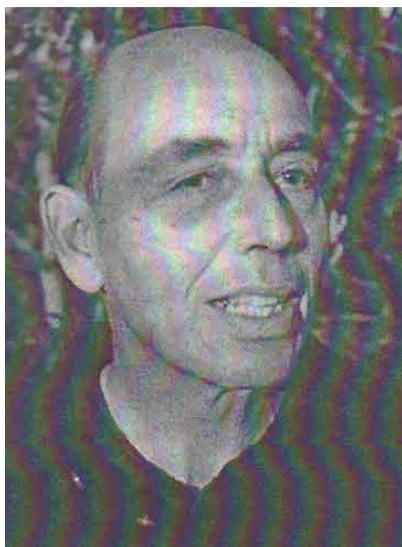


21 July

## Fr REINHART ZINKAAN 4 October 1927 – 21 July 2010



Reiner was born in Stuttgart where his family fell foul of the Nazis after they came to power in 1933 and had to flee to Holland. When Germany invaded Holland, they had to go into hiding. Reiner learnt the value of family at this time and the experience of suffering made him compassionate towards the suffering of others in his later life. One of his fellow novices, when he entered the Society in Holland in 1946, was Peter-Hans Kolvenbach. In 1951, when 16 scholastics were killed in an accident at a railway crossing, Rainer immediately answered the call of Fr General to volunteer for the East German

province to help replace them.

Reiner did his regency in Berlin at Canisius College and his theology in Frankfurt where he was ordained in 1957. After tertianship he came to Southern Rhodesia and, after learning Shona in Mhondoro, he served in St Albert's, Kangaire, Karoi, Chinhoyi, Musami and Campion House. He first served Karoi from Chinhoyi until a house was purchased there. His attention soon went to Chanetsa in Hurungwe where he began St Boniface Mission. He was later joined there by Dieter Thiel. Mass centres, rather than outshools, was now the focus since the government had taken over responsibility for the schools in 1971. Even in 1968 Hurungwe had 22 part-time catechists. But, following the people's wishes, he did start a school in 1980 at St Boniface. Reiner was always at the heart of the work to run courses for teachers and catechists and he was the natural choice as coordinator of the pastoral team in the Chinhoyi diocese.

Oscar Wermter, who supplies the information for this brief treatment of Reiner, says he was not a practical or organisational man. His strong point was his outgoing to the people. Rather slow to share his thoughts, he liked to think things through rather than give quick answers. His pipe was a support in this and Oscar once counted 24 matches in his ashtray after a meeting!

In 1988, Reiner went to Musami and in 2000 to Makumbe. Never strong physically or psychologically, he could break down under the weight of his activities. A 'wounded healer' himself, he had a great compassion for people suffering from violence and torture. He was deeply distressed by the killing of his co-worker, Martin Berebende, during the war. He was devoted to the aged and the sick and would cycle long distance to visit them. He left some writing on reconciliation but this writer has not tried to discover where these are. Dieter Thiel considered him 'one of the best of pastoral priests'.