

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/8717,Archbishop-Henryk-Hosers-funeral-20-August-2021.html>

26.04.2024, 23:50

20.08.2021

Archbishop Henryk Hoser's funeral – 20 August 2021

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The funeral mass was celebrated by Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, Metropolitan Archbishop of Warsaw. Archbishop Hoser was buried in the crypt of the Warsaw-Praga Cathedral. The funeral ceremony was attended by the IPN's Deputy President Karol Polejowski.

Archbishop Henryk Hoser was born on 27 November 1942 in Warsaw as the son of Halina and Janusz Zabłocki. Both his father and grandfather lost their lives in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. Hoser graduated from the Warsaw Medical Academy in 1966 and joined the Pallotine order two years later. He studied philosophy and theology and was ordained a priest in June 1974.

In the years 1975-1996, Fr. Hoser worked as a missionary in Rwanda. It is worth noting that before leaving for Africa, he attended a Rwandan language course for a year and learned about tropical diseases. In Kigali he founded the Medical-Social Center, leading it for 17 years, and the Family Formation Center (Action Familiale). He was Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Health, and then also of the Episcopal Commission for the Family, President of the Association of Affiliated Medical Centers in Kigali (BUFMAR), Head of an AIDS epidemiological monitoring center and a program of psychological-medical and social assistance to patients. In 1994 he was appointed expert in the field of the family and development at the Special Synod for Africa.

He was in Jerusalem and Warsaw during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, but later returned to the country. In the absence of the Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda, in 1994 Hoser was also appointed Apostolic Visitor to the country, an office which he held for over two years. He

reorganized the local church and nominated new bishops for four of its nine dioceses.

From 1996 to 2004, he served as a Pallotine superior in Belgium and France and a member of the Missionary Council of the Conference of Major Superiors in France. In 2004, he was Rector of the Pallottine Missionary office in Brussels, Belgium, and was involved in pastoral work within the European Community.

In 2005, John Paul II appointed him assistant Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and President of the Pontifical Mission Societies with the rank of Archbishop. In 2008, under Benedict XVI, he became Archbishop-Bishop of the Diocese of Warsaw-Praga. In February 2017, Pope Francis sent him to Medjugorje as a special envoy of the Holy See. The following December, he became bishop emeritus of the Warsaw-Praga Diocese.

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