

24 October 2025

Fr Horst Ulbrich

16 November 1933 – 24 October 2025

He was 91 years old, in his 92nd year of life; in his 72nd year in the Society; in his 62nd year of Priesthood; and in his 54th year of Final Vows.

Ort. 16 November 1933
Loc. Nat. Hennarsdorf, Germany
Ingr. 29 April 1954
Loc. Ingr. Jakobsberg, Germany
Mag... St Michael's Mhondoro, Zimbabwe
Stud. Philosophy (Germany)
Theology (Frankfurt, Rome)

Sub-Diac. 16 July 1964
Diac. 17 July 1964
Ord. 18 July 1964
Loc. Ord. Il Gesù, Rome
Tertianship Port Townsend, '65
Grad. Professed of 4 Vows
Dies. 22 April 1972
Loc. Grad. Chishawasha, Zimbabwe

Transcribed GER->ZIM 05 November 1978
Defunc. 24 October 2025
Loc. Defunc. Harare, Zimbabwe
Date of Funeral 27 October 2025
Place of Funeral: Chishawasha Mission,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Place of Burial: Chishawasha Cemetery,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Prov. SAP



Born 16 November 1933 in Hennarsdorf, Germany, Horst Ulbrich entered the Society twenty-one years later in Jakobsberg in 1954. Philosophy followed and in 1959 Horst first came to Africa and did his regency teaching at St Michael's Mhondoro.

In 1961 he began his theology at Frankfurt and completed it in Rome where he was ordained in 1964. In 1965 he did his tertianship in Port Townsend, in the United States. He then returned to Frankfurt to read for a doctorate in theology. In 1969, he was ready to return to Africa and

Horst's first assignment was to teach theology at the Regional Seminary at Chishawasha. He made his final vows in 1972 and in that year he founded the Pastoral Centre in Salisbury (as Harare called was then).

He also became the Superior of the then Sinoia (later Chinhoyi) Mission in 1974, when Helmut Reckter became Prefect Apostolic of Sinoia. His duties as Superior caused him to relinquish the Pastoral Centre in 1975 and he concentrated on this task until the formation of the vice province, which united the Salisbury





and Sinoia missions, in 1978. He became a province consultor in the new province for ten years.

He moved to Sinoia in 1980 as superior of the Jesuits in that community and parish priest where he remained until 1983 when he transferred to Karoi to take over the parish there. In 1987 he moved again, this time to Chishawasha Mission where he remained until 1991. In 1992 we find him at St Peter's Mbare where he was to remain for fourteen years.

In 2007, he moved to the Holy Name, Mabelreign, where he remained for eleven years until ill health required him to make his final move to Richartz House on 30 November 2017, where he later died in the early hours of 24 October 2025.

This brief resumé of Horst Ulbrich's life shows that, though he spent seven years studying theology, he only taught it for two. He instead used his theology in his forty years of direct pastoral work. Two features stand out from his years as superior, both of the Sinoia Mission and of the communities he led: his care for individuals, Jesuits and people in the parishes, and his constant cheerfulness.



His life in Richartz House was much diminished physically but when anyone greeted him and engaged him in conversation, he always came out with a wonderful smile. His carers commented how edified they were to his devotion to prayer, especially, in his last years, to the rosary, which he kept with him at all times.