



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Hague, 30th December 2023

N. 301/23

Reverend Monsignor,

Following the passing away of His Excellency Mgr. Hendrikus Smeets, Bishop emeritus of Roermond, the Holy See asked me to forward you the following message:

THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR RENÉ MAESSEN
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR OF ROERMOND

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS WAS DEEPLY SADDENED TO BE INFORMED OF THE DEATH OF BISHOP EMERITUS HENDRIKUS SMEETS, AND HE SENDS CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND TO THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND LAY FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE. RECALLING WITH GRATITUDE HIS YEARS OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY, AND ESPECIALLY HIS PATIENT WITNESS TO GOD'S PROVIDENCE DURING THESE YEARS OF ILL-HEALTH, HIS HOLINESS JOINS THOSE GATHERED FOR THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL IN ENTRUSTING THE LATE BISHOP'S SOUL TO THE LOVING MERCY OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. TO ALL WHO MOURN HIS LOSS, PARTICULARLY HIS FAMILY, THE HOLY FATHER CORDIALLY IMPARTS HIS BLESSING AS A PLEDGE OF CONSOLATION AND SERENITY IN CHRIST THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN
SECRETARY OF STATE

While informing you of the above, I join you and all the faithful of Roermond Diocese and pray that our Heavenly Father, through the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may bestow onto Bishop Harrie Smeets eternal joy and happiness, the reward promised to his faithful servants.

Yours in Christ,

+ Paul Tasey
A.P.N.

Reverend Mgr. René Maessen
Diocesan Administrator of Roermond
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