

## **Fr Stavros paid tribute to Ton Hanrath**

In July of 2007, we were all very saddened and grieved by the news that Ton Hanrath of the Netherlands died at the age of 49 in a fatal automobile accident while travelling with his family in France.

Ton was one of the founding members of the consultations for hospital chaplaincies that began in 1990. Together with Roel Hekking, he organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Consultation in Oirschot, the Netherlands, in September 1994, which had as its theme: *“The relationship between ministerial and professional competence regarding the quality standard of Hospital Chaplaincy”*. Attending this Consultation were 24 participants from 15 countries. Ton continued playing a leading role in the consultations of Bath, England (1996) and Rome (1998). At the historic consultation that took place in Crete in 2000, Ton posed the need to form a network which would formally bring European Chaplaincies together.

Throughout his deep concern for the advancement of chaplaincy in Europe, Ton accentuated the need for professionalism and high standards of all spiritual care givers. His insistence on high quality care was a momentum in forming the Standards of Health Care Chaplaincy in Europe.

Within his own country, the Netherlands, he was instrumental in forming the multi-cultural aspect of spiritual health care.

May his memory be eternal!