In Deo
Henk van Lieshout
Henri Antonius Huberta

By Wim Swüste



Henk was born on 17 December 1933 in Helmond, the Netherlands. On 15 August 1955, he made his first vows in FIC. He left us unexpectedly on 6 February 2022 at Care Home De Beyart in Maastricht.

"Lord, my heart is not proud,
Nor my eyes raised too high.
Neither do I concern myself with great matters,
Nor with things too profound for me.
All my life is aimed at this:
That joy and peace may be my share."

These fragments from the Book of Psalms we heard just now fits in very well with the life of your relative, our fellow Brother, Henk van Lieshout, who we are here to see off for the last time. In him, we lose a sympathetic and sober-living man. Henk was not the kind to boast about his efforts for other people or about anything he did.

When a teacher of the law came to Jesus and asked, what is the greatest commandment, Jesus answers him that a person must not only love God, but also his neighbour. "These two commandments are the most important."
Henk was a man who quietly sought God and sought to stay on God's path. But at the same time he served his neighbours in all humility and gladly:
- The pupils in primary school,
- The students at the teacher training college,
- Caring for his fellow Brothers,
- As a member of local community councils,
- As chairman of the board of the foundation of our Monastic Care Home De Beyart, looking to come to a kind policy,
- As a member of the executive committee of De Beyart, giving attentive care,
- But also as a faithful worker in the copy office at De Beyart,
- And faithfully and elegantly serving in the prayer services in our Chapel.

His efforts and work were like a silent force, always there, never complaining about pains or ill health. And for all of us, relatives and Brothers, his going is a great loss. Especially since his death came as a surprise, in the dark of the night.

Henk grew up in Helmond. And when he went to primary school with the Brothers, the Second World War was just beginning. In sixth form, the Brother who taught him thought him a good candidate for the FIC: a very good student, a good boy from a decent family. Our Brothers had been working in Helmond from 1880, in the monastery where our co-founder Bro. Bernardus Hoecken died that same year while on a visit there.

After discussions between his parents and the then superior of the house, it was arranged that he could start at the Juvenate. So in August 1946, Henk went to Zevenaar and after three years, he moved on to the teacher training college in Maastricht. He was a good student. After gaining his papers as a teacher, he was sent to study Dutch language and literature. He completed that study in 1970.

In those days it was quite usual for Brothers to study and go on working at the same time. Usually, they'd be given a lower form, with less preparation and correction work required. Henk was a dedicated and valued teacher, and very good with the students. In 1995, he applied for early retirement after 40 years as a teacher.

During the holidays, Henk and fellow Brother Anton van der Geest would take a fortnight for holidays. And they'd stick to the vow of poverty, making day trips on their motorbikes. Bro. Cichus Damen would make sure the bikes were well prepared for such trips. And Henk and Anton would make sure they had a good holiday without spending much. They'd take dinner in the kitchen of the Tongerseweg monastery in Maastricht every evening when they came home.

After his retirement, Henk started on a new phase in his life. Quite soon, he was asked to be chairman of the Monastery Care Home Foundation De Beyart. He chaired the meetings in the evenings with a firm hand. Issues, once discussed, would be summarized for the notes. In this apostolate, Henk would work hard to obtain the best care for his fellow Brothers and Sisters. He also arranged for the attics of De Beyart to be renovated into big apartments and hobby rooms. There were a clocks workshop and painting workshops.

For four years he chaired the committee. Every Friday morning there were meetings, with Wim Swüste, Leny Maas, Thomas Bänziger and Henk. Good care and attention for the inhabitants of the Care Home, and for the staff, were his first priority. The four members of the committee shared one habit: they were all smokers! After the meeting, the door was opened and the stairwell filled with white smoke. A bit like the Vatican announcing a new Pope…

For 25 years and more, Henk was always available at the copy shop in one of the cellars of De Beyart. He was always helpful to the aging Sisters and Brothers coming there for copy work. He also saw to the printing of prayer service texts, announcements, lesson materials for the Icons workshop and so on. In a rather clumsy manner he was recently told he had to vacate the copy room, for the creation of a so-called 'Beyart Café'. That was the one time in his life when Henk, always moderate, showed indignation: he got truly angry.

For the Liturgy Group at De Beyart, Henk was indispensable. Faithful until death, he was an acolyte in the Mass, read Gospels and prayers very clearly, and with great care dispensed the communion wafers to the people in Chapel. He always did this work in an elegant manner, quiet and modest.

"Praying is tentatively seeking God in love", it says in the Constitutions. Henk has sought God all his life in this way. He was not a man to show his piety, but in the silence of his room and in our chapel he would search his own motives, to always give better shape to his life as a Brother.

serve in all humility and gladly



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With pain in our hearts for his sudden demise, we may still say these words of the Psalmist have been true for Henk.

Loyal relative, good fellow Brother, rest in well-earned Peace.



1975, Maastricht, closure of teacher training college Tongerseweg. With Bro. Emilio Sanders



Above: 1955, Aloysius school Maastricht

Left: 1961, Paramaribostraat, The Hague

Bottom left: 1967, teachers' football team. Henk 2nd right.

Bottom middle: 1980, 25 years a Brother

Bottom right: 1996, 100 years De Beyart. Henk front right



1980









We are part of your future

Read by sister-in-law

Having to let you go
Having to say goodbye
You, who all our lives were the heart of our existence
You, focus of our lives, now leaving such emptiness.

Having to let you go,
Having to say goodbye today,
Your passing sets us on an unknown road
Your passing changes our lives for good.

Having to let you go
Having to say goodbye
Is unspeakably difficult, touches us deeply
Having to let you go, your body becoming dust.

But who you were to us
What you meant to us
What your strength was,
that we keep in our hearts.

We will go on speaking your name
It will heal our pain
Where we are, there you will be
We are part of your future.













Above left: 1998, Henk handing a commemorative book on De Beyart to Bro. Carloman Smit on the occasion of 15 years Executive Committee De Beyart

Above right: 2012, Mary Ascension Day. With Thimy and Jacques de Poel, Nico Coolen, Han van Wieringen and Wim Swüste

Middle: 2004, Mary Ascension Day. With Grégoire de Wit and Roland Heeren

Bottom left: 2005, 50 years a Brother. With Jan Garnier, Franks Turkenburg and Alwin van Leeuwen

Bottom right: faithful acolyte in prayer services. With Nico Coolen and Aufridus Soudant