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Antoinette Paula Hess-von Hospenthal

16 February 1962 – 12 January 2011

Antoinette was born on the 16th February 1962, with her brothers and sisters being in their teens, they eagerly awaited her arrival into their family. She was a quiet little girl, with a love for animals which lasted all her life. She had a great artistic gift; many purchased the lovely porcelain dolls she made, and admired the paintings she produced, especially of people and flowers.

When her father became ill, Antoinette helped look after him for nine years. During this time, her love of animals led her to help Zeno out on the family farm and assist him with showing cattle, something she enjoyed until her untimely death.

In February 1993 Antoinette attended the Taranaki Swiss Club picnic with her mother Freda and brother Zeno; this day would change her life forever. During a wrestling match, Freda pointed to one of the participants and said "wouldn't that be one for you?" Antoinette replied "maybe", but when he lost the bout, had second thoughts and said "maybe not"!!! It wasn't until July that the two of them would meet again, during dancing practice before the 1st August celebrations. After that dance she began to realise her destiny, a destiny that would soon become apparent to all. However, for the moment, she was booked on a world tour, and soon left New Zealand to visit many countries including Switzerland, where she felt immediately at home; and it would become home in the not too distant future. In the meantime, her dance partner, Martin, kept in touch and in November they became engaged. Martin returned home to Switzerland, knowing that Antoinette would follow him four months later. They married in Switzerland in 1995 and made their home there; a huge undertaking for Antoinette, leaving home, family and country to begin her new life. She placed her total faith in God and Her Church, a strong influence in her life, to guide her with her decision and happily settled into married life in her adopted country. Their marriage was blessed with three children, and they, with Martin, sustained her during the loss of a loved mother and brother, Frank, in New Zealand. In 2005 they were asked to carry their cross again when they suffered the devastating loss of their fourth child, Xaver. In 2007 life took another turn when the family decided to return to New Zealand. Antoinette was heartbroken to leave Xaver behind, but they were returning to help Zeno on the farm, and she knew the children would love the life and freedom that New Zealand would provide.

After only four years, God has called Antoinette home. She has been described as a loving and devoted wife and mother. When Martin asked for the meaning of "devoted" he was told; "ardent, caring, committed, concerned, constant, dedicated, devout, faithful, loving, loyal, steadfast and true". You were all of these, Antoinette. We'll miss you, rest in peace. God bless; we will meet again.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Martin, Toni, Zeno and Rebecca, and also the von Hospenthal family on the sad and untimely loss of Antoinette.

Love equals respect.

Where there is love, there is respect

Where there is respect, there is love.

She loved us with all her heart.

Antoinette, Mum; we love you with all our hearts.

Wo Liebe ist, ist Respekt,

Wo Respekt ist, ist Liebe.

Sie hat uns von ganzem Herzen geliebt.

Antoinette, Mami; wir lieben dich von ganzem Herzen.

Martin, Toni, Zeno and Rebecca.

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Family Hess, the von Hospenthal family and their families.