

22 July

Fr KARL HERRMANN

11 November 1956 – 22 July 2022

He was in his 66th year of life, and was in his 35th year in the Society of Jesus and his 25th year of priesthood, and 16th year of Final Vows.

Ort..... 11 November 1956
Loc. Nat..... Eichstätt, Bavaria, Germany
Ingr..... 13 September 1987
Loc. Ingr..... Nuremberg, Germany
Mag..... Zimbabwe
Stud.....

Diac.....
Loc. Diac..... Nairobi, Kenya
Ord..... 04 October 1997
Loc. Ord..... Munich, Germany
Grad..... Professed of 4 Vows
Loc. Grad..... Zimbabwe
Dies..... 31 July 2006

Defunc..... 22 July 2022
Loc. Defunc..... St Paul's Musami Mission, Zimbabwe
Date of Funeral..... 26 July 2022
Place of Funeral:..... Chishawasha Parish, Zimbabwe
Place of Burial: ...Chishawasha Cemetery, Zimbabwe
Prov.....SAP



In the early hours of 22 July 2022, the German Jesuit Fr Karl Herrmann died unexpectedly in St Paul's Musami Mission Hospital in Mrehwa, Zimbabwe, following a collapse. The Society and Father Karl's family and friends mourn the loss of a doer and philanthropist.

Karl Herrmann SJ was born in 1956 in Pfahldorf in the Eichstätt district. He studied automotive engineering and philosophy in Munich and worked as a taxi driver on the side. After completing his studies, he went to India for a six-month assignment with a Jesuit aid organization. This experience gave him the idea of becoming a missionary himself. In 1987 he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Nuremberg. In 1991 he was sent as a missionary to

Zimbabwe and studied theology in Nairobi. He was ordained a priest in Munich in 1997. He took his final vows in 2006.

He worked in Zimbabwe for many years. From 2004 he headed the St. Rupert Mayer mission station in Magondi in the diocese of Chinhoyi, which was founded in 1964 and which includes the parish with its 20 outposts as well as several schools and a hospital. In 2015 he took over the role of superior in the Sacred Heart Mission in Banket, diocese of Chinhoyi, a central parish with 18 outposts and around 1,600 students from various types of schools. His last position as a pastor was in the St. Paul's Musami Mission, about 80 km east of Harare.

Under Karl Herrmann's aegis, in an unprecedented collaboration with students and teachers from the Technical University of Munich, a project was created for the sustainable promotion of St Rupert Mayer's High School - the only school in a remote region of Zimbabwe where students can acquire university entrance qualifications with an "A-Level". Mathias Stelmach (TU Munich / "learning from the roots" support association):

"We met Father Karl in 2005 when he was looking for supporters for his mission school during his home vacation in Germany. A short time later, '*learning from the roots*' was born and the pastor Father Karl was also the building owner, construction manager, accountant ... and student supervisor for the next nine years - no one who had once flown with him in his Toyota Land Cruiser along the gravel road to St. Rupert's doubted the omnipresent blessing of Blessed Rupert Mayer, which Father Karl so often invoked.

During his time as head of mission, two new teachers' houses and the first major school extension were built, among other things. The secondary school became the St. Rupert Mayer High School, and 70 students had become 300. He was also able to expand the primary school, thus giving even more young people access to school education. But it was equally important to him - as he himself wrote - that 'parties were celebrated and friendships were made'. His declared focus was less on the idea of development aid and more on interest in others. How we would have loved to celebrate the opening of the Science Block, which he had already spoken about in 2014, with him."

In his homily at the funeral mass held at Chishawasha mission, Fr Konrad Landsberg SJ said Fr Karl's soul is no longer imprisoned by any fear or illness. He encouraged the congregation not to fear death, but to view it from a positive perspective: "Death is not a threat, it is only a wretch to those who worship this world, but for those who worship God, it is a door to glory and to rejoicing for being alive." Fr Landsberg SJ also said true life is a life of glory, the fulfillment of hopes and dreams, and living with these perspectives helps people to stop being slaves to the values of this world.

Attending the requiem mass were several retired Jesuits; the Bishop Emeritus of the Chinhoyi Diocese Dieter Scholtz SJ; the Provincial of the Southern Africa Province, Fr Leonard Chiti SJ; among several other priests, religious and laity. In addition to his funeral in Zimbabwe, a funeral service was also held in the town of his birth – in Pfahldorf, Eichstätt – on the feast of St Ignatius in 2022.