



MESSAGE OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

Having learned of the death of the Most Reverend Henry A. van Lieshout, CMM, the Holy Father sends prayerful Condolences to you and to the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Lae. He is united with all those gathered for the solemn funeral rite in commending Bishop van Lieshout to our Heavenly Father's merciful love.

Mindful of the deceased's long and devoted ministry as priest and Bishop, His Holiness is confident that his memory will inspire the community he served to respond ever more generously to the call of discipleship expressed in faithful witness to the Gospel.

As a pledge of spiritual strength and comfort, the Holy Father imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all who mourn in the hope of resurrection to new life in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

+*Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone*
Secretary of State

CONGREGATION FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES

His Excellency the most Rev. Christian Blouin CMM, Bishop of Lae Papua New Guinea. With deep sadness the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples has learned of the death of the most reverend Henry Anthony van Lieshout CMM, Bishop emeritus of Lae, who peacefully passed away on Christmas Eve.

We express our heartfelt condolences to the priests, religious and laity of the diocese of Lae and

pray with them for the eternal repose of the soul of this dedicated and self-less pastor who served the church so faithfully as a missionary priest and as the first bishop of the diocese. On this sad occasion we pray that through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the patroness of the diocese, Bishop Henry van Lieshout will now receive the eternal reward God has reserved for his good and faithful servants.

+ *Ivan Cardinal Dias, Prefect*
+ *Archbishop Robert Sarah, Secr.*



Grave of
Bp. Henry van Lieshout
at St. Joseph's Church, Lae

EULOGY OF

FR. ANTHONY MULDERINK

Delivered after the Funeral Mass

Bishop Henry van Lieshout, Bishop of the Diocese of Lae, Member of the Missionaries of Mariannahill, Grand Companion of the Order of the Logohu with the title of Chief, Knight of the Dutch Lion, born 19th March 1932 in Venlo in the Netherlands, ordained priest 12 July 1959, arrived in PNG in

March 1960, and consecrated Bishop 5 March 1967.

But who was Bishop Henry? He came from a devout Catholic Christian family, and leaving primary school expressed his wish to become a missionary. He went for studies to the Seminary, as was the custom. He studied well but judged the Seminary he attended as being over-regulated by non-essential rules. He made his feelings known and the Seminary's Principal advised him to rethink his vocation. Instead of much rethinking, he joined the Missionaries of Mariannahill.

As it was, student Henry had absolutely no problems with his vocation, but objected to a style of life he considered unnatural. He did not like to be hemmed in by too many - as he expressed it-, nonsense rules and this was a characteristic he never lost.

In later life it marked his approach to his work as Bishop and leader. He was not a 'lover' of making rules. He preferred regarding people as mature persons, as co-workers who could make mature decisions, as capable men and women.

This way of thinking, once a Bishop, led him very soon already to seek the involvement of local men and women in the running of the Diocese.

Bishop Henry accepted the Bishops staff with reluctance. He was not a man seeking the trappings of higher office. His first love was to share the people's daily life, to be a serving priest, and to read the human way of life. Bishop Henry was a keen observer of the comical and contradictory, of the happy, the serious and the sad moments of life. Don't get me wrong. He was not a cold observer driven by curiosity. No. Compassion was an integral part of his character. In his youth he personally had been a witness to the real-

ity of mental and physical pain.

Bishop Henry accepted the responsibilities of the Bishop's Office out of obedience. He saw it as a consequence of having chosen to be a serving missionary. Further he counted on the support of his colleagues. I also must add, he took up his task because under his casual and simple style of living, he was a man of faith.

I think this fact drew people to him for advice and quiet counseling. He had a great sense of humour, could tell stories, and this provided him with the gift of reducing a problem that looked as big as Mount William down to the size of a hill.

For himself personally too, his sense of humour and his faith carried him over the big mountains he sometimes had to climb during his 40 years of Episcopal Service.

I don't think this here is the right time and the right place to trumpet the achievements of Bishop Henry. We can notice them by comparing the Lae Diocese with 40 years ago.

To blow a trumpet, it also would disagree with Bishop Henry's way of doing things.

He never had the urge to lift himself up and on to a pedestal.

He loved the people of PNG. He loved to work for them and he loved to sit down and stori liklik. We are grateful for what he has done as our Bishop, and we are grateful to have known him as a person.

Fr. Anthony Mulderink was a life-long companion of Bishop Henry van Lieshout for over sixty years, from the seminary period to the priesthood and their arrival together in Lae in 1960 throughout the fifty years in Lae until his friend's death.

NEWS FROM LAE

Christmas Eve 2009 will remain in the memory of all in a special way. **Bishop Henry van Lieshout** passed away, suddenly and unexpected, while preparing the Christmas Night celebration. His death left a gap in the diocese but especially in the community of the Mariannahill House where he was living. More details of the un-

timely death of the beloved confrere have already reported in the special edition of Tanget of last December.

The **CMM provincial chapter** was held in Lae on 5 January 2010. The visitation letter of Fr General was re-read and discussed. A new member of the provincial council was elected to replace Br. Werner Hupperich who for serious health reasons can not return to Lae. A delegate for the General Chapter in Rome in October this year was also elected as well as a new superior of the Mariannahill House in Lae replacing Fr. Frans Lenssen who had been transferred already earlier to the Mariannahill College in Bomana/Port Moresby.

The **principal feast of the Congregation** on the 2nd of February was celebrated in the chapel of the Mariannahill House together with the CPS and FMI Sisters and other staff members of the Diocese. Fr. Raphael Ipipi renewed his temporary vows.

The CMM province in PNG celebrates this year **50 years presence** in the country. The first team of four missionaries, Fr. Gerard Hafmans (+ 1983), Fr. Bert Kempkes, (+2003) Fr. Anthony Mulderink and Fr. Henry van Lieshout (+2009) arrived in Lae in March 1960.

The main **public celebration** will be held Lae on 18 April. Since the Bishops Conference of PNG and the Solomon Islands will purposely convene in Lae in that week, all the bishops will take part in the solemn mass in the sports stadium in Lae.

Bishop Christian Blouin will fly to Manila at the end of February to attend a working visit of the Caritas team of the PNG Bishops Conference.

The **Superior General** of the Precious Blood Sisters, Sr. Ingeborg, accompanied by Sr. Helena will arrive in PNG on 26 February for a visit to the CPS community in Lae.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

A **multi-billion oil and gas project**, hailed by the government as a blessing for the people begins to turn into a curse for the country before it starts off. Court cases, bitter fights, envy, greed among landowners and clans living on the

affected areas has already caused several revenge killings and devastation of properties.

Sorcery related murders are rampant in Chimbu Province, forcing police to form a task force to deal with the issue. The barbaric methods in which people, especially old women and men, are murdered has prompted the provincial police chief to assign the task force to look at all reported cases and have people responsible arrested and charged. "Sorcery related murders are getting out of hand. The way murders are carried out is inhuman. People are being burnt alive. Others are tied up or put into bags and thrown into big rivers and gorges. These are very scary and painful killings that demand those responsible to be brought to the law," a concerned police superintendent said.

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