

*“You have not chosen Me, but I chose you and appointed you
that you
should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide”*

Sister Cornelia-Corrie-Vork (Clementia Marie)

Deceased the 21th June 2022 in s’-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands

at the age of 88.

Born 29th September 1934 in Alphen a/d Rijn, the Netherlands

First Profession on the 15th of August 1955 in Esch, the Netherlands

We were very sad and shocked when Corrie unexpectedly passed away on Tuesday afternoon 21th June 2022. As we were all together this Tuesday morning, she suddenly felt unwell and was immediately taken to the hospital. Unfortunately, the doctors couldn't do anything for her anymore and quietly she passed away.

Sister Corrie was born in Alpen aan de Rijn on september 29, 1934, as the fifth child in a large Catholic family. She had 6 brothers and 6 sisters. Her father was a constructor and mother took care of the family. After having finished the Upper Primary school and a Domestic Science evening school, Corrie started helping families. During these years Corrie also cared very much for her younger brothers and sisters. She was a member of the Guides and the “Mary Girls “Club.

Already as a child she went every day to Mass. Corrie also read in the Mission Magazines stories about the White Sisters and she felled called, to also become a missionary. When she was 16 yrs, she wanted to join the congregation, but to her disappointment, her parents and the Parish Priest told her to wait until after her 18th birthday.

In March 10, 1953, she entered the postulate of the White Sisters in Maarn. After her novitiate in Esch she made her First Profession on the 15th of August 1955 and left for the Mother House in Algiers for the international training year. After this year she was appointed for Maarn

and Sterksel to improve her French and English and also followed a Course of General Development in the centre “Mater Amabiles” in Vught.

In October 1960 Corrie could go to Africa and was appointed to Mwanza in Tanzania where she learned the Swahili language and the (tribal) culture after which she went to do the housekeeping in Ndala.

Four years later, she went to Kagunguli, on the isle of Ukerewe. There she worked with groups of women. Together she set up kindergartens and shops with them so as to become self-sufficient. Her practical, optimistic and helpful nature came in handy, as well as her perseverance. After 3 years, she was again back in Mwanza to continue this same work with the women.

In January 1969, she went to the Motherhouse in Frascati, for the so-called Third Year, a five-months course of further spiritual training. After this she went to Esch for a rest, where a medical examination showed that she had health problems and needed surgery. From 1970 she was again in Tanzania, in Mwanza and also in other posts where, in addition to working with the women, she also taught in kindergarten.

In the meantime, Corrie was in 1975 in the Netherlands for further training in General Development. She also obtained the diploma in Auxiliaring-Nursing. In September 1978, she went to work in the hospital at Kasulu. Afterwards she again went working with the women till 1987 when the Kasulu Mission was passed over to the local African Sisters Congregation. After a while in Esch, she went to Kipalapala in '88 as a hostess at the Swahili language centre.

At her next mission in Usongo, in 1992, she became a coordinator for AIDS-patients, a disease that spread rapidly in Africa. She later continued this work in Mwanza in the **Shalom Care House**, a place where people with Aids received supervision and guidance and medicine. Corrie supervised the HIV and AIDS- patients and did also pastoral work. This Shalom Care House has been supported for many years by the foundation Tafadhali in Den Bosch, run by Bernadette van de Ven and Willem Melissen. (They were at the funeral and read a message from this **Shalom Care House** in Mwanza.) Recently this **Care House** has been handed over to the Diocese.

In 2007 Corrie returned for good to the Netherlands, but she felt very lost and unhappy and wanted useful occupation.

After a few months of vacation and getting used in her homecountry again, she wanted to work somewhere as a volunteer. She chose for: helping a day every week in a CARE FARM in a neighbouring village at a distance of 10 kilometer, where handicapped and elderly people came together and were helped with all kinds of occupation. For 10 years Corrie drove on her scootmobiel (electric scooter) through rain or wind to work there. She also volunteered to help out in the three care homes in Boxtel: Liduina, Simeonshof and the Wereldhuis.

Corrie has always been very active and tackled everything: knitting and crocheting for a great liberation flag, learning to play the piano, travelling with the KBO, playing games with the elderly, organizing bingos for charity and bringing people in wheelchairs to the church service in the nursing home etc.

She first went to live in the community of **Molenwiek** and then moved to an apartment on the **Molenhof**, where already several White Sisters lived but still continued her activities at her familiar pace.

She loved to swim. Every morning she went to St. Peter's Church when she could. She got everywhere with her scooter and was very skilled with this. She has won many hearts with her humour, quirkiness and witty remarks. She did not look up to anything and you could also talk to her about anything.

Lately she had difficulty walking, was very short of breath and tired easily. She found it difficult to take it easy. After her health deteriorated, Corrie moved in July 2021 to the carehome the Worldhouse after good consultation but still tried her activities at her familiar pace.

On the 21st of June 2022 her body has suddenly failed her after she miraculously survived a previous aneurysm in 2015. Unfortunately, this time the doctors couldn't do anything for her and very sudden she passed away in the presence of our helper Marty.

Corrie wanted to have her funeral in the St. Peters Basilica in Boxtel as she every day came there to Mass. After the celebration, we

accompanied her to the cemetery, where she may rest among her sisters.

Dear Corry, we will miss you sorely. You were a wonderful person and we loved you. May you now rest in the Eternal Peace of the Lord. Dear Corrie, rest in Peace. Amen.