

1 October

Fr GERALD McINTYRE 23 January 1944 – 1 October 2014



Arrupe College, as it then was, held a Memorial Service for Gerry McIntyre on 11 October 2014, ten days after his death in Syracuse, New York. Gerry arrived in Zimbabwe in 1993 to help with the Juniorate which had been started to prepare our anglophone scholastics for philosophy in French in Kinshasa. The juniorate morphed into the college in 1994 and Gerry stayed on to teach English language and literature with an emphasis on African literature in English of which he had made a thorough study while teaching in Nigeria.

Gerry was active in the planning of the new college and insisted, and Fr Kolvenback made a quip about this, on ‘Humanities’ being added to the title. So it became Arrupe College of Philosophy and Humanities. Anesu Manyere said at the time of the memorial, ‘In the classroom, Gerry was clear, dedicated and demanding. Students learnt not only how to write properly and appreciate literature but how to be excellent teachers ... He taught many of us to love poetry and be critical of movies.’ Arthur Garande added, ‘He was meticulous and paid attention to detail. He used to overwork himself marking scripts.’

Gerry was a New Yorker and had a life there teaching in Buffalo and maybe other places, before coming to Africa, first to Nigeria and then Zimbabwe. He is remembered as one who spoke his mind and was passionate about all he did – in the classroom and elsewhere. His liturgies, for example, were planned in detail, even to what he would wear.