'Cure the sick and preach the Gospel' (Lk 10:9)

Fr. WERNER PUNTIGAM

A Camillian

Fr. W. Puntingam died on 26 April 2020 at the age of eighty, following a long illness, after receiving the comfort of the sacraments.

His funeral will be celebrated at the '*Ober St. Veit*' cemetery of Vienna with his family relatives and his confreres of the Order of Camillians. The funeral Holy Mass will then be celebrated at our parish church of '*Maria Heil der Kranken*' in the Provincial religious house of Vienna.

Fr. Werner Puntigam was born on 3 February 1940 in St. Peter am Ottersbach, Stiria (Austria).

On 9 April 1956 he entered the studentate of the Camillians in Losensteinleiten (Upper Austria). In 1958 he began his novitiate at the religious house of Hilariberg, Kramsach, in the Tyrol. On 15 September 1959 he took his temporary vows. After his studies in philosophy at Pfaffing, Vöckla-markt (Upper Austria), in 1961 he continued his study of theology at Münster/Westfalen (Germany). In 1962 he took his perpetual vows and after completing his studies he was ordained a deacon on 28 November 1965 at the Church of '*San Carlo Borromeo*' of the nursing home (*Versorgungsheim*) in Vienna. On 19 December of the same year he was ordained a priest.

He began his ministry as a chaplain on 1 January 1966 at the *Versorgungsheim Lainz* (a nursing home). From 1968 to 1971 he was a spiritual assistant at the '*Neuen Kliniken*' of Vienna (the present-day AKH) and from 1971 to 1973 he was active as a chaplain at the '*Semmelweis Frauenklinik*' gynaecological clinic. In 1975 he was appointed to be the rector of the chaplaincy of the '*Neuen Kliniken*' ('New Clinics'). In 1985 he returned to Lainz to the present-day Hietzing Hospital. From 1986 onwards he provided service at the '*Pfarre Maria, Heil der Kranken*' (the '*Salus Infirmorum*' Parish) and at the same time he was a chaplain at the Lainz Nursing Home (*Geriatriezentrum Am Wienerwald*). In 1987 he worked for a short time at the parish of Strasshof (Lower Austria). On 15 June 1987 he once again became a chaplain at the Lainz Nursing Home. In 2013 he was once again the parish priest at the '*Pfarre Maria, Heil der Kranken*' (the '*Salus Infirmorum*' Parish).

In 2013 he moved from the Camillian community (*Kamillianerkloster*) to the St. Elizabeth nursing home of the Franciscan sisters (*Elisabethheim der Franziskanerinnen*) in Vienna. For as long as his health allowed him to do so, he celebrated Holy Mass every day together with the sisters and the patients of that institution.

Father Werner Puntigam lived his consecrated life with humility, simplicity and gratitude. He was a man of prayer and devoted to the Mother of God. Through his human and friendly character he reached very many hearts and along his 'little pathway' he lived the love of God by serving the sick. The Order of Camillians is grateful for the witness of his life and his faithfulness.

Let us remember him in our prayers!

The community of Camillians of Vienna