

Extra Newsletter Mutanyana Weru Foundation February 2022

In December we sent you the message of the death of our Father André van Zon. In this extra newsletter more information about:

- 1- Funeral in Maputo on 28-12-2021
- 2- Remembrance Service on Feb 5 2022 in the chapel of the monastery Brakkestein in Nijmegen
- 3- How do we continue with our Foundation

Als derde kind van het gezin van Zon ging Dré al vroeg naar de kerk in Venhorst als misdienaar en tevens koster. Hij werd "t Pesteurke van Venhorst" genoemd, ook al haalde hij kwajongensstreken uit.
* Hij was TROUW.

Na zijn opleiding tot priester in Stevensbeek, Baarlo en Nijmegen-Brakkestein werd zijn aandacht getrokken door Afrika, waar hij als missionaris naar toe ging in 1972. Hij verzorgde de priesteropleiding en de parochiediensten in Maputo.
* Hij volgde zijn ROEPING.

Alles stelde hij in het werk om alleenstaande moeders, weeskinderen, zieken en gehandicapten de noodzakelijke hulp te bieden, zoals bezoeken, voedsel, medische hulp, een luisterend oor.
* Hij gaf HOOP

Er werd een wooncentrum gebouwd, waar ruim 100 personen, wonden, leefden en werkten gedurende 10 jaren. Daarna was de tijd aangebroken voor maatschappelijke re-integratie in gezinsverband. Dré zorgde voor bouw en aankoop van hutten en huisjes.
* Dré had een groot GELOOF in Gods Voorzienigheid


Ondanks alle gevolgen van de jarenlange oorlog, bleef hij de armen ondersteunen, in een goed humeur, in rustige saamhorigheid.
* STANDVASTIG tot het einde.

Wij willen onze dankbaarheid uitspreken aan allen voor de steun, de bijdragen aan zijn werk en het gebed voor Dré en zijn beschermelingen.

DAT HIJ MOGE RUSTEN IN VREDE

Congregatie van het Heilig Sacrament Nijmegen-Brakkestein
Familie van Zon

*Wat gij aan de minsten
der mijnen hebt gedaan
hebt ge aan Mij gedaan!
(Matt. 25)*



Van ons is heengegaan
Pater André van Zon S.S.S.

* Venhorst 01-01-1938 † Maputo (Moz.) 25-12-2021
Begraven te Maputo 28-12-2021

- 1- On Christmas Day, to our great dismay, Father André passed away as a result of the Corona virus.



It has always been his express wish to be buried in Maputo and according to local laws this must be done soon after death. And so the funeral took place on 28-12-2021 with only fellow priests and a number of women from the project as present. Unfortunately, due



to Corona and the great distance, no family members could be present at the funeral.



2- To give family, friends, colleagues the opportunity to say goodbye to him, on Feb. 5th. 2022 a memorial service was held in the chapel of the monastery Brakkestein in Nijmegen, where also the entire board of our Foundation was present. It was a very impressive service where Sjef van Zon - the brother of Father André, and chairman of our Foundation - delivered an In Memoriam which is reproduced in full below:

André was addressed with the nickname Dré and by his family members with: Onzen Dré. Dré was born on January 1, 1938 in Venhorst. He grew up in a family of 9 children: 3 daughters and 6 sons. During his school years, football was his favourite sport and together with brother Sjef he went on a raid in the Peel in search of the eggs of magpies, crows, lapwings, black-tailed godwits and curlews. On these trips, the thirst was quenched with ditch water and to satisfy the hunger, the fruit was borrowed silently from Peel farms and eaten tasty.

During the last school years, Dré was an altar clerk in Venhorst, which earned him the nickname "t Pesteurke van Venhorst" from head teacher Menne.

After the 5th grade of primary school, he left at the age of 11 for the Fathers of the Holy Sacrament in Stevensbeek. The follow-up studies for his priestly training were in Baarlo and Nijmegen-Brakkestein.

He received his ordination to the priesthood on July 8, 1965.

At the end of his studies, he studied Missiology in African countries at the university in Nijmegen. This training was linked to a study trip to Africa, which, as it turned out, was his heart and calling.

In the years after his ordination, his functions or activities were mainly:

Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Visiting the sick in the Sanatorium

"Dekkerswald" in Groesbeek, providing aid and assistance to exiled families from Indonesia.

However, his predilection for a missionary mission to Africa took on greater dimensions and it was therefore that in July 1972 he left for Laurenço Marques (present-day Maputo) in Mozambique. In Maputo, in addition to parish work, Dré taught Church History at the Interdiocesan Seminary of Mozambique for many years.

After the war of independence with Portugal from 1969 to 1972, Mozambique became a plaything of foreign policy and civil war broke out in 1976-1992.

As a result of these wars, the whole country found itself in an unimaginable situation: poverty-stricken, no work, churches and schools closed. Many priests and missionaries also

had to leave the country and some even had to die. Radiating 100% neutrality as a priest was necessary to save one's body.

During this period, Dré visited the central hospital daily where he was confronted with appalling conditions. War victims, many of unknown origin and name, disabled for life, no known family, no local language, some with a child-soldier past, in complete solitude. These people did receive medical help, but care and food had to be obtained from family or acquaintances.

Dré cared about the fate of these people and here he was called to a new life task in addition to his parish work. During his visits he kept up the courage for the loneliest sick with a listening ear and armed with bottles of bean soup, bananas and biscuits.

In addition, he asked for and received help from the home country. Money, wheelchairs, crutches and clothes etc. were sent to Mozambique from the Netherlands.

This gave Dré the nicknames: The Father with the Cookies and the Wheelchair Father.

In the early 1990s, international funds became available with which Dré could realize the centre "Mutanyana Weru" for the shelter of about 100 single homeless, abandoned women and the disabled. The centre was completed in five years. Three living/living units, kitchen, washing facilities, treatment room, classroom for tutoring and Portuguese language, a well with drinking water, a small vegetable garden, some cashew nut trees and a complete fence for safety.

Support from Dutch development workers working in Mozambique should certainly also be mentioned here.

With the foundation in 2002 of the Dutch Mutanyana Weru Foundation, action was taken to recruit donors. Support for local organizations, supplemented with church actions, also provided financial scope to pay for clothing, food, medicines and education, in addition to housing.

The plan for social integration of the residents was drawn up in 2004 - 2005 .

24 shelters were built or purchased for this purpose. 75 people opted for direct integration in small family groups. Horticultural land was also brought into joint exploitation so that it could be grown for own use and sale.

The Centre could be handed over to a Congregation of Orionites who would also take care of the other residents.

Dré celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Priest in his birthplace Venhorst. After a solemn celebration of the Eucharist, with a written congratulation from Pope Francis, the party was honoured with a greeting from the Guild of Saint Agatha. There followed a busy reception of relatives, villagers and many friends and acquaintances.

On this occasion, Mayor Pierre Bos asked to speak and the jubilee was surprised with the appointment of "Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau" for his many years of dedication for the poorest of the poor in Mozambique .

In 2018, Dré indicated that he would like to phase out his support in 3 to 5 years, given his age. There was no clarity about succession.

In 2021, Dré's physical condition slowly deteriorated and after a corona infection he died quite suddenly on Christmas Day, December 25, 2021, in his beloved Mozambique and was buried there on December 28, 2021.

Dré we are proud of you, who have followed your vocation with such commitment for a long time.

Rest in peace with the Lord.



3- How do we continue with our Foundation

Now that Father André has passed away, we miss our confidant and initiator in Maputo. We are fully aware that the success of follow-up activities will depend entirely on a well-meaning and reliable person on the ground. We as the board of the Mutanyana Weru Foundation will do our utmost to continue the project for the poorest of the poor in Mozambique.

We know that we are supported and strengthened by both the Congregation in the Netherlands and the Congregation in Maputo. They see the importance of continuing the aid program as Father André led it. The board of our Foundation also fully supports this view and is in close consultation with a fellow Father from the house in Maputo to investigate a number of things to continue the project in a sustainable, meaningful and reliable way. We expect to be able to tell you more about this in our spring newsletter and hope and rely on your continued support for the project.

On behalf of the board Mutanyana Weru Foundation

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