



Br Henryk Prill, S.J.

(1955-2021. In Zambia 1985-2006)

26 August 2021

Br Henryk Prill was born in the southern part of Poland on 11 April 1955. After completing his primary schooling, he went to a technical secondary school in Katowice. He joined the Southern Polish Province on 4 August 1976. After the novitiate he started working as a Jesuit brother for three years in the Jesuit Publications of the Apostleship of Prayer in Cracow. The next three years he served as a secretary to the Provincial, Fr Boguslaw Steczek.

In 1985 Henryk arrived in Zambia. He was working as a minister in several Jesuit communities in Lusaka, Kabwe and Choma. He dedicated himself to providing nourishing food on the table and to maintaining the living conditions of the house. In the Jesuit novitiate in Chelston, he planted several fruit trees that have produced well over the years.

He liked socializing with members of the community and other friends. He was always cheerful and full of energy. Sometimes funny, sometimes angry but he would always bring life and joy to gatherings of people. His great friend was the well-known television broadcaster, Maureen Nkandu. He had helped her in earlier years and was accepted almost as a family member. He was mentioned in her book on her life. Frequently he would stammer when he wanted to say something, but after treatment in South Africa, the impediment almost disappeared.

He had a great love for Africa. His special interest was his involvement in the work with the handicapped. He was very compassionate to the sick and those suffering from problems or ill health. He would be very active in organizing assistance but he would keep a low profile. He never looked for praise for his good deeds. He had good experience of L'Arche Community and for several years while in Bwacha community in Kabwe, he was a national chaplain to a group of Faith and Light, taking care of the handicapped.

He pronounced his final vows as a Brother in the Society of Jesus on 22 April 1996. Ten years later Henryk returned to Poland and had to undergo some medical treatment including problems with alcoholism which plagued him throughout his life. His health had deteriorated. Nevertheless he continued working in the Jesuit Publications in Cracow cataloging in the computer all the books and articles concerning the missionary work of Jesuits down the years. He remained serene and friendly to all. The door of his office was always open to welcome visitors and greet passersbys. He remained committed to personal care of the elderly sick Jesuits who lived in the local infirmary in Cracow. In 2009 he was transferred back to the Southern Polish Province.

In late June 2021 he had a stroke and was taken to the Intensive Care Unit in the local hospital. After the necessary treatment he was taken to a rehabilitation center in Limanowa, in southern Poland, where he developed a lung infection. He was taken to hospital but passed away on Saturday 21 August 2021. His funeral, presided by the Polish Provincial, Fr Paszynski and attended by his family and several priests, took place in the Sacred Heart Basilica in Cracow on 26 August 2021. He was buried in the Jesuit grave in Cracow. May his soul rest in peace.