**My soul shall glory in the LORD,**

**that the afflicted may hear and rejoice.**

Psalm 34, 3

Frankfurt, 14 June 2024

My dear sisters, dear relatives,

dear friends of our house,

Tonight, the Lord of life and death took our dear sister

**Deaconess Hanna Lachenmann**

into his eternal peace at the age of 93.

Sister Hanna was born on 11 November 1930 in Stuttgart and grew up with seven siblings in a parish household. She felt connected to the Frankfurt Deaconess House from the moment she was baptised, as her godmother deaconess Margarethe Lachenmann was her godmother. She had a rich youth, but it was also shadowed by the Nazi era. The war tore the family apart; her eldest brother was killed in the war. The post-war period was difficult, but the poverty they had to experience as a family was nevertheless rich due to the

religious home, where they prayed, sang and read the word of God every day. From childhood onwards she had flute and violin lessons and had her place in the community. In 1947, through her aunt, she came to the first time to the Frankfurt Motherhouse, which was evacuated to Villa Manskopf at the time. There she learnt Lutheran liturgy and Gregorian chant.

As she wanted to become a counsellor, she asked the motherhouse if she could come for an internship. So, 19 years old, she came to the Elisabethenhof in Marburg (a residential care centre) and got to know the work with the girls, who came from very different backgrounds. The death of Sister Emma Wolff, from whom she had learnt a great deal in a short time, was decisive for her entry as a probationary nurse. Through

a Bible passage made her realise that it could be her vocation to become a deaconess.

In October 1950, she joined the motherhouse as a probationary sister and worked in various areas and was able to catch up on her A-levels, which had not been possible before the war.

In 1957, she began her work as a teacher at our specialised school for social pedagogy, together with Sister Anneliese Friese and Sister Änne Inerle.

One year later, she was consecrated with five other sisters; her group also included Sister

Gisela Tyroff. Her consecration motto accompanied her throughout her life:

**My soul shall glory in the Lord,**

**that the poor may hear and rejoice.**

After her consecration, she continued to work at the technical school in many different subjects and has influenced countlessgenerations of schoolgirls.

From the summer of 1970, she only worked there half-time, as she was appointed deputy to superior Anneliese Oehlert. Other tasks were added: directing the sisters' choir, playing the organ,holding devotions and much more. From 1984-1995, she was responsible for the training of the young deaconesses.

Sister Hanna also liked to take on tasks outside the motherhouse: as a member of the

of the Evangelical Women's Work, many years in the Synod of the EKD and has worked a lot for diaconal communities.

In 1995, she gave up her position as deputy, but this did not mean that she had less of a formative influence. We have her to thank for the commemorative publication for our 125th anniversary; she worked on the memorandum on the Diaconia anniversary 1848-1998. From 1987-1996 she was a member of the board of the DIAKONIA World Federation as a representative of the Kaiserswerth Association of German Deaconess Motherhouses,

Since 1996 she was secretary of the DIAKONIA World Federation for many years. Sister Hanna has inspired many people for worldwide diaconia!

She has designed countless issues of our motherhouse magazine with joy - many years together with Sister Elisabeth Breitenbach.

Sister Hanna has had a great influence on many people in the world through her spiritual attitude: through lectures, devotions etc. She has further developed our worship life and has always delighted us with new songs.

As she grew older, she learnt to appreciate the computer anew, as she was no longer able to travel so much, she was connected by e-mail with sisters and brothers not only in Europe, but also in Australia and America. Until the end, she maintained countless contacts, also by letter and telephone.

Last year, we celebrated the 65th anniversary of Sister Hanna and Sister Gisela as deaconesses with a festive service - we looked back with gratitude on so many years of spiritual life.

Sister Hanna still had a lot of plans; she was always coming up with ideas of what else she could do. Most recently she had put together a series of photos about the history of our church from the beginning until today, which she wanted to show to staff and sisters. That never happened. She remained focused on people until the end. She always had interesting things to talk about and remained inquisitive.

For some time, Sister Hanna had been experiencing increasing complaints with her heart and lungs. At the end of April, she came back stronger after a long stay at St Mark's Hospital. Unfortunately, this did not last and so she was admitted to the Nellinistift for short-term care at the end of May because her general health deteriorated. She spent the last few days in St Mark's Hospital with pneumonia. I visited her for the last time on Wednesday and we were able to say goodbye to each other. She had decided that nothing more should be done to prolong her life. On Thursday, she was visited by her sister Elisabeth, her son and daughter-in-law. She was then able to go to sleep peacefully and quietly.

She had learnt to appreciate the short time in the Nellinistift and was already planning to bring her computer to stay in touch with the world. She loved the nursing staff from the very beginning, was wonderfully cared for and was grateful for it.

Our thanks to everyone who lovingly cared for our fellow sister. In the last few years

years, these were all the staff at the Frankfurt Deaconess House and also the staff at the Inner Mission, SV-Care and the CityChurch. Everyone appreciated her caring nature and her knowledge.

With Sister Hanna, we are losing an important pillar of our community. She characterised our house, like hardly any other sister; we will miss her very much and remember her fondly.

We held the final blessing in our church today at 12.00 noon, and we decorated the coffin with roses from the garden - one last time I gave her the blessing, which accompanied her throughout her life as a deaconess.