters Mary Joan Meyer and Marylu Stueber to the Airport on January 23, 2007. *American Airlines* Flight #4722 left St. Louis, Missouri for New York City at 11:35 a.m. and we arrived at John F. Kennedy Airport at 2:15 p.m.

There was a long walk to the gate for the flight to London on *American Airlines* Flight #100. Parts of the walk included stairs with escalators, many twists and turns, an elevator and more twists and turns. We went through airport security twice. Near the area where we were to board, we had lunch. The flight was scheduled to leave at 6:15 p.m. but we did not depart until 6:55 p.m.

Beverages were served early in-flight and then dinner (chicken over rice and vegetables – was quite tasty, lettuce and tomato salad, roll and “real lemon” cookies.) I was able to catch snatches of a nap during the flight. Hot croissants with butter and Knott’s berry farm jelly served with orange juice as we neared London.

During the flight we flew at 38,000 feet, 575-600 miles per hour and the outside temperature registered between -86 and -97 degrees Fahrenheit. The entire flight had a GPS (global positioning device) that recorded the altitude – in meters and feet, the speed – kilometers and miles per hour, the air temperature – Celsius and Fahrenheit, as well as the location. The flight was over various waterways, north and east to the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Maine, Grand Manan Island and the Murray River. There were also other cities and waterways including St. John, Charlottetown, Moncton, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Prince Edward Island, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, the Labrador Sea, Deer Lake, Londonderry, Newton Abbey and Belfast, Ireland. We crossed the Irish Sea, the Celtic Sea, Douglas, Anglosoy, Carenarvon, Kenilworth, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Woodstock, arriving in London at 6:45 a.m., January 25th. This was 12:45 a.m., St. Louis time.

Even though we went through security in New York we did this again twice in London.

The *British Airways* flight to Munich at 7:45 a.m. was cancelled and we were re-booked on a 9:40 a.m. flight, however, we did not leave until 10:30 a.m., and arrived in Munich about 3:00 p.m. Sisters M. Radegund and Lioba

were anxiously waiting for us. We got our luggage and then headed to the car for the hour's drive to Mallersdorf. The beauty of the countryside was enhanced by the snow that fallen two days ago.

When we arrived at Mallersdorf, we, once again, had rooms in Nardinihaus adjacent to the Motherhouse, and connected by a long tunnel. This was, initially, a real challenge to find our way between Nardinihaus and the convent, through many twists and turns. The tunnel and the hallways tended to be rather chilly, so a sweater or coat became part of our daily attire.

A light super was served and then Sister Radegund told us we were free to retire for the night after unpacking. I went to bed at 6:30 p.m., awakened during the night but stayed in bed until 5:45 a.m.

January 26th

Went to Mallersdorf Sisters convent for 7:00 a.m. Mass. After breakfast, we toured portions of the convent – including the kitchen and wardrobe. We visited Mother Marion and Sister Magdalen (the vicar general) and were given a medal and locket relic of Blessed Father Paul Josef Nardini. Afterwards we spent time in the Adoration Chapel. (The Sisters pray throughout the day for the needs of the Congregation, the Church and the world.)

Who is Blessed Father Paul Josef Nardini? He was born July 25, 1821 at Germersheim, Germany. His Mother, Margaret Lichtenberger, a single parent, gave him her surname at birth. Unemployed and unable to care for her son, Margaret was obliged to entrust him to her paternal aunt, Maria Barbara, who was married to Anton Nardini of Italian origin. They gave him their surname, loved him like a son and gave him a healthy education in all aspects.

From childhood he applied himself to his studies and distinguished himself from his peers for his extraordinary diligence and excellent grades. After grammar school his vocation to the priesthood became clearer, and Bishop Johannes von Geissel admitted him to the seminary in Speyer, where from 1841 to 1843 he studied philosophy. On 5 June 1846 he received minor orders and the following day was ordained a subdeacon. Having concluded

his studies he returned to Speyer, was ordained a deacon on 11 August, and ordained a priest August 22, 1848.

Deeply concerned about the condition of neglected children and older persons, in 1853 he called the Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer of Niederbron to assist in the education of the poor children in his parish. He also asked them to care for the sick and those who suffer from material or spiritual misery, regardless of their race or religion. The work proved to be more than they could handle, and in 1855 they were recalled.

Father Nardini replaced them with four young women of the Third Order of St Francis, and so on March 2, 1855 the Congregation of the "Poor Franciscans" began. Subsequently, the name was changed to *Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family* and today the Congregation is often called the *Mallersdorf Sisters*. Father Nardini personally supervised the care and formation of the Sisters, securing their food and lodging, even to the point of depriving himself. Bishop Nikolaus of Speyer had hesitated to give his approval to the Congregation because he wanted to find out if it was God's work. Having heard about the happenings in Pirmasens, he approved the Constitutions of the new Congregation on March 10, 1857.

His concern for others was not only material, but above all spiritual. Father Nardini's health was impaired, yet he knew much was to be done. After an inner struggle he surrendered heroically and sacrificed his life if God would spare the Congregation he had founded. On January 18, 1862 he contracted pneumonia and his condition deteriorated. He died on January 27, 1862 with a last prayer to the Holy Family in whose protection he commended the new Congregation.

Not only the Sisters, who at that time numbered about 220 in 35 locations, mourned his loss, but the entire local community, who already considered him a saint. The mortal remains of Blessed Paul Josef Nardini are venerated in the Pirmasens chapel of the Congregation he founded.

The Beatification cause was begun in June 1997 in the Diocese of Speyer; Pope Benedict XVI approved his heroic virtues on 19 December 2005, opening the way to Beatification. The miracle attributed to Father Nardini's intercession was one of the Mallersdorf Sisters having been healed of cancer. This miracle was accepted on July 26, 2006 and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated the Cause for his Beatification.

The Poor Franciscans of the Holy Family's Motherhouse in Pirmasens became too small for the rapidly growing number of Sisters so a decision was made to transfer the Motherhouse to Bavaria. In 1869 the Sisters acquired part of the Benedictine Abbey of Mallersdorf and transferred the Motherhouse there.

The Congregation's motto is *Caritas Christi Urget Nos*, the love of Christ urges us on. Continuing the work of their Founder, the Sisters care for and teach poor, abandoned, neglected and handicapped children and young people. They are active in pre-school and kindergarten, as well as in children's day care centers. An important task is handing on of the faith to the children in their elementary schools, where often the single parent family poses a challenge for the Sisters. They mediate religious values not so much by words as by living example.

The Sisters serve in pastoral care to listen, to be available, to hope, to counsel, to pray and be present in difficulties faced by people of all ages as they care for the whole person. The Sisters also minister to the elderly who experience many and diverse limitations.

The Sisters not only minister in Germany, but also in Romania and in South Africa. In the latter, AIDS is a very real challenge as they work with children and adults.

The noon meal was in the guest dining room. Met and visited with Sister Cornelia Babl, who teaches English in the elementary school located at the Motherhouse. She gave us a tour of the school. (Sister Cornelia entered the convent the same year as Sister Mary Joan and me.) Saw Sister Radegund's main office and one room of the Archives of the Congregation; she showed us what she is working on for their Superiors' General. A closed Archives is located on the ground floor level for the collection.

In mid-afternoon, bakery goods from the kitchen, coffee or hot chocolate were served to us. There was always fresh bread and pastries from the kitchen available to us.

We visited with Sister Melinda, who has been assigned in South Africa but is presently in Mallersdorf because of illness. Sister told us about her work with the children and teaching the use of computers in South Africa. While

in Mallersdorf she is doing a variety of duties. Sister entered the convent in 1982 from her home that is not far from Pirmasens, Germany. She is a very tall woman.

We met Father Superior, Father Wilhelm Gegenfurtner.

In Nardinihaus, where our rooms are located, there is a kitchen area and sandwich meat, bread, cheese, doughnuts, etc. are available to us.

After the evening meal at 6:15 p.m., we were again free to do what we wanted the remainder of the evening. I went to bed at 8:30 p.m. It is taking a little time to adjust to the seven hour difference in time zone between St. Louis and Mallersdorf.

The Sisters eat family style meals in their dining room. The soup is served in a large container and each one takes what they want. It is interesting to note that they use a soup-plate bowl, probably much like our early Sisters did. After finishing with the soup, the other plates/bowls containing the food are passed and the food is placed in the same soup-plate bowl. The bowls/plates have about four servings of food. Coffee, tea, juice and beer are served as the beverage.

When everyone has passed the soup, a Sister is assigned to pick up the serving bowl; glasses and beer are brought to the table. After the meal, the food is collected, as are the dishes and silverware.

When we were at Mallersdorf, Sister Mary Joan and I were seated at the table with the Superior General, Sister Marion, Sister Magdalen (the vicar) and Sister Radegund. (It was something like our former top table seating in our dining room in the past.) The tables are long and other Sisters were seated at their place. There were four long tables in the dining room to accommodate the Sisters.

January 27th

A little snow fell overnight. The Sisters' choir sang at the morning Mass at 7:00 a.m. beginning the celebration of Blessed Father Paul Josef Nardini. It was impressive to see the whole Community at Mallersdorf in the Chapel for

this Eucharist. There were four altar boys, a master of ceremonies, two priests (Fathers Gegenfurtner and Staufer).

After Mass there was a festive breakfast, pastry and beverage with a box of cookies for each one. A napkin ring with the words *Auf dass es Brenne* (*That It May Blaze*) on it and a red napkin was inside at each place. A song was sung before breakfast with a brief prayer being said.

After breakfast preparations were made for the drive to Pirmasens, Germany for the evening Eucharist at St. Pirmin's Church where Father Nardini was pastor. We left Mallersdorf at 10:00 a.m. to begin our trip and arrived there at 3:45 p.m. It is a distance of 272 miles. Father Gegenfurtner drove the convent van with Father Staufer, Sisters Marion, Magdalen, Radegund, Mary Joan and me as passengers.

A rest stop was made along the autobahn and we were going to have lunch, however, it was very crowded, so we continued on to Speyer, Germany, about 220 miles from Mallersdorf. We had lunch at the *DomHof* there and then visited the Cathedral of Speyer, where Father Nardini's beatification ceremony was held on October 22, 2006. For lunch we had bratwurst and it was very good. After visiting the Cathedral, we resumed the journey to Pirmasens. Snow fell during a large part of the journey and sometimes it was mixed in with a little rain. We were told that the climate in Pirmasens is milder than in Mallersdorf, however, snow and ice were on the ground. The scenery with the snow is very pretty.

Rooms were assigned to us in the convent, also called Nardinihaus, in Pirmasens. Sister Mary Joan and I had adjacent rooms with a bath. The Sisters are most accommodating. Everyone we met was hospitable in various locations.

Mass was celebrated at 5:00 p.m. at St. Pirmin's Church, a parish Church. It was a large celebration with the Sisters and parishioners – the Church overflowed. The main celebrant of the Pontifical Mass was Bishop Anton Schlembach. There were ten priests who concelebrated with the Bishop. The name Nardini could be heard many times in the readings, homily and songs but we could not understand what was said because it was all in German.

A relic (bone) of Blessed Father Nardini was placed in a reliquarium under a plaque of his likeness in a ceremony.

After Mass we returned to the convent for refreshments followed by dinner. A reporter wanted to meet us for an interview. Since he did not speak English and we do not speak German, Sister Radegund assisted with it being an interpreter. Sister Radegund knew the young man and she is familiar with our Congregation's history.

A meal was served in the convent for guests and selected Sisters. The other Sisters in attendance were served in another dining room – appetizers, salad, chicken, pork and beef were offered. Accompanying were mixed vegetables, noodles (like spedini), bread, and a dessert of fruit or two types of pudding.

We sat across from an English speaking parish council member who taught English in school. He told us Pirmasens is a very poor town today, as it was in Father Nardini's day. There is no industry and the men and women don't have jobs. There is a shoe factory but the shoes are being imported. As a consequence there are no sales. Women go to other towns to try to sell shoes and the children are left alone at home.

The Mallersdorf Sisters take care of the children in orphanages, boarding homes and schools just as they did in Father Nardini's day.

January 28

Mass was concelebrated in the Nardinihaus convent Chapel by Father Gegenfurtner and Father Staufer followed by breakfast – chocolate candy bars were at each place in the dining room.

The earthly remains of Father Nardini are reserved in at the foot of the altar in the Chapel here. After breakfast we went over to St. Pirmin's Church to take pictures and then back to the Nardinihaus convent Chapel to photograph Father Nardini's crypt. (They are just across a plaza from one another.)

Sister Radegund told us she was present when the remains of Father Nardini's crypt were opened; she was told that perhaps there would not be much left in the crypt since he was buried in 1862. However, the skull,

bones of the arms and legs were there, pieces of his stole and his shoes, were visible. Some of the bones were removed for use as relics – one of which is now in the reliquarium at St. Pirmin's Church.

At 9:15 a.m. we left Pirmasens to return to Mallersdorf – today's trip was just under four hours, since we did not make stops, except for gas, on the return trip. At Mallersdorf the Sisters had the noon meal was waiting for all of us.

We had a quiet afternoon until Solemn Vespers at 5:00 p.m. at which Father Gegenfurtner presided. After supper we visited with Sister Radegund because I had asked a question about the relationship of "Father Superior" to the Congregation and about the first superior general, Sister Agatha, who had left the Congregation. (Father Superior receives an appointment from the Bishop. Sister Agatha was removed from office by the Bishop because of her domineering ways with the Sisters. Then because she could not accept the authority of the one who succeeded her, she left the Congregation. In her later years, she did much good among the people where she lived.)

We then went to the recreation room where the Sisters had gathered. We were asked if we would answer questions that the Sisters had about the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and our early history. Sister Cornelia was our interpreter this evening. We remained about one hour and it was a very pleasant exchange.

January 29

A full day! Sister Godehard was our chauffeur from Mallersdorf after Mass and breakfast and we went to Straubing to the Carmelite Church, Church of the Holy Spirit. The interior is baroque. This Church is where Mother Odilia prayed before the picture of *Maria von den Nesseln* to know her vocation. It is understood that this picture was found in a meadow and the reason for its title (Mary of the Needles). We had snow and then rain/snow mixture as we drove to Straubing.

Leaving Straubing we went to Regen, the home of Mother Odilia. We toured the Church of St. Michael where Mother Odilia had been baptized. The Church was remodeled in 2002. They have models of the Church displayed as the Church underwent renovations over the years. Afterwards

we had lunch and a tour of the Falter Brewery, located near where the family of Mother Odilia had a brewery and guesthouse. Frau Elizabeth Falter gave us a treat to eat in the brewery's restaurant and assigned a tour guide for the brewery.

When we left here we crossed the Danube River, which was not very blue on this day. We visited a Benedictine Abbey Church (a Basilica), St. Mauritius in Niederalteich, Germany, and saw the grave of Sister Godehard's parents in the parish cemetery. At the grave there is a little receptacle below ground with a green spring and holy water to bless the graves. Then we visited St. Michael's Church in Metten.

Leaving here we continued on to Straubing to visit Nardinihaus, a group home where the children who are mentally and physically challenged are cared for by the Mellersdorf Sisters. The children live here until the age of 18 or 20 years of age. Some are unable to talk and have various physical problems. Certainly the care of the children here are again a manifestation of the charism of Father Nardini.

The Sisters served us tea/coffee and a special cake. They asked questions about the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Congregation, much as the Sisters had done on Sunday night in Mellersdorf.

We then returned to Mellersdorf at 6:00 p.m., which is about 20 miles from Straubing but it took awhile because of the traffic, just in time for dinner.

January 30th

Another full day's journey as we left Mellersdorf after breakfast. Sister Magdalen took us to Regensburg, along with Sister Radegund, and our first stop was the Carmelite Church of St. Joseph's for 10:00 a.m. Mass. The distance is about 25 miles to Regensburg from Mellersdorf.

Afterwards we saw a large number of Churches and sights of interest. The Churches included: the Gothic St. Peter's Cathedral, a Basilica, in the city's spiritual center. There is a *Sailer Chapel* that is in the oldest part of the cathedral with a canopied Nativity altar. The *Sailer Chapel* takes its name from the sepulcher of the Bishop of Regensburg, Johann Michael von Sailer, sometimes known as the "Bavarian Father of the Church." His tomb is

situated just to the right of the new chapel. The *Sailer Chapel* is a place for private prayer, so was unable to take a photograph of it.

Of note in the Cathedral is the “smiling angel” – Archangel Gabriel. This angel is the visible expression of the Gospel – the good news of the love of God become man. It is said that the smiling angel represents a unique message: divine salvation has assumed a human form.

We visited the Old Chapel (*Alte Kapelle*) – historically, as well as artistically, it is one of the most important church buildings in Bavaria and it is an example of the devotion to St. Mary, a tradition of Bavarian piety. Then we went to St. Johann’s, St. Cassian’s, the Niedermunster (St. Ulrich) and an Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the back of the Niedermunster there is a statue of Mother Maria Theresia Gerhardinger the foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Today the Blue Danube had a little more color and we walked along the side of it – it was a cold, windy day in the morning. We walked across the Old Stone Bridge which was built in the 12th century. Along our way we saw the *Historische Wurskuche*, an ancient sausage kitchen. Regensburg is a city steeped in history.

Other sights of interest included the Old Town Hall where the Holy Roman Emperors summoned princes, bishops and ambassadors to meetings. The *Porta Praetoria*, which is a gateway dating from 179 A.D. The gateway is made of blocks of stone with no mortar to secure them.

I was impressed with a statue of Mary Magdalen with Jesus in the tomb, but I can not recall which Church it was in.

We had lunch at the *Bischof Hof*, a restaurant owned by the Bishop of Regensburg. It was a lovely setting and many people frequent this restaurant for meals at noon and in the evening. White table cloths and napkins are on the tables.

We returned to Mallersdorf by train and were met by one of the Sisters to take us to the convent, where we had dinner.

January 31st

After Mass and breakfast we went to the school on the grounds of Mallersdorf to watch the DVD of the opening of Father Nardini's tomb which was on December 5, 2005. We started to watch a DVD of the Beatification of Blessed Father Paul Josef Nardini; however, we just had time to see a small portion of the Beatification. We were given a DVD of the beatification to bring to St. Louis.

Then we went to the wardrobe department to get sweaters like the Mallersdorf Sisters wear. While there the Sisters gave us some one decade rosaries made from the beads of rosaries the Mallersdorf Sisters used to wear.

Afterwards we left the convent to visit a famous shrine of Mary in Bavaria; it is one of the most famous places in Europe for a pilgrimage, Gnadenkapelle, in Altotting, Germany. It is located about 60 miles from Mallersdorf. Here we went to the *Chapel of Grace*, an octagon tower-like building that had been a baptistery. The image of Mary and her Son have, over the years, become darker and it is not certain whether this is due to candles burning or from the oxidation of a silver layer underneath the colors. This was one of the sites that Pope Benedict XVI visited last fall when he was in Germany. (Pope John Paul II visited here twice during his papacy.) A couple of miracles are said to have occurred here, one child lived after apparently having drowned and another child was run over and there was little hope for his recovery. Their mothers resorted to Mary, Mother of God, and the two children recovered.

About 11:30 a.m. a priest came to celebrate Mass in the Chapel and we remained for Mass.

On the right side of the altar is a figure of Prince Maximilian on his knees and on the left is the figure of Saint Brother Konrad of Parzham in prayer.

A practice for pilgrims in Altotting is to carry a wooden cross around the Chapel of Grace, even on one's knees. It is estimated that one million pilgrims come to Altotting each year.

In the parish church of St. Philippus and Jakobus there is a very large clock (something like a Grandfather clock) with the *Grim Reaper* (a skeleton with a scythe) at the top.

The Capuchin Monastery of St. Konrad is also in this area. Brother Konrad is presented as a person showing the way to Christ. The bones of St. Brother Konrad are in a reliquary shrine.

Several religious Congregations are in this city, The Institute of the Englische Fraulein who take their heritage from Mary Ward, an English lady who founded the Order with other English ladies. This Congregation is of particular note since Mother Odilia's sister, Sister Xaveria, was in this Congregation. Another Congregation is that of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

We had our noon meal with the Sisters of Mellersdorf who have a boarding and day school, as well as a retreat house in Altotting.

We then went to the town of Marktl am Inn where Pope Benedict XVI was born and the Church of St. Oswald where he was baptized. The Inn River runs along this city. A tall monument has been erected in the Pope's honor and looks almost as if it were a candle. One of the sayings on the decorative portion – I am glad God found me –is under the depiction of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Annunciation and Nativity are also shown, along with an image of the papal vestment.

We returned to Mellersdorf about 4:40 p.m. Went to Sister Radegund's office and tried to get our boarding passes for our return from Germany. It was not possible.

After the evening meal, Mother Marion requested that we come to her office and she gave us a relic of Blessed Father Paul Josef Nardini, along with a card with cloth relic of Blessed Father Nardini and also a medal of Father Nardini for each Sister in the Congregation.

Three of the English speaking Sisters had a farewell for us with wine and snacks tonight.

February 1st

After Mass and breakfast we packed last minute items, then met Sister Radegund in her office. She took us to the Archives to see her automatic shelving mover and various items of Father Nardini and the Congregation.

The Sisters served us lunch at 10:00 a.m. before the drive to Munich and the airport. Sisters Radegund and Lioba waited with us until we entered security at 12:15 p.m. for *British Airways* Flight #6544 which left Munich at 1:35 p.m.

A sandwich and beverage was served as we flew north and east over Frankfurt and Luxembourg and up the Rhine River. The pilot guided us to an altitude of 38,000 feet, traveling at 502 miles per hour. The distance from Munich to London is 584 miles. As the flight continued we flew over Bonn and Aachen towards Brussels, Bruges, to the North Sea, then the coast of England and over Dover.

Arrived in London at 2:50 p.m. and went through security yet again – it took 45 minutes. It was a long walk, about 20 minutes to gate #17 for *American Airlines* Flight #91 to Chicago – a distance of 3946 miles. We boarded the flight at 4 p.m. and departed at 4:48 p.m. London time.

During the flight we flew over Cambridge, Nottingham, Manchester, the Celtic Sea/Irish Sea, Black Pool, the Isle of Man, and Belfast, Ireland. The altitude was 34,000 feet and 555 miles per hour. The Norwegian Sea led to the Atlantic Ocean and a sunset. It was rough flying for awhile over the Atlantic Ocean and the pilot guided us to an altitude of 36,000 feet, then 37,500 and 38,000 as the flight continued to Godthab, Greenland and a slower speed of flight. As we left Greenland for the Atlantic Ocean the speed increased to 545 miles per hour. As the flight continued we crossed over Newfoundland and a second sunset – a long sunset as we continued to head west into Ontario and Quebec. Still flying at an altitude of 38,000 feet and averaging 515 miles per hour, we continued over Thumins, Ontario on to the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron into Michigan, and over Cadillac. The altitude decreased as we headed towards Lake Michigan into Chicago. We arrived at gate M9 in Chicago at 7:10 p.m.; the temperature in Chicago was 19 degrees or -7 wind chill and there was light snow on the ground.

We had no problems getting our luggage and going through customs in Chicago. Then we took our luggage to be checked for the flight to St. Louis.

Now we prepared to board our final flight from Chicago to St. Louis. *American Airlines* Flight #353 was scheduled to leave at 9:15 p.m. for St. Louis but did not leave until 9:45 p.m. and arrived in St. Louis just before 11:00 p.m. We took a taxi after we arrived in St. Louis to head for home.

We were tired but happy travelers, who made friends, met many of the Mellersdorf Sisters, saw some of their places of ministry and gained much inspiration from this visit to Germany.

Reflecting on the experience of being in Germany, the Father Nardini celebration, receiving the relics and other materials, walking in the footsteps of Mother Odilia, the Mellersdorf Sisters and the many special places visited will remain in memory for the future.

It is wonderful to reflect on Father Nardini as an influence on Mother Odilia in her ministry as a member of the Poor Franciscans of the Holy Family in Pirmasens, as well in the establishment of our Congregation in St. Louis. The care of children, those who were ill and the poor were a large part of her charism and presence shared with her Sisters. Mother Odilia responded to the needs of the times as was evident in the epidemics of her day. She spent her life that her Sisters might live as a religious congregation, as did Father Nardini in offering himself so that the Congregation he founded would continue. Mother Odilia said "I would rather cross all the seas than to give up a religious vocation." Both shared a great trust in God's goodness, a dependence on God for needs to be met, love for others and their salvation.

The Mellersdorf Sisters shared a happy spirit, loving concern, care and hospitality with us. Nothing was too much for them to do for us and those entrusted to their care, children in schools, the mentally and physically challenged, whether old or young. These days are of happy memory as we visited in their various ministries and met them one by one in the convent. We are proud to be their Sisters and they ours!

S. Marylu Stueber

February 21, 2007