Sigrid Gisela Renate Just (+11/7/2016)

Sigrid Gisela Renate JUST (née Walther) was born on Nov. 24, 1928, in Beuthen, Upper Silesia, Germany, and died on Nov. 7, 2016, one week after suffering a major stroke. She was the only child of Karl and Charlotte Walther. Her father died in 1933, when Sigrid was only five years old. At the end of World War II, she and her mother moved to Berlin. Raised as a Lutheran, she converted to Catholicism in her teens and joined the Sisters of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians) for two years, where she was given the name Sr. Constancia.

Sigrid then studied Mathematics at the Free University of (West) Berlin, where she met a young physicist, Dr. Kurt Just. They married in 1953 and had three sons while still in Berlin. In Sept. 1961, shortly after the Berlin Wall was built, the Just family immigrated to the United States. They settled in Tucson, AZ, since Kurt had accepted a position as Professor of Physics at the University of Arizona, where he taught for almost 40 years.

There was a clear division of labor in the Just household: while Kurt worked at the UofA and provided the family income, Sigrid took care of the house and raised the boys. She was also very active in volunteer work in church, school, and various civic groups for many years: with PTA, swim teams, the American Red Cross, and the Boy Scouts of America. She served as choir member and organist at several Catholic parishes. She was an avid reader, swimmer, email writer, and a versatile craftsperson, showing great creativity in sewing, knitting, calligraphy, candle making, and many other arts and crafts.

Although she never visited Germany again after the death of her own mother in 1978, Sigrid loved to drive all over Arizona and visit friends and family throughout the USA in her VW Bus/Camper. Due to decreasing mobility and despite double knee-replacement surgery, Sigrid had to move to the Desert Villita Assisted Living home in 2009, where she received very attentive and loving care from the wonderful staff for the past seven years.

Sigrid is predeceased by Kurt, her husband of almost 63 years (RIP 6/19/16), and is survived by three adult sons: Stefan (wife Rebecca), of Beaumont, CA; Klemens, of Berlin, Germany; and Felix, of Anaheim, CA; as well as two married grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

Like her husband, Sigrid chose to have her body donated to science. Interment of her cremains will be in a private ceremony at a later time. The family requests that donations in Sigrid's memory be made to Catholic Relief Services.

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