

Archbishop Henryk Hoser, S.A.C

Biography



Archbishop Henry Hoser was born Nov. 27, 1942 in Warsaw Poland. In 1966, he completed his medical studies at the Warsaw University of Medicine, and subsequently worked as a doctor. In 1969 he joined the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallotine Order) and was ordained a priest on June 16, 1974.

For the next 20 years, Archbishop Hoser served as a missionary in Rwanda. A significant part of his ministry in Rwanda involved overseeing a Medical-Social Center in Kigali for 17 years, which he also founded. In 1994, the Vatican appointed Archbishop Hoser as Apostolic Visitor to the country of Rwanda, a post which he held for two years, pending the appointment of a Papal Nuncio for Rwanda.

Pope John Paul made Hoser an Archbishop in 2005 and appointed him Secretary Adjunct of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and President of the Pontifical Missions Society. On June 28, 2008, Pope Benedict appointed Archbishop Hoser as bishop of Warsaw-Prague, Poland, a post which he held until his retirement, on December 8, 2017.

ARCHBISHOP HOSER AND MEDJUGORJE

On February 11, 2017, the Vatican Announced that Pope Francis named Archbishop Henryk Hoser as Special Envoy to Medjugorje:

“On February 11, 2017, the Holy Father entrusted Archbishop Henryk Hoser, S.A.C., bishop of Warsaw-Prague (Poland), to go to Medjugorje as special envoy of the Holy See. The mission has the aim of acquiring a deeper knowledge of the pastoral situation there and above all, of the needs of the faithful who go there in pilgrimage...”

***SECRETARIAT OF STATE PRESS COMMUNIQUE:
SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE HOLY SEE NAMED FOR MEDJUGORJE***

As the Vatican Press Release made clear, Archbishop Hoser's mission as Papal Envoy was to assess the pastoral needs of Medjugorje, for the purpose of future planning, so that the needs of the millions of pilgrims who travel to Medjugorje, can be better met.

Archbishop Hoser's role as Papal Envoy ended in May, 2017, when he submitted his report to the Vatican. On May 31, 2018, he was appointed by Pope Francis as Apostolic Visitor to Medjugorje, for an undetermined period of time:

“On 31 May 2018 the Holy Father appointed H.E. Msgr. Henryk Hoser, S.A.C., archbishop-bishop emeritus of Warszawa-Praga, Poland, as special apostolic visitor for the parish of Medjugorje, for an undefined period and at nutum Sanctae Sedis...”

***HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE COMMUNIQUE:
APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL APOSTOLIC VISITOR FOR THE PARISH OF MEDJUGORJE***

July 22, 2018, in a ceremony attended by the Papal Nuncio of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Msgr. Luigi Pezzuto, Hoser begins his mandate as Apostolic Visitor for the parish of Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina. As such, he reports directly to the Holy Father.

WORDS FROM ARCHBISHOP HOSER

“We call Her here, the Queen of Peace. ... Therefore, that honoring, so intensive here, is of the greatest importance and is necessary to the whole world. ... We need a Heavenly intervention. The presence of our Blessed Virgin Mary – that is this intervention. It is God's initiative. ... Therefore, I would like to encourage and fortify all of you, on behalf of the Pope, as his Emissary ... Those who come here discover something extraordinary ...They discover a huge range of profound spirituality. We can see that devotion in Medjugorje is very Christ-centered,”

“Medjugorje is a very fertile land from a religious perspective. In these years we can count 610 religious and priesthood vocations born in Medjugorje. ... When we are aware of the crisis of vocations ... it is clear that there is something new here, something remarkable.”

“The specific role of Medjugorje is extremely important here. ... You, my dear friends, should be the carriers of the joyful news. Say to the whole world that in Medjugorje we can find the light again. We need those special places of light in the world that is sinking into darkness.”

MEDJUGORJE.HR

“Specifically, I think it’s possible to recognize the authenticity of the first [seven] apparitions as proposed by the Ruini commission,” Hoser said. “Besides, it is difficult to get another verdict, because it’s difficult to believe that six seers will lie for 36 years. What they say has been consistent. They are not mentally incompetent. A strong argument for the authenticity of the apparitions is their faithfulness to the doctrine of the Church ... In any event, this movement will not stop and should not be stopped, because of the good fruit that grows out of it,” Hoser said. “It is one of the most alive places of prayer and conversion in Europe - and has a healthy spirituality.”

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In his homily, Archbishop Hoser spoke about why people come to Medjugorje: “Pilgrims come to Medjugorje from faraway regions, from approximately 80 countries of the world. . . ,” he said. “. . . Let us now ask the fundamental question: Why do so many people come to Medjugorje every year? The clear answer is this: they come to meet someone, to meet God, to meet Christ, to meet His Mother. And then to discover the path that leads to the joy of living in the house of the Father and of the Mother; and ultimately to discover the Marian way as the more certain and sure one. This is the path of the Marian devotion that has been taking place here for years.” Later in his homily, Archbishop Hoser said, “This is what the people’s devotion in Medjugorje looks like: in the center is the Holy Mass, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the sacrament of Reconciliation. And all of this followed by other forms of devotion: the Rosary and the Way of the Cross, which have turned what in the beginning used to be sharp stones into smooth paths.”

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“I would highly recommend it. I would say that it is the pilgrimage of spiritual change, conversion, and strengthening of faith – you can experience all of that there.”

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ARCHBISHOP HENRYK HOSER MEDJUGORJE.HR

Archbishop Henryk Hoser, upon his arrival in Medjugorje to begin his first mandate there, as Papal Envoy. To his left is the pastor of St. James, Fr. Marinko Šakota, and to his right is the Provincial of the Franciscans in Herzegovina, Fr. Miljenko Šteko.