



**Fr Howard L Morrison, S.J.**  
**(1920-1999. In Zambia 1988-1999)**

**22 June 1999**

Howie was born in Boise, Idaho, on 3 July 1920 from a Protestant family. He became a Catholic early on. By the time he entered the novitiate of the Oregon Province at Sheridan, Oregon on 7 September 1947, he had a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, had worked for a Radio Company (RCA), invented an important part for television sets and received a professional degree in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho.

Howie received the regular Jesuit training and was ordained priest on 14 June 1958 and a year later came to the Jesuit High School to join the pioneers in getting a new school started. He remained in that community for sixteen years. As a mathematics and physics teacher it was his task to set up the physics laboratory.

During those years there was one word that best described him and that word was 'commitment', commitment to God, to the Church and to his pupils. He gave himself completely in time and energy to his pupils, even outside of school hours and school days. He gave the pupils an excellent training and they would come back from universities, to thank him for the training and study habits he had instilled in them and which brought them such success.

He was willing to give himself to anything that might help the school. He was not an athlete himself, but he used his talents to work on a telephone system which permitted an assistant coach to follow the game from a booth above the field, who then could inform the coach at the bench of the weaknesses or strengths of the other team and how best to direct the Jesuit team to victory.

Howie demanded excellence and committed himself to bring it about. This drive he brought to Mukasa School in Choma, Zambia in May 1988. Both inside and outside the classroom, the pupils were his number one priority. He was always there to help them in their needs, educationally and spiritually.

He was a perfectionist. When he came to Zambia he had with him many boxes of tools. There was no such thing as 'hammering a job on anything'. For Howie, who was a carpenter, a job took him a lot of time.

He came from a strong Protestant background and strongly opposed any changes in the Church that could be identified with protestant ways or teachings. At times he suffered greatly because of his complete commitment to the Church he knew when he embraced it prior to the changes after Vatican 2. He was never tempted to leave the Church or priesthood but he let it be known what his convictions and feelings were. If at times his statements were not as accepting of change as they might have been, it was because of the love he had for and the commitment to the Church he had embraced. During his years of teaching, Howie gave of his time and energy to help in the parishes when asked.

In January 1999, Howie retired from teaching because he felt he could no longer give the quality education that was his ideal. However, he remained at Mukasa to give of himself as much as he could through maintenance work. At the end of May, he contracted malaria, broke his femur and developed a high fever which took him off. He died in Lusaka on the 22 June 1999.