

**Obituary of our
Sr. M. Anno Hylkema CPS
* 22 November 1929
✠ 2 April 2020**



Johanna Margaretha Hylkema, born on 21 November 1929 in Workum, Diocese of Groningen-Leeuwarden in Friesland, Netherlands, was the daughter of Pieter Hylkema and Fronica Bonekamp. The family had a farm.

Sr. Anno grew up together with three sisters in a practicing Catholic family where the rosary was prayed together in the evenings, as was customary in many Catholic families. The four girls also helped on the farm and could milk cows when needed.

Johanna got to know Tienray and on August 5, 1955 she joined the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood in Tienray.

After her postulancy she received the name "Anno", the baptismal name of Father Titus Brandsma, whom she venerated.

After her First Profession on August 22, 1957 in Tienray, she went to Horst for training and then to Den Bosch for further training, where she completed her training as a needlework teacher. She made her perpetual vows on August 22, 1960 in Tienray.

After successfully completing this training, she received the missionary assignment for Fak-Fak, today's Papua Indonesia.

Here she began her task to give practical lessons for their future to the children from the interior of the country. Together with the other teachers she formed a good team. Sr. Anno was very careful with the available teaching material and therefore after the lessons everything was put on the tables to see if nothing was missing, even the pins were counted! Nothing escaped her notice; if a child wore another child's skirt or blouse, she saw that!

Together with her Frisian fellow sister Sr. Savio Bouma, who took care of the children in the boarding school, she looked after the welfare of the children in Papua.

After years of commitment to this youth, changes in church and society, after consultation with the Congregation and the Diocese, led to the decision that Indonesian sisters would take over the work of the CPS. Thus, the school and boarding school were given to the Franciscan Sisters and the health work to the Sisters of Karl Boromäus.

In 1991 the seven sisters who had worked in Papua, Indonesia, returned to the Netherlands. Sister Anno initially worked in the household in Tienray, but was later asked if she was ready to go to Papua New Guinea, where a void had been created by the death of Sister Paul Marie van den Heijkant. In May 1993 Sr. Anno was welcomed with open arms in Lae, Papua New Guinea! The Diocese of Lae was very

grateful for all the years of involvement in the Bulolo parish, where she organized and ran sewing workshops for women and girls, and where the women could earn some wages as well.

In October 1999 she returned to the Netherlands and received a new missionary assignment; the Kingdom of God knows no boundaries. The seminary in 's- Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, was waiting for her, where she supported her fellow sisters in the household.

On September 19, 2007, after eight years of service for the Diocese of 's- Hertogenbosch, Sr. Anno came to our community of the Missionary Monastery of the Holy Blood in Aarle-Rixtel, Netherlands. Here too, she took on many small and large ministries; she rang the bell for prayer, promoted the weekly gym class with her fellow sisters, took care of the small attentions at name days or birthdays; prayed at meals and took care of table reading; helped with folding and sorting laundry; did handicrafts for the small convent shop and did many other, still unknown ministries. She also remained very attached to her family and was grateful that she could celebrate her ninetieth birthday together with her physical sisters.

World news becomes different when it affects us directly. The Covid 19 Corona virus took Sr. Anno away from us quite quickly and unexpectedly. After the test she was transferred to the corona care unit in Helmond, where she died.

Sr. Anno, the Lord cannot be surpassed in His generosity and that is why we know that you are safe in God's hands and love.

Sister Anno, rest in God's Father's house.