

Salesians of Don Bosco

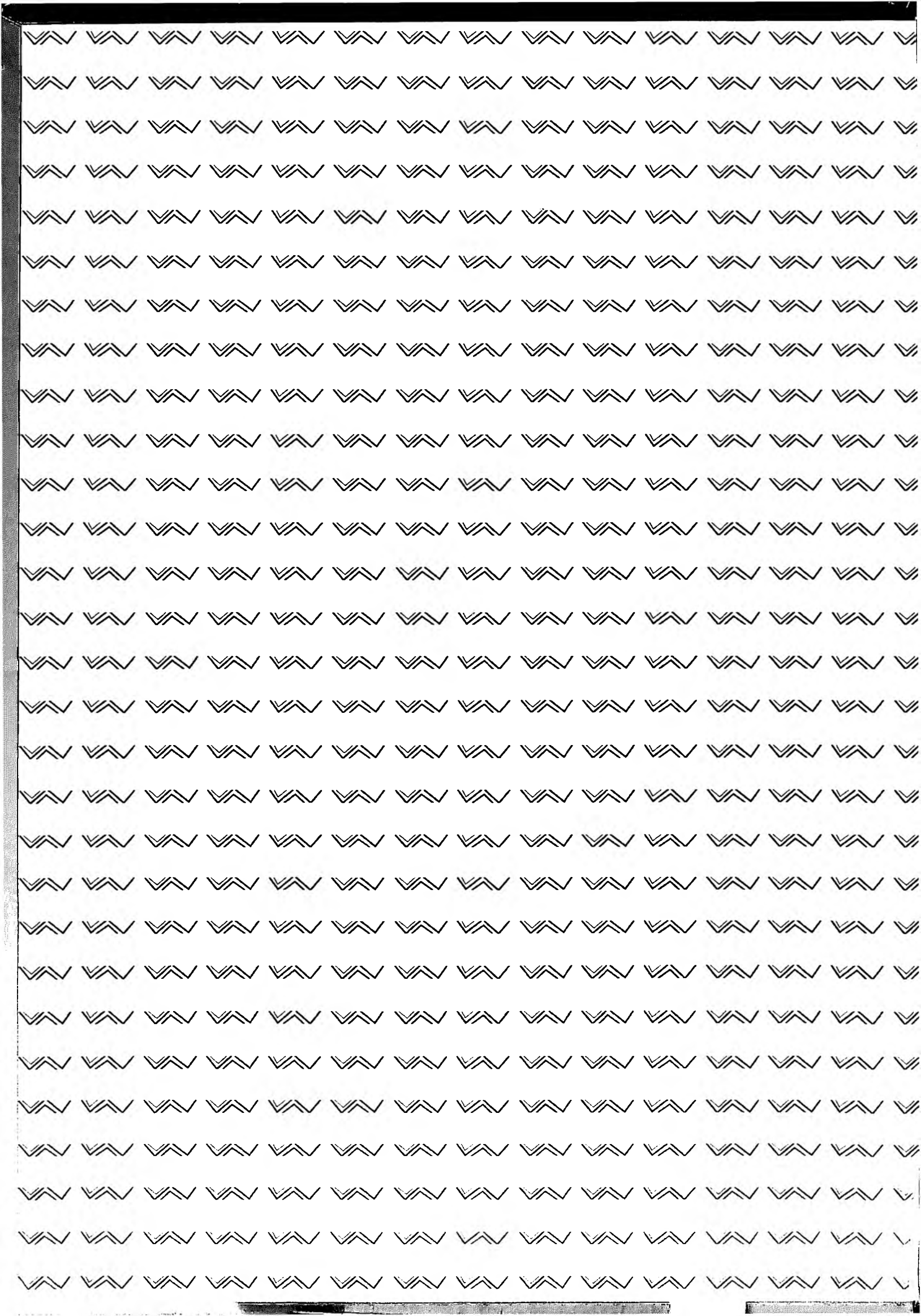
ZMB Vice Province



Mary Help of Christians

On the Occasion
of the Silver Jubilee









Text

Fr Boyrczka Peter, sdb
Fr Czerwinski Joseph, sdb
Br Thyrniang Walter, sdb
Fr Malama Luis, sdb

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Fr Barrientos Antonio, sdb
Mr Daka Stephan

Photographs

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Druk i oprawa:



Poligrafia Inspektoratu Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego
ul. Konfederacka 6, 30-306 Kraków
tel. (+48) 12 266 40 00, fax (+48) 12 269 02 84
e-mail: poligrafia@salezjanie.net

ZMB

Silver

Jubilee

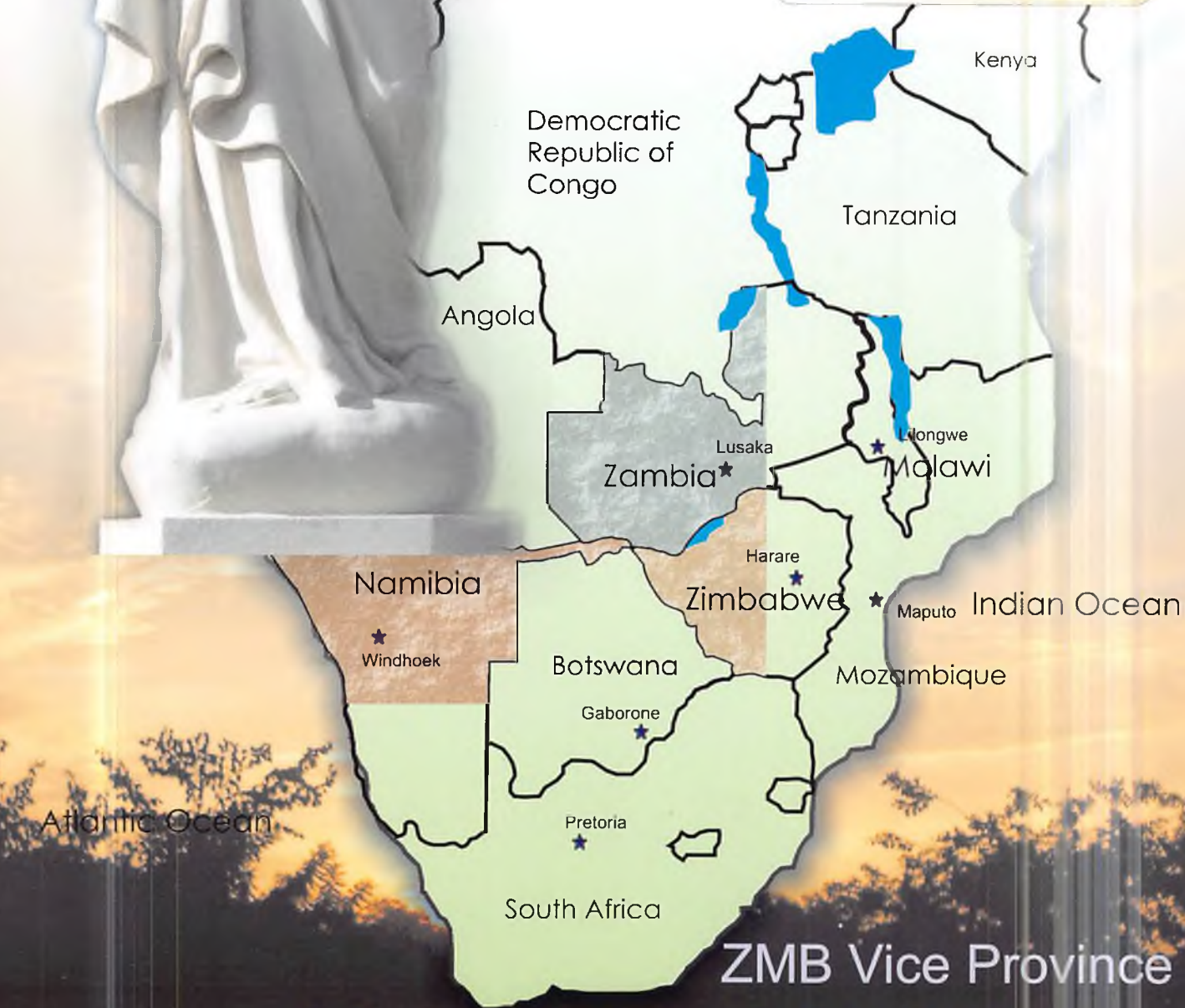




The dream continues...



Near or far
I always think of you.
It's my greatest desire
to see you happy in this life
and in the next...



ZMB Vice Province
Mary Help of Christians



Legend

Youth Centre	Parish	Pre-Noviciate
Agricultural School	Provincial House	
Technical School	Boarding	





**Fr Kazimierz Cichecki, sdb
(1918-2000)**

Founder of the Salesian Presence in ZMB



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INTRODUCTION

By Fr Francis Alencherry, sdb
Councillor of the Salesian Missions

The celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Salesian presence in the Vice Province of ZMB is indeed an occasion to rejoice over past achievements as well as to look forward with the spirit of thankfulness.

Twenty-five years ago when the first group of Salesians arrived in Zambia from Poland, one could not have foreseen the way things would develop. There were many challenges to be faced, problems to be resolved. New languages had to be learnt, new mentalities had to be understood and assimilated, new cultures had to be discovered and personalized.

In course of time Salesian presences spread to Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Today the thirteen Salesian presences in the four countries together form a vibrant Vice Province with a variety of services to the young and to the poor. Most of the houses are well set up and consolidated, while the others are in the process of being set up on surer foundations. New initiatives are being undertaken so that the service to the poor and disadvantaged youth may reach out to the maximum number possible. There is dynamism in the apostolate and the various sectors of activity are getting organized at the provincial level. There is also a steady flow of local vocations and within the next 25 years the leadership of the Vice Province will certainly be passed on to the local confreres. All in all there is a lot to thank God for. He has indeed done marvellous things in and through the Salesian charisma in the Vice Province of ZMB.

Looking forward to the future, may be to the Golden Jubilee, one could dream of a Province that is still more vibrant and dynamic, growing rapidly and expanding to the different corners of the four countries. The realization of such a dream will depend on the extent to which the new generations of Salesians imbibe and personalise the genuine Salesian spirit to give

themselves unreservedly to the cause of evangelization and education of youth, particularly of those who are poor and marginalised. It will also depend on the extent to which all Salesians learn to involve lay people in order to create a vast movement of people, as did Don Bosco, for the extension and realization of the Salesian charisma in every setting. Only a tree that has deep roots can withstand the violent storms that assault it and spread its branches far and wide. The Salesian charism too can weather the storms caused by adverse social contingencies and grow in a consistent way only if the roots of faith and the Salesian spirit of the Salesians are truly deep and draw constant nourishment from the Word of God and the Salesian tradition.

This Silver Jubilee is being celebrated as we are preparing for the 26th General Chapter and the theme of the chapter, *Da mihi animas cetera tolle*, is being studied in all the provinces. All Salesians are invited to rediscover Don Bosco's passion for evangelization and the salvation of souls, particularly of the young. Recommitting ourselves to the cause of genuine evangelization and integral education with the same passion that Don Bosco himself had, is the guarantee of our rejuvenation as a congregation and as individual communities in a province.

Men of deep faith and dedicated pastoral charity in imitation of Don Bosco will make the Vice Province of Zambia-Zimbabwe-Malawi-Namibia the more vibrant and dynamic Salesian province that it hopes to become and always remain. Mary Help of Christians, the Madonna of Don Bosco, will accompany the Salesians of this Vice Province in their search for and commitment to authenticity, relevance, apostolic effectiveness and dynamic fidelity.





1. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EVANGELISATION IN AFRICA

By Fr. J. Czerwinski, sdb

As John Paul II stated in his Apostolic Exhortation *'Ecclesia in Africa'* the story of Christianity in Africa is at the same time a story of birth and growth of the Church itself.¹ First ages of Christianity brought about evangelization of Egypt and whole the Northern Africa. Later on in the fifteenth and sixteenth century, the regions south of the Sahara were evangelised. The last two centuries marked an extraordinary missionary effort which produced indeed 'a bountiful harvest' and rapid expansion of Christianity on the African continent.

1.1 First stage

The beginning of Christianity in Northern Africa dates back to the times of the apostles and is traditionally connected to St. Mark the Evangelist, who spread the Good News in Alexandria and became the first Bishop of that vibrant ancient city. From the second to the fifth century, the Christian way of life in Northern Africa was incredibly intense, and the first African Christians were the avant-garde of theological thought and literature. There comes to mind names of great writers and doctors of the Church, like Origen, St Atanasius, St Cyril, St Cyprian and Tertulian, and most of all – St Augustine, as one of the most distinguished representatives of Christian thought. This flourishing Christianity was seriously damaged through the great migrations in the fifth century and finally eclipsed by rapidly spreading Islam in the sixth and seventh century. Remembering the glorious days of Christianity in Africa, one has to feel great respect for the Orthodox Churches which do not share full unity with us: Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, Coptic Church of Egypt and Church of Ethiopia. They share with the Catholic Church common

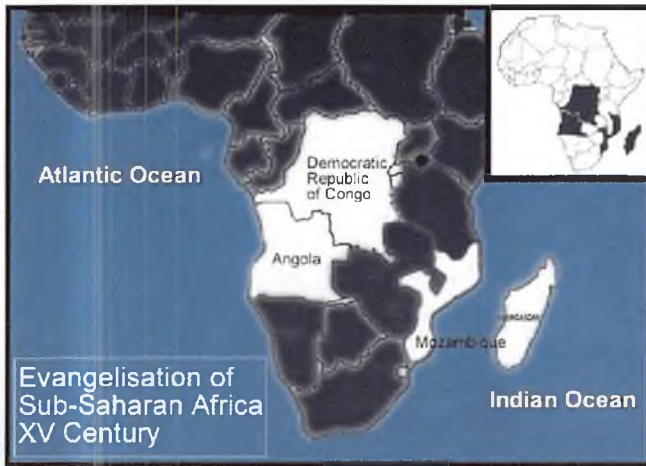


origins together with the doctrinal and spiritual legacy of the great Fathers of the Church, who came from their territories as well as from the whole of early church.² They did and suffered much to preserve the Christian name in Africa throughout the ages.

1.2 Second stage

Following geographical discoveries, and in particular the route to India, Portuguese explorers founded ports along the African coasts south of the Sahara. Those were followed by missions run by missionaries from Portugal and other European countries. Increasing evangelization processes took place in today's Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Mozambique, and Madagascar. The first significant missionary expedition landed in Pinda, at the mouth of the Zaire River in 1491, giving impetus to a true missionary era. Congo, Angola and Mozambique experienced great development of missions. It brought about the establishment of parishes and bishoprics and culminated in the consecration by Pope Leon X in Rome of





Bishop Henrique, son of Alfonso I - the king of Congo. Later on Benedict XV created the De Propaganda Fide Congregation to allow for smoother organization and development of the missions.³

Due to various causes (*geographical, social, cultural, etc.*), the second stage of the evangelization of Africa ended in the eighteenth century. The majority of missions south of the Sahara collapsed and were eventually abandoned.

1.3 Third stage

The nineteenth century, a period of exceptional advancement in all aspects of science, humanism and religion, was also a time of systematic evangelization of Africa. The partitioning of Africa at a Berlin Conference in 1884-85 (so-called 'Scramble for Africa') among European powers resulted in its rapid colonization. Together with government officials followed brave missionaries. Many religious congregations, whose main call was the missions, were born: Verbists, Xaverians, Consolata, Comboni and White Fathers (Missionaries of Africa) founded by Card. K. Lavigerie for evangelization of Africa. Particularly White Fathers to a large degree enabled intensive development of Christianity in Eastern and Southern Africa. They were to study local culture and customs and gradually prepare the Africans for embracing Christianity. It was a very fruitful tactic indeed. Christianity and the Catholic Church experienced vital growth on the whole continent. Missionaries in the front lines were also backed by the Vatican. Pope Benedict XV, known as '*Missionary Pope*', issued a famous encyclical '*Maximum Illud*' which is regarded as a ground breaking document regarding missions and evangelization.⁴

This wonderful growth of the Church in Africa was to a large measure a fruit of heroic and selfless dedication of whole generations of missionaries. In all of Africa - from Cairo to Cape Town - there can be found graves of brave preachers of the Gospel. Pope Paul VI spoke about it during his trip to Uganda in 1969, "*... You, Africans, are already missionaries of yourselves. The Church of Christ has indeed been rooted in this blessed soil. We have to fulfil a certain duty: we have to remember those who - already before you - and now still with you - proclaimed the Gospel in Africa. The Holy Bible tells us: 'Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith!' (Hbr 13, 7) We can not forget this past history which bestows upon the local church its authenticity and generosity; its 'apostolic' character. This history is a story of love, heroism, and sacrifice which from the beginning made the African church great and holy...*"⁵

Today the young African church, despite serious difficulties, develops in a dynamic way and defends - as much as she is able to - the fundamental rights and dignity of African men and women.





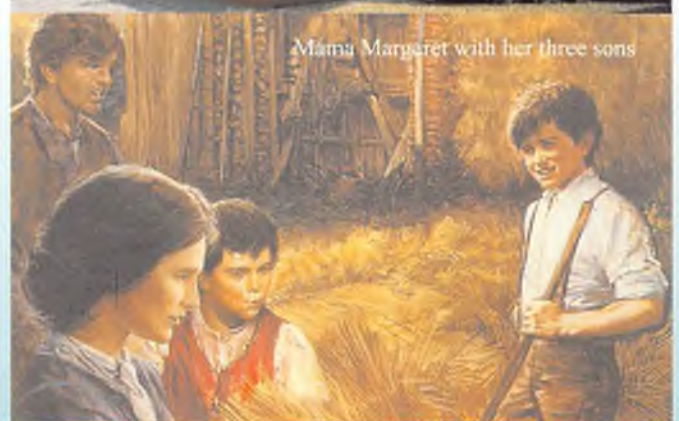
2. DON BOSCO AND SALESIANS

On August 16th 1815, in a small hamlet called Becchi, in Northern Italy, the third son was born to a very pious Catholic couple, Margaret Ochienna and Francis Bosco who were married for 5 years. The times were rather difficult for the poor peasants as the frequent wars and movement of military troops of different origins brought a lot of insecurity, fear and even famine.

On top of that in 1817, Francis Bosco died and the small family was left without a father and the main bread provider. In spite of this difficult situation, Margaret Bosco did not go into despair. On the contrary, trusting even more in God's providence, she offered herself and her family to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary while working more and bringing up three young boys in the pious and good family atmosphere.

The love of God, trust in the helping hand of our Lady - Mary Help of Christians and love of the young people were for young John the road signs, telling him of the mission that he was supposed to carry out. The important and wonderful dream he had at the age of nine strengthened his conviction and showed him the way to work with young people. The assistance and help from his mother Margaret as well as his strong faith and trust in God's providence helped him to cope with the material poverty at his family home and hard work in farming. Later on, the same strong faith and encouragement from Mama Margaret inspired him to finish the school and enter the seminary in Chieri (1835-41). After his ordination in 1841, his love towards the young people opened his heart to the difficult situation facing boys from Turin. In this modern, industrialized city many immigrants from the nearby villages were looking for their fortunes and *'dream lives'*. However, the harsh reality was altogether different. Poor, illiterate, unprepared young people were vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and crimes. For them Don Bosco organized the holiday celebrations in a friendly family atmosphere. He repeated over and over again that: *'God loves the young people'* and *'the young are not bad at their very self'*. In this way the oratory of St. Francis de Sales was born. It was a home for the boys, school, playground, and parish as well. The family spirit based on reason, religion and loving-kindness prevailing in the oratory was the fruit of the educational system applied by Don Bosco which he called a preventive system.

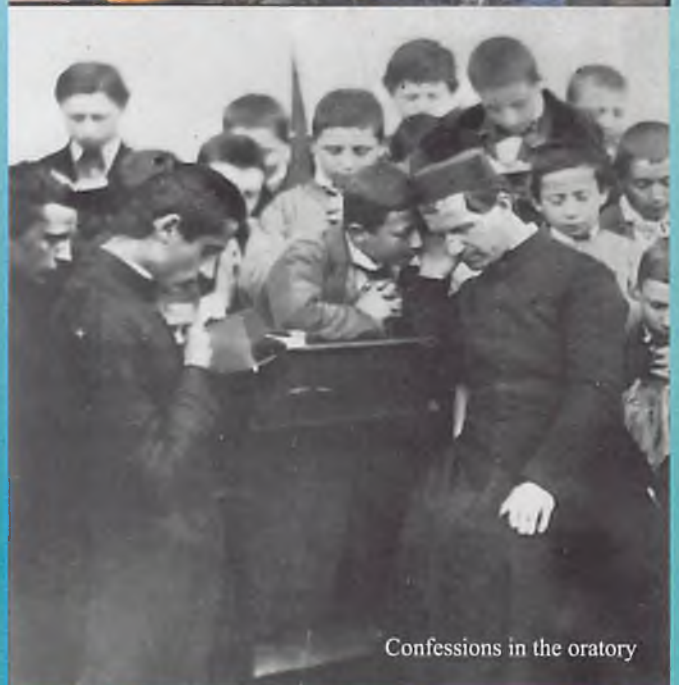
On December 18th 1859, on the advice of Pope Pius IX, fourteen young men, once his boys, who had become his helpers, made their first vows as the first members of the Salesian Society. Don Bosco called them



Mama Margaret with her three sons



Oratory in Turin



Confessions in the oratory



St. M. Domenica Mazzarello (1837- 1881)

Basilica of Mary Help of Christians
in Turin, build by Don Bosco

'SALESIANS' after the St. Francis de Sales, whom he had always admired for his gentleness, kindness and religious zeal. The congregation was approved by the Holy See in 1869.

In 1872, Don Bosco together with St. Mary Mazzarello founded the congregation of the Salesian Sisters – Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, and in 1876, the Pious Association of Salesian Cooperators.

The society grew rapidly as Don Bosco opened more and more schools and oratories throughout Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Poland, England and other countries. In 1875, Don Bosco sent his first missionaries to Argentina and later on, the Salesians spread throughout the world. Although Don Bosco was a tremendous worker he was also a man of deep faith with complete trust in God's providence. This saintly priest worked many miracles among the Christian faithful, restoring the broken health and drawing many others to God through the sacrament of reconciliation.

On the 31st of January 1888, Don Bosco departed to eternity for his well deserved heavenly reward. His last words were characteristic of his whole life: *"Tell my boys that I shall be waiting for them in heaven"*.

3. SALESIAN IDENTITY.

In 1854, Don Bosco wrote the words that in a simple way explain who the Salesians are: *"Ut filios Dei qui erant dispersi congregaret in unum"*. *The Gospel of St. John teaches us that the Son of God came on the earth to gather the scattered children of God. Today these words apply mainly to the young... The young need to see the stretched, caring hand which will take care of them, guide them towards the good and protect them from evil. This was the mission of the Son of God, to gather together the scattered children of God. The same is being done today by spreading God's holy religion throughout the world"*.⁶ It was with this aim that Don Bosco formed the oratory and together with his helpers established the Salesian Congregation. The congregation has the mission of leading the young people, especially the poor and needy, to the Kingdom of God – the Father. In doing so, in their approach with the young, the Salesians follow the example of kindness and zeal shown and practised by St. Francis de Sales and follow a program of life expressed in a motto: *"Da mihi animas cetera tolle"*. (Give me souls take the rest). This searching for souls (salvation of the young person) and serving God is done with love, kindness and apostolic enthusiasm following the footsteps of our father and



founder - Don Bosco.

Such a style of life and conduct is called the Salesian spirit. It is summoned up and centred in pastoral charity. Its particular manifestation is the educational system of Don Bosco, called the Preventive System. Salesians perceive it not only as the efficient educational method, but also as an inspiration for the way they live and act.

Finally, Salesians fulfill their mission living and working in brotherly communities. While responding to God's call, asking them to follow Christ the Good Shepherd closely, in order to carry out the love of God to the young, they fulfill their mission in a communitarian way following the example of the first community established at Valdocco in Turin by Don Bosco. All the confreres share their joys and sorrows, affluence and shortages in a family spirit which permeates their life of work, prayer, meals and rest.

4. PROJECT AFRICA

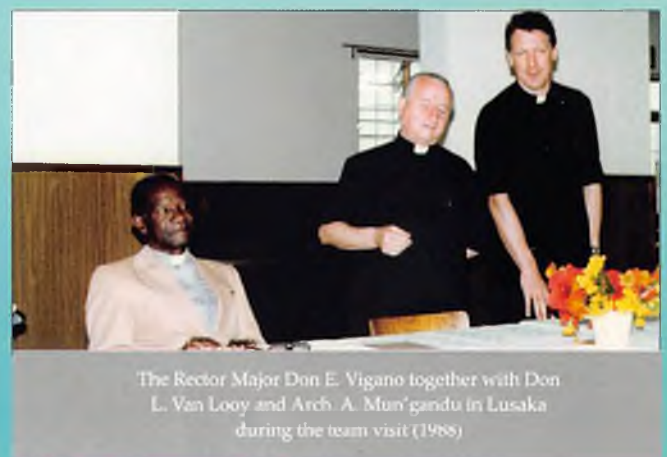
Missions in Africa were very dear to Don Bosco. Even though he never went to the missions himself, and he did not send any missionary expeditions in his lifetime, the idea of evangelizing the 'Black Land' was still always alive in his heart. In 1886, he said: *"Missions, especially those in Africa, are very dear to me... If I were young, I would take Don Rua with me and I would say to him: "Come, let us go to the Cape of Good Hope, Nigeria, Khartoum, and the Congo; better still, to Suakin (in*

Sudan) as Monsignor Sogaro suggests, because the air is good there."

The successor of Don Bosco Don Rua – and later Don Albera realized his dreams. In 1891, Salesians came to Algeria, in 1894 to Tunisia, and in 1896 to Egypt and Republic of South Africa. Despite a fairly promising start, the Salesian presence in Africa was minimal compared with other continents. In the late seventies, Salesians were present in 13 countries with some 330 confreres.

4.1 GENERAL CHAPTER 21

In 1978, during one of the final sessions of the Salesian General Chapter 21 in Rome, an intervention by a delegate from Central African Province – Fr Jacques Ntamitalizo, gave birth to 'Project Africa'. His motion to intensify the Salesian missionary effort in Africa impressed all the present delegates. Fr Karl Oerder, the then moderator of the session, wrote: *"...Fr Jacques Ntamitalizo, the only black African, the delegate from the Central African Province, timidly raised his hand to await permission to speak, but he did not hold out much hope as there were so many ahead of him. The Rector Major, Fr E. Vigano, sitting beside the moderating committee, whispered to me: "Give him the floor immediately" Fr Ntamitalizo got up and made a short speech in which he underlined how indispensable and important it was that the Salesians would work in many African countries. There was a short embarrassed silence, since no one had expected this intervention. After that, Fr Vigano intervened and enthusiastically explained the importance of Fr Ntamitalizo's request both for the continent of Africa and for the Congregation. This occasioned great applause, which*



The Rector Major Don E. Vigano together with Don L. Van Looy and Arch. A. Mun'gandu in Lusaka during the team visit (1988)



lasted a good while... and that is how 'Project Africa' was born...¹

The Rector Major recognized immediately the importance of the project and supported it wholeheartedly. He was convinced that *'Project Africa'* was a response to an inspiration from on high: "Project Africa is for us Salesians a Grace from God. Allow me, friends of the Salesian Family, to formulate this solemn affirmation. I am convinced of it and I would like all of you to share this conviction" Following the Chapter, Fr Vigano made the two journeys to Africa in order to see the situation and talk to the confreres working there already. After these two journeys Don Vigano wrote a letter entitled *"Our African Commitment"* (ASC 297) which can rightly be considered the official manifesto for *'The Project Africa'*.² In this letter, Rector Major explained to the Salesian Family, the motives, criteria and different aspects of the Project. In order to speed up the preparation, the special commission was called in order to prepare recommendations and a detailed plan for launching the missionary project in Africa. The commission's proposals were analysed by General Council and approved by the end of 1978. African

countries were allocated to specified provinces which agreed to organize missionary expeditions. Four Polish provinces were entrusted with evangelization in Zambia, and a few years later, in Uganda.

Decisions of the Chapter regarding *'Project Africa'* were very positively received by the Vatican which in large measure was interested in the development of missions in Africa and helped to contact local African Bishops.



¹EA 30 ²EA 31 ³EA 32 ⁴PA 2, p. 13 ⁵EA 34

⁶Salezjanic, p. 12 ⁷MB 18, p. 142 ⁸PA 5, p. 41 ⁹PA 4, p. 28



Lusaka (Zambia) Team visit with the Rector Major don Egidio Vigano 1988



By Fr Peter Boryczka, sdb

5.1. PREPARATION FOR THE MISSION IN ZAMBIA



Fr Augustyn Dzieziel, SDB

Fr Augustyn Dzieziel, a special delegate of the Rector Major for Poland, was given the responsibility of organizing a Salesian presence in Zambia in a close cooperation with all four Polish provincials. One of the most important tasks at that stage was to find confreres who would be ready to take up the

challenge of going as missionaries to a country in Africa where very little was known to them. The *"hunting"* began. It seems that it went quite well, despite some minor hiccups. By the end of June 1981, the group of confreres was almost complete. During a big religious celebration at the Marian Shrine of Rozanystok, the Rector Major Fr E. Vigano announced that the Polish Salesians would be going to Zambia, possibly in the next year, and that Fr Kazimierz Cichecki would head the group. By that announcement, the project got a big boost and became an almost non-reversible reality.

Zambia, a former British colony, has English as its official language. So those who volunteered to go there as missionaries, had to learn some English before going. Most of us never learned it while attending primary and secondary schools. At that time, Poland was a communist state and the students had to learn the language of their "big brother" – the Soviet Union for 8 or 9 years. Fr Bronislaw Kant, the director of the Salesian Mission Centre in Warsaw, which was established in 1980, organized an English course for a few weeks in Lutomiersk. That was the first time we could actually meet as a group and get to know each other. The course was quite intensive and after its end we were ready to fly to London. The date of departure was set: the 1st of September 1981. For many of us, it was the first trip to the "West" and the first experience of flying on a plane.

The following would be missionaries in Zambia arriving in London on that day: Fr Joseph Bem, Fr John Bernas, Fr Peter Boryczka, Fr Casimir Cichecki, Fr Paul Dziaukiewicz, Fr Tadeusz Molendowski, Fr Stanislaw Juszczyk, Fr Eugene Szmyt, Fr Joseph Koszewnik, Fr Henry Sak, and Fr Louis Karczewski.

Frs. Paul, Tadeusz, Stanislaw and myself were accommodated at the general house of the Mill-Hill Missionaries (MHM) in the north of London while the remaining confreres made their home in a Salesian house at Battersea. Soon after, we were all enrolled at the Hammersmith College and began serious studies of the English language. For most of us, it was again a new experience of being in a multinational and multicultural group of students, young and more advanced in age. It was like in that film *"Mind your language."* Some of the interesting observations from that time of our studies were the situations when we, as students, could somehow communicate in English among ourselves, but not with our teachers. Those of us who were staying at Mill-Hill had to travel to the college, which was quite a



The Pope gives the missionary crosses
to the First Salesian
Missionaries to Zambia (1982)



long distance away. We were traveling one way by bus for two or three hours and sometimes even more. Coming back to Mill-Hill was always a problem because of the heavy traffic. Fr Paul and myself had enough of it and so we looked for another way of learning the language. After finishing a second term at the college, we arranged a private course with a retired teacher (a religious sister), who stayed just few hundred meters away from the general house of MHM. Around that time, Fr Joseph Koszewnik withdrew from the group and went back to Poland. While in England, we met Br Jan Orysiuk, who himself went as a missionary to Zambia a few years later. The time of our stay in London was quickly coming to an end. Some of us left England in May, and others in June.

During the 1982 summer holiday, we were very busy with the final preparations for the big journey to the still very little known to us Zambia. This time Fr Joseph Ojczyk, and Stan Jagodziński, a seminarian, joined our group. Fr Joseph did not go with us to England because he already had good English. Fr Kant and Fr Dziędział

organized some kind of "sending off" ceremony in Różanystok and the main one in Oświęcim. During those celebrations we were given missionary crosses. Each one of us also had similar "good-bye" celebrations in our home parishes and the parishes of our work. In the first week of September, we left Poland for Italy to attend a missionary course there, and to participate in the traditional ceremony of sending out the Salesian missionary expeditions, which takes place every year in Turin.

We were also very happy to individually receive our crosses and a blessing from the Holy Father John Paul II. Our flight to Lusaka was booked for the 10th of October, but due to some problems with Zambia Airways, it was delayed by one day. Actually, we were happy with the delay as we could attend the canonization Mass of Blessed Maximilian Maria Kolbe. On Monday the 11th of October late at night, we finally left Rome for Lusaka with one stop at the Larnaka International Airport on a Cyprus Island.



Rome (Italy) First missionary expedition to Zambia gathered at the General House in Pisana



5.2. The arrival and first months in Zambia.

On Tuesday the 12th of October 1982, just after midday, our plane landed safely at Lusaka International Airport. Soon after, we were welcomed by a wave of very hot air and strong sunshine. The first taste of Africa was indeed hot and the welcome very glittering. Fr Vincent Cichecki SJ, who is a younger brother of Fr Casimir Cichecki took care of our arrival in Zambia, helped us with all the immigration formalities and took us all to the Jesuits novitiate, where we had comfortable accommodation. At that time, Fr Augustin Dziędziel, who accompanied us all the way from Poland through Italy to Zambia, announced probable places of our future missionary work in the country; Fr Bem, Fr Działkiewicz and Fr Molendowski would go to Chingola, Fr Cichecki, Fr Ojczyk and Fr Szmyt to Luwingu, Fr Bernaś, Fr Juszczyk and myself to Kazembe. Frs Karczewski and Sak would go immediately to Maheba Camp for refugees from Angola, in the diocese of Solwezi. Both of them were missionaries in Brazil before so they knew the Portuguese language, which was also spoken by the refugees in Maheba. One or two days after our arrival in Lusaka, we left the capital city for the places of our future work, just to see them. Fr Bernaś, Fr Juszczyk and myself went to Mansa, over 800 km north of Lusaka.

The Bishop of Mansa, James Spaita, received us very warmly. He invited us to celebrate Mass with him on the coming Sunday in the cathedral. And so, barely five days after our arrival in Zambia, we already celebrated a Mass in the local language, Ci-Bemba. During those days we had a chance of visiting a few parishes in the Diocese and to meet many White Fathers-missionaries. It was a very good and interesting time for us - the newcomers. A seminarian, Stanislaw Jagodzinski, went to the Chilubula mission to learn English in view of his future studies. One of the White Sisters was his teacher. After staying for almost one year in Zambia, he went to England to resume his studies for priesthood. A few years later, after the ordination, Fr Stan returned to Zambia.

At the end of October, nine of us arrived at the Ilondola mission, run by the White Fathers, in the then diocese of Mbala. It was to be our home for over four months. The mission is far out in the bush, without electricity or telephones and some other essentials of daily life. We were put there to study a course in a local language, Ci-Bemba, widely spoken in the country. The course began on the 1st of November. Fr Louis Oger was the director of the course. Besides the Salesians, there were also other student priests and two lay volunteers (a couple) from Scandinavia. It is usually very hot at that time of year in Zambia. Also, the rainy season was becoming more intense with heavy showers and fierce thunderstorms. All kinds of wild creatures were showing themselves around our house: snakes (black mambas, spitting cobras...), scorpions, big lizards and so on. There were also plenty of mosquitoes threatening us with malaria. But during that season, we enjoyed eating some good African fruits like mangos, avocados, guavas, bananas, masuku, ichifungu, pineapples and even very sweet figs found in the bush. Our first Christmas on African soil was quite different from those we had had before in Poland; no snow, very hot nights, full moonlight, no Christmas trees and no traditional Polish food on the occasion that is so dear to us. We had a vigil supper and then a Mass in Polish. At midnight, some of us went for a swim in a pool. It was something special! That swimming pool was really very popular with all of us. It was nice to jump into it after classes, just before lunch, and in the evening before supper. Each of the course participants had his daily duties to keep the place clean and running. Our



The first missionary group in Rome



The Late Archbishop of Kasama the M. Rev. E. Munde visiting Luwingu

senior Fr Casimir Cichecki was in charge of an electrical generator. He had to start it at 6pm and then switch it off at 9pm. At the end of February 1983, we started packing our things as the course was coming to an end. Also at the end of February, Fr Stanislaw Juszczyk left Ilondola. We thought that he went to Copperbelt, but unfortunately he left Zambia and went back to England. *(Finally, he also left the priesthood and got married)*. A few days after the celebration of the feast of our superior Fr Casimir (4th March), we left Ilondola for different missions. The aim was to continue learning Bemba in a more practical way and also to learn about missionary life from the "old" missionaries, mainly the White Fathers. And so Fr Cichecki and Fr Ojczyk went to Luwingu, Fr Szmyt to Chilubi Island, Fr Molendowski to Kapatu, Fr Paul to Kasaba, Fr Bernas to Kawambwa, Fr Bem to Nondo and myself to Chibote. The time of our

"practical training" varied due to the needs and situations at the missions to be taken over by the Salesians. I stayed in Chibote until the end of August and then in Kawambwa for one month before going to Kazembe. Fr Paul stayed at Kasaba until late December.

5.3 On our Own

Luwingu was the first parish that was taken over by the Salesians. The next were Chingola and Kazembe. By the end of September 1983, we were running the missions ourselves. Fr Ojczyk was appointed parish priest of Luwingu, Fr Bem of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Chingola. Fr Molendowski of Kacema Musuma Parish in Kasompe (Chingola) and myself of Kazembe Parish. The first Salesian houses canonically erected were those three: Luwingu (Fr Cichecki – the rector), Chingola (Fr Bem – the rector) and Kazembe (Fr Boryczka – the rector). All those presences belonged to the Warsaw Province (PLE) of which Zambia was decreed a Delegation. Fr Cichecki was officially appointed as delegate of the provincial of PLE, Fr Wojciech Szulczynski, sdb.

Luwingu was one of the most prominent and biggest parishes in the Archdiocese of Kasama. Since its beginning, it had been run by the White Fathers and we took it over from them. It had more than 40 out-stations, some of them far away from the main mission centre.

The parishes of Chingola and Kasompe were in the hands of the Franciscan Fathers. Kasompe had two out-stations. Sts. Peter and Paul was a very lively urban parish with many activities going on; a kindergarten, a good English choir, a big and well equipped parish hall and various church groups.

Kazembe was an out-



Village life in Zambia



Parish youth in Kazembe

station in the Lufubu parish, which was established by the White Fathers in 1930. However, in 1975, they left the place and served the parish from the neighbouring Kawambwa. The new bishop of Mansa, James Spaita, decided to transfer the headquarters of the parish (*priests' residence*) from Lufubu to Kazembe, which is also known as Mwansabombwe. And so, in 1980, the diocese started building a new mission there, in the biggest village in Zambia, as it is considered. Here also resides one of the prominent chiefs in the country, Mwata Kazembe. The diocese worked hard to finish the construction of the mission in good time so that we could settle down there. And indeed on 23rd September 1983, Fr Bernas and myself moved to Kazembe and started a new chapter of missionary work in the area. The parish had 23 out-stations altogether. Just before Christmas, Fr Paul Dziatkiewicz joined the community.

Things in Maheba Camp were not going well for us. There was some misunderstanding about our presence there. Moreover, Fr Louis Karczewski was paralyzed (*due to a stroke*) and he had to return to Poland. Due to those problems, the superiors decided to withdraw from Maheba Camp. Fr Henry Sak went to Ilondola for a Bemba language course and then afterwards to Luwingu. During that time, Fr Eugene Szmyt got seriously ill. The medical treatment he received in some mission hospitals did not bring much improvement and so Fr Casimir Cichecki decided to send Fr Eugene back to Poland for further medical

assistance. He never returned to Zambia.

5.4 Further Growth in Zambia (1984-1990)

Don Bosco's mission has come to Zambia to stay and to grow. Having this in mind, we were considering ways of further developing our presence in the country. Fr Cichecki thought, very wisely, that as soon as possible, we should find a place for ourselves in Lusaka. The capital city would be a window to the world for us, especially when we considered communication, projects, traveling in and out of the country and so on. And the chance came quite soon. With the help of Fr Vincent Cichecki and other Polish Jesuits in Lusaka, Fr Casimir Cichecki contacted Mr Krzesinski, an old man who had been staying in Zambia for many years. He was ready to sell his house to us, on the condition that he could stay in it until his last days and that we would take care of him, as he was sick as well. So we went ahead with buying the house and the plot at Luzi Road.

In May 1984, Fr John Bernas was transferred from Kazembe to Lusaka to stay with Mr Krzesinski. The house we bought was suitable for a family, but it was too small to function as our headquarters in Zambia. Fr Cichecki moved from Luwingu to Lusaka and immediately started the construction of a two-storey building. The work went quite well, and by 1986 it was finished. Meantime, in 1984, the second group of Salesians from Poland arrived; 5 priests, 2



Provincial from Poland Fr Z. Weder and Fr S. Szmidt visiting Zambia



Lufubu (Zambia), parish church

seminarians and one lay volunteer. So now all our four communities were strengthened by the number of confreres. A very encouraging moment for the Salesian presence in Zambia in the same year was the arrival of 5 Salesian sisters from Poland. They came at the invitation of Archbishop Elias Mutale of Kasama to establish their presence in Luwingu. The next year, 1985, saw the arrival of two groups of Salesians from Poland; 4 priests and 5 seminarians.

Fr Cichecki described the situation and the development of our mission around that time. *“Our first aim is youth work. Through our activities we want to educate the young people, prepare them for their future lives and be for them signs and bearers of the love of God. We want to make them – as Don Bosco wanted – good Christians and honest citizens. However, because of a shortage of priests, we have been asked to undertake and concentrate on the parish work. So we have. As almost every year a new group of Salesians arrived, our work also expanded. In 1986, we reopened Ipusukilo parish, then we took over Nsakaluba parish and at the end of that same year we opened yet another parish in Kabwe (St. Mary’s). Two years later, Bauleni parish in Lusaka was entrusted to us and we moved there as well.*

Although involved in parish work, we have never forgotten our specific Salesian vocation regarding young people. In 1985, we started building a small carpentry school in Kazembe. It

was officially opened in 1987, and is known as Don Bosco Carpentry Workshop. In Ipusukilo, the gardening and agriculture training center was established. In Nsakaluba, a few small projects for boys and girls were organized: tailoring, knitting, cooking and carpentry. Nurseries for little children were also opened and run in Chingola, Nsakaluba and Kazembe. Apart from these small schemes, we decided to establish at least two bigger projects; in Lufubu and in Chingola.” (Salesian Bulletin – Zambia Vol. 1 No. 1).

Indeed, the work of carrying out those two bigger projects mentioned by Fr Cichecki started immediately. Fr Joseph Ojczyk was entrusted with the Lufubu project: the Agriculture Training Center. He moved from Luwingu to Kazembe and from there coordinated the initial stage of the project; the renovation of the old mission house, clearing the bush and so on. It was really heavy work and Fr Joseph dedicated himself to it wholeheartedly. In December 1989, Fr Joseph Ojczyk, Fr Joseph Bem and Br Thomas Skolasinski settled in Lufubu, thus opening a new Salesian presence.

The project in Chingola was meant as a trade school. There, the construction work was coordinated by Fr Cichecki and later on by Br John Orysiuk.

During that time, we also undertook two other major projects: Teresianum Printing Press in 1988 and the Catholic Bookshop in 1990; both in Lusaka. Teresianum Printing Press was established by the Sisters of St. Peter Claver. Before leaving Zambia, the



Mrs. Ch. Matamola in Teresianum Press



Opening of the Catholic Bookshop in Lusaka



Rector Major Fr E. Vigano in Lusaka



Br Sylvester Makumba in Oswiecim - Poland

accepting the press we found it in a rather poor state. The machines were quite old and gave a lot of problems. The place itself was also rather neglected. The confreres who were there did quite a good job in improving the press and its surroundings. After some time, we opened a typographic school in Teresianum, offering two year courses for the young boys and girls. It served well for a number of years.

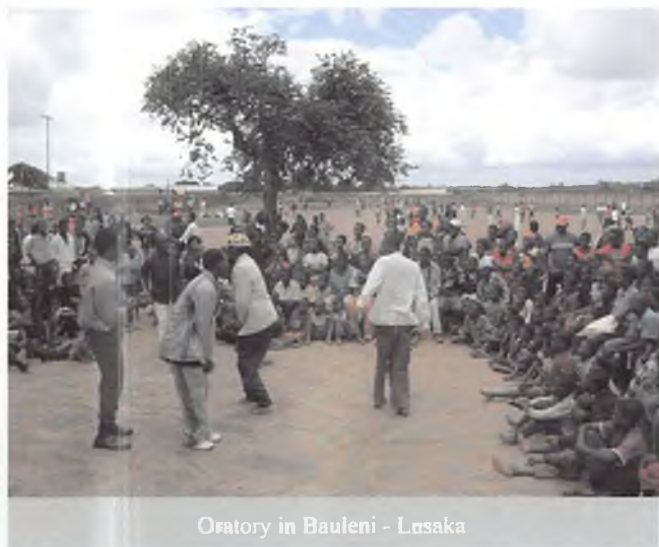
The Bishops of Zambia had been “crying” for some years for a Catholic Bookshop in Lusaka. So Fr Cichecki decided to assist the Church in this urgent need. Sometime in the second half of 1989, he asked Fr Wojciech Kozlowicz if he could take up the challenge. Fr Wojciech accepted it quite enthusiastically and indeed the Catholic Bookshop was solemnly opened and blessed by Cardinal Joseph Tomko on the 5th of May 1990, during his visit to Zambia.

There were also many other positive happenings in those years which give evidence of our growth in Zambia. In April 1988, Lusaka welcomed the Rector Major Egidio Vigano, some members of the general council and Salesians from all over Africa to the Pan-African Salesian Conference. Also, in the same year we published the book (3 volumes) about the life of St. John Bosco, in the Bemba language. In those early years of our presence in Zambia, we opened a regular aspirantat for the candidates to our congregation in Bauleni. On the 1st of January 1989, the first Zambian Salesian, **Br Sylvester Makumba** made his first religious profession in Lesotho. Also in January 1989, the first group of the Salesian Cooperators made their promises in Nsakaluba. In 1990, we celebrated the first Salesian priestly ordinations of Fr. Peter Gozdalski in Nsakaluba and Fr. Joseph Skowron in Luwingu.

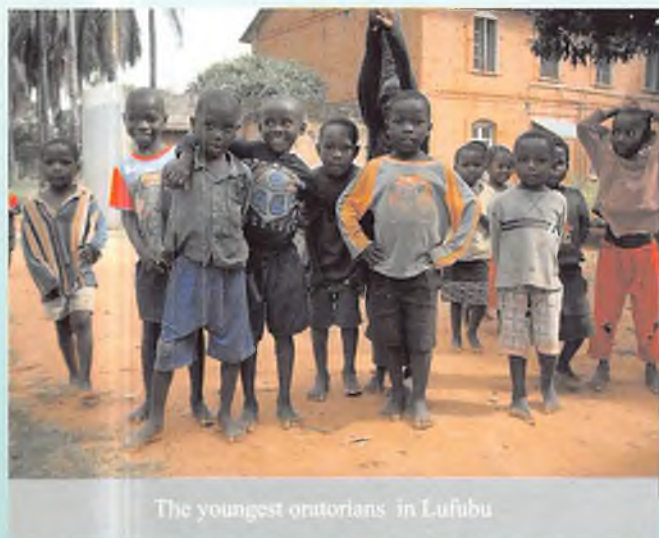
In May 1990, the provincial of Warsaw appointed me (*Fr Peter Boryczka*) as his delegate for Zambia. I was asked to take over the service from Fr. Casimir Cichecki.

5.5 The Consolidation and International Expansion (1990 – 1999)

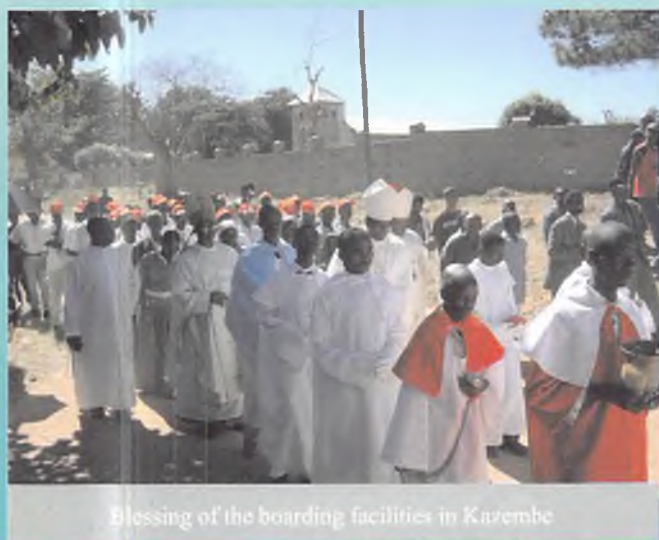
In the first week of September 1990, Fr Casimir Cichecki happily handed over his office as a provincial delegate to me. I was also quite happy to



Oratory in Bauleni - Lusaka



The youngest oratorians in Lufubu



Blessing of the boarding facilities in Kazembe

take up the challenge. At that time, I was only 36 years old and most probably not aware of all the implications of my new position. The first action I took as a delegate was to appoint Fr. Cichecki as *"an acting delegate"*; since in a few days time I was due to go on my home leave to Poland. So Fr. Casimir actually continued his work as a delegate until my return in January 1991. After my return from Poland, I called a council meeting to determine our way forward. The general feeling of the council was that we should try to consolidate our presence in Zambia. This meant handing back to the diocese some parishes where we did not see much future for us, getting some concrete assurances from the concerned Bishops about our longer stay in some places, and strengthening the existing communities with more confreres and the further development of the undertaken projects. And so, in line with that general vision of the council, the following steps were taken:

In 1991, a Salesian community was established in Chingola along with a youth training center. In August 1992, Ipusukilo parish was handed back to the Archdiocese of Kasama.

In 1993, Don Bosco School (Icisansa) was opened in Luwingu.

In 1993, a new presence was opened in Makeni and a pre-novitiate moved there in February of the following year.

In April 1994, the Bishop of Mansa, Aaron Chisha officially opened and blessed the Don Bosco Agricultural Training Centre in Lufubu.

In May 1994, we moved from Luzi Road to a new plot in Makeni; our plot at Luzi Rd was sold to the Presentation Sisters.

In 1995, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish and later on the Kasompe parish, were handed back to the Diocese of Ndola.

The Bishop of Mansa assured us in writing that we could stay in Kazembe and Lufubu for as long as we wished and as long as we cooperated with the Diocese in its pastoral and social work.

In February 1996, the Catholic Bookshop was handed over to the Pauline Sisters. On the 24th of May



Harare (Zimbabwe), Fr Bruno celebrating mass, during the solemnity of Corpus Christi

1996, the Don Bosco Youth Training Centre in Chingola was officially opened and blessed by the Bishop of Ndola, Dennis de Jong.

In May 1998, Street Kids Centre Project in Bauleni was opened and blessed by the Archbishop of Lusaka, Medardo Mazombwe.

In December 1997, the house in Lufubu was canonically erected as a sign of our stability there.

Perhaps the most significant moment during that time of consolidation was the creation, by the Rector Major Don Egidio Vigano, of the Circumscription of Mary Help of Christians (ZMB), which included two new countries: Malawi and Zimbabwe. The decree instituting the new Circumscription was issued on the 24th of July 1993. Later on, I was appointed superior of ZMB and consequently installed as such on the 31st of January 1994. We ceased to be a delegation of the Warsaw province and became like a new "province" in Africa.

The creation of ZMB boosted the second characteristic of our activities during that period, which we call the international expansion.

Soon after the 31st of January 1994, we started looking at the possibilities of going to Zimbabwe and Malawi. And so we contacted the Archbishop of Harare and the Bishop of Lilongwe. Both were happy to welcome the Salesians in their respective dioceses. More contacts and meetings followed, until both sides agreed on the nature of our presence and

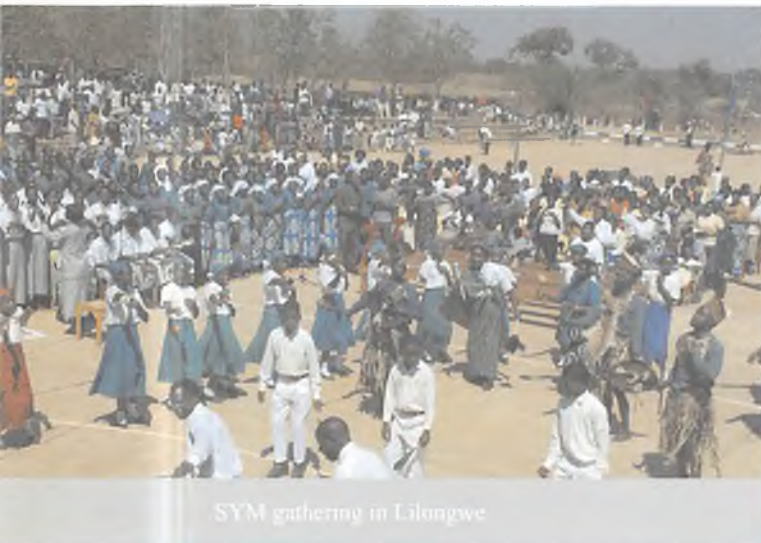
apostolate there.

In May 1995, Fr Bruno Zamberlan arrived in Harare with the mission to study the local language, Shona, and to get some more concrete information regarding our future there. Finally, on the 28th of January 1996, we took over a parish of Kambuzuma with two out-centers: Warren Park and Rugare.

In Lilongwe we accepted a place in Area 23. The diocese had a big piece of land there and was willing to give it to us for establishing our mission: the parish, the youth center and the technical school. The first group of three Salesians from Zambia arrived in Lilongwe on the 13th of September 1995. They were: Fr Leszek Aksamit, Fr Paul Dziatkiewicz and Fr Stan Jagodzinski. They stayed for around one year in the community of the White Fathers in Likuni. Fr Leszek was supervising the construction of the Youth Hall at our place in Area 23 while Fr Paul and Fr Stan studied the local language (Chichewa). When the residential wing of the hall was ready, the confreres moved in there from Likuni. Meanwhile, Bishop Tarcisius Ziyaye worked on creating a new parish to be taken over by the Salesians. All went quite well, and on the 7th of December 1996, the first Salesian mission in Malawi, which included the Youth Center and the Don Bosco Parish, was solemnly inaugurated by Bishop Ziyaye in the presence of the Papal Nuntio, Archbishop Joseph Leanza from Lusaka, and a retired Bishop of Lilongwe, Matias Chimole. Soon after, the construction of other premises followed, including the construction of the Don Bosco Youth Technical



Fr Casimir Cichecki during a sports festival in Lilongwe



SYM gathering in Lilongwe

College. In 1988, our presence in Lilongwe was upgraded to a regular religious house and Fr Joseph Czerwinski was appointed its first rector.

The following year, we decided to take over yet another place in Malawi, a parish in the district town of Nkhotakota. In April 1997, Fr Chester Zalubski went there to stay for some time with the White Fathers who had been running the mission since it was established in 1975. A few months later, Fr Chester was appointed as the new parish priest and the mission was left in our hands.

Fr Luciano Odorico, who was still a general councillor for the missions in the Congregation, noticed that there were no Salesians in Namibia yet. He approached us with a proposal of going there, to the Diocese of Rundu. Initially, we contacted the provincial of Oblates (OMI) in Windhoek and the Bishop of Rundu, Joseph Shikongo OMI. The Bishop was more than happy to have the Salesians in his diocese and immediately proposed some parishes for us to take over. Fr Odorico promised to send two confreres to ZMB to help us with the project in Namibia. He kept his promise and soon we welcomed to Zambia Fr Thomas Chenginiyaden and Fr Thomas Grzegorzewski. Both of them were ready for a new challenge in Namibia and indeed they went there without delay. Fr Chenginiyaden to Shambyu and Fr Grzegorzewski to Nyangana. We agreed with the Bishop in that we would take over one of those two parishes. A few months later, we decided to stay in Shambyu and in July 1998, we took it over officially from OMI.

During that period of 1991 - 1999 there were some other positive developments, which we should mention here.

- On the 1st of February 1992, the Archbishop of Lusaka, Adrian Mungandu, consecrated the new church at Makululu in Kabwe (*St. Mary's*), which was built by Fr. Joseph Bem.
- In 1992, we published the first issue of the "*Salesian Bulletin*" in Zambia.
- On the 17th of April 1994, the Archbishop of Lusaka, Adrian Mungandu, consecrated a new church at State Lodge in Bauleni parish, built by Fr Joseph Ziolkiewicz.
- In May 1995, we held our first Provincial Chapter of ZMB, which, apart from other documents also produced the Provincial Directory. Fr Joseph Czerwinski was the moderator of the Chapter.
- On the 29th of October 1995, Br Sylvester Makumba made his perpetual profession in Bauleni.
- On the 1st of January 1997, we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of priesthood of our senior, Fr Casimir Cichecki. The celebration took place at Bauleni.
- On the 2nd of February 1997, the Constitution of the Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco in Chingola was launched. This was organized by Fr Chester Lenczuk.
- On the 13th of July 1997, four Salesian Cooperators from Chingola made their promises at Bauleni.
- The priestly ordination of 6 Polish Salesians who



Fr Thomas Chenginiyaden in Shambyu



Perpetual Profession of Br Sylvester Makumba
in Bauleni Parish



Fr Antonio Rodriguez and Fr Casimir Socha



Funeral mass of Fr Casimir Cichecki in Bauleni

joined ZMB as seminarians.

- On the 26th of April 1998, the first Zambian Salesian priest was ordained in Luwingu; Fr Clement Mulenga.
- Blessing of the new church and opening of the new primary school at Chifwema (Bauleni parish), both of them built by Fr Joseph Ziolkiewicz.
- On the 1st of September 1999, I ended my service to ZMB as its superior and handed over the office to my successor.

5.6 ZMB Vice-Province (1999-2004)

The 1st of September 1999 was indeed a very happy day for ZMB. On that day, Fr Casimir Socha was "sworn in" as a new provincial, and also at the same time, the ZMB became the Vice Province. The ceremony was held at the Makeni provincial headquarters in the presence of Fr Antonio Rodrigues Tallon, the general councillor for Africa. Most of the confreres could smell that some new and better time for ZMB had just begun. A few months later, Fr Joseph Czerwinski was appointed a new provincial vicar of ZMB and moved from Lilongwe to Lusaka. For the first time, the provincial, his vicar and the economer formed one community and stayed together at ZMB headquarters. This new provincial team started working out the plan of its service in the vice province.

In September of the following year, ZMB confreres were shocked at the sudden death of their senior and first superior, Fr Casimir Cichecki. He died quietly in his bed on the evening of the 9th of September 2000. He was 82 years old. On that day he celebrated two Masses at Bauleni parish; one in the morning and one late in the afternoon. His funeral was a manifestation of Christian life and faith. Thousands of people attended the funeral ceremonies in Bauleni. Cardinal Adam Kozłowiecki and a few other Bishops were also present at the funeral. We could say that the death of Fr. Casimir Cichecki marked the end of an important, 18 year long chapter of the Salesian mission in Zambia.

Here is the prayer of Fr Casimir, which it seems, God fully answered by giving him what he asked for: "*Lord, in your mercy, grant me a long life. Do not give*



Opening of the Lilongwe Technical School
by the State President Bakili Muluzi



Youth Festival in Mansa - Chimese



Bp A. Chisha blesses the boarding in Kazembe

me, please any special, big suffering, but give me a great amount of work for you. Grant that what I shall speak and preach, may touch the hearts of the hearers. And please do not allow me, at the end of my life, to be a burden to my community."

The 7th of October 2000 is another memorable day in the history of ZMB. On that day, a new technical school in Lilongwe was solemnly opened by the President of Malawi, Bakili Muluzi, and blessed by Bishop Tarcisius Ziyaye, in the presence of the Papal Nuncio from Zambia, Archbishop Antonio Orlando and also in the presence of our provincial, Fr. Casimir Socha. The school, officially known as the Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute, is a Jubilee Year 2000 gift of the Salesians to the young people of Malawi.

Following the process of consolidation, the provincial and his council took these steps:

- Take-over of the cathedral parish in Rundu, thus establishing a second Salesian presence in Namibia, in 2001.
- Giving back to the Diocese of Mansa the Nsakalauba parish and at the same time taking a new parish - Chimese, in the same diocese, in the year 2001.
- Handing back to the Archdiocese of Lusaka the Teresianum Printing Press, on the 5th of December 2001.
- Blessing of the newly built provincial house in Lusaka, in October 2002.
- Blessing of the new Salesian residence in Hwange, on the 8th of December 2003.
- Handing back to the Archdiocese of Kasama the parish in Luwingu, on the 19th of September 2004.

During the period of 1999 – 2004, the following new houses were canonically erected: Shambyu (2002), Chimese (2002), Hwange (2003) and Kabwe (2003)

One of the most joyful events of that time was the consecration of the new church in Kazembe, on the 9th of May 2004, by Bishop Aaron Chisha, in the presence of Archbishop James Spaita (Kasama) and Bishop Telesford Mpundu (Mpika). Just a few days before the



Fr V. de Pablo and FMA Sisters
in Lusaka



ZMB Provincial Council
in Lusaka

celebration, the Salesian community in Kazembe was attacked by armed bandits. During the attack, the parish priest, Fr. Joseph Gotter, was seriously beaten and he had to be taken to the mission hospital in Kashikishi.

In 2004, the general councillor for Africa, Fr Valentin de Pablo, carried out the canonical visitation to our vice province, and at the same time, he also conducted a consultation for the new ZMB provincial. So a time of expectation and speculation began, as to who would succeed Fr Casimir Socha. The long awaited news arrived at the right time; in Advent, just before Christmas.

6. A NEW APPROACH (2005 – 2007)

As many predicted, it was Fr Joseph Czerwinski who was appointed a new provincial for ZMB. He was solemnly installed in his office on the 6th of January 2005. Fr Joseph, being the vicar for the past 5 years, knew very well the situation of the Salesian presences in the vice province. Many of them were at that time already somehow consolidated and stable. What was needed now, was to make them more “Salesian” in their pastoral and educational activities. So the search for a broader and perhaps newer vision began. In the process of a new approach, the provincial council had to be formed adequately in order to bring more variety and more vision. So new members of the council were soon appointed: Fr Clement Mulenga, Fr Thomas Chengyinyaden and Fr Bruno Zamberlan as the new provincial vicar.

7. THE SALESIAN FAMILY AND LAY VOLUNTEERS IN ZMB

St. John Bosco learnt very soon that the mission he started was so vast and great that it would need the involvement of other people, both religious and laity. So, apart from the Salesian Society, he co-founded the congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians for women, popularly known as the Salesian Sisters and also the Salesian Cooperators for the lay people. His third successor, Blessed Philip Rinaldi, founded the Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco. These four are the main branches of the Salesian Family, which consists of about 20 other religious and lay



Salesian sisters in Luwingu

groups. All those four main Salesian congregations are present in ZMB.

The first group of five Salesian Sisters arrived in Zambia in 1984. All of them were from Poland: Sr Stefania Bleharczyk (in charge), Sr Maria Domalewska, Sr Christine Kuzminska, Sr Zofia Lapinska and Sr Ryszarda Piejko. They were invited by Archbishop Elias Mutale of Kasama, and given a place in Luwingu, where the diocese built a house for them. A few years later, when more Salesian sisters arrived in the country, they spread to other parts of Zambia: Lusaka, Kasama and Mansa. The mission of the sisters is similar to ours, but directed mainly towards girls. They have developed beautiful projects in all their places, from which thousands of poor girls and also boys have already benefited. The sisters run different types of schools and training centres and they give homes to many orphans and abandoned girls. They have also been blessed with many local vocations. Some of the Zambian Salesian Sisters are already perpetually professed.

On the 8th of January 1989, in Nsakaluba, as the



rector, I received the promises made by the first Salesian Cooperators in Zambia; there were more than ten people, men and women.

Fr Jagodzinski and Fr Dziatkiewicz helped to organize that first group. Nine years later, on the 13th of July 1998, four cooperators from Chingola made their promises in Bauleni. Unfortunately, we have to observe that the Association of the Salesian Cooperators has not developed well in ZMB.

The Past Pupils of Don Bosco started as an informal group in Kazembe in 1990. Similar groups were formed in Chingola and Lufubu. But it was only in 1997 that the Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco was formally recognized, when it launched its Constitution, helped by Fr Chester Lenczuk. The launching ceremony took place in Chingola on the 2nd of February 1997. Some years later, in 2004, Fr Chester started the group of about seventy past pupils in Lilongwe. The Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco in ZMB is developing quite well and we hope that it will soon have a greater impact and contribution to the overall Salesian mission in the vice province.

The lay volunteers were with us right from the beginning of our missionary work in Zambia. The first one was Mr Czeslaw Cwojdzinski, who arrived in 1984. He stayed in our community in Lusaka for about two years, helping with the daily running of the house. Then there were three VMM volunteers from England staying with us for about three years in Kazembe. Their main work there was the construction of the convent for the Sisters of Charity and the construction of the first building of our carpentry school. Later on, many other young men and women came to help us in our evangelising work with the young people. Presently, we have volunteers from Germany and Poland in Chingola, Kazembe and Lilongwe. We welcome lay volunteers, both male and female, who accept our conditions (the contracts have to be signed) and are ready to work with us in our different presences for the benefit of the young people entrusted to our care.



Different youth festivals



8. YOUTH WORK AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS IN ZMB

Like any other religious congregation, Salesians of Don Bosco also have their special place and mission in the Church. Our charisma is defined quite clearly in Article 2 of our Constitutions: *“We, the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB), form a community of the baptized. Submissive to the bidding of the Spirit, we are resolved to carry out the Founder's apostolic plan in a specific form of religious life: to be in the Church, signs and bearers of the love of God for the young people, especially those who are poor.”*

By carrying out our mission we find our own way to holiness.”

Keeping in mind our Salesian vocation, for the past 25 years we have tried to accompany the young people in ZMB in their lives, to be there for them and with them. We carry out our specific mission mainly through the projects we undertake: parishes, daily oratories, youth centers and schools. Oratories and youth centers are the places where the young boys and girls can spend their free time learning, praying and playing together accompanied by the Salesians. There are daily oratories in nearly all of our places. The youth centers, which in fact are also the oratories, are the places where the young people are organized in different clubs and groups, and have some better facilities, equipment and so on. Such youth centers exist in Chingola, Lilongwe, Rundu, Kabwe and Mansa.

In our technical schools and colleges the young people learn specific trades that will help them as they grow out of their youth and the Salesian schools follow the educational system given to us by St. John Bosco. It is called *“a preventive system”* and is based on Christian values, mainly on reason, religion and loving kindness. The first such school was opened in 1987 in Kazembe. Then followed Lufubu, Chingola and Lilongwe. Hundreds of boys and girls get their education at those schools. The ZMB schools mission statement declares the following: *“Enabling less privileged young people who are materially or spiritually poor to attain integrated human development through the Salesian Educational system in order to become*



Fr Slawek with leaders

good Christians and honest Citizens.

The youth work has to be properly coordinated and animated in order to be more effective and of better quality. The structures of the youth apostolate in ZMB were developed together with a general growth of our presence in the vice province. For many years, we did not have a proper animation of the youth ministry on a provincial level. Fr Casimir Socha, towards the end of his term as a provincial decided to establish a permanent youth office at the ZMB headquarters and appointed **Fr Slawomir Bartodziej** as a full time Provincial Youth Delegate. With this move, the youth work in the vice province looks much better, more organized and more effective. Some of the successful events organized by the provincial youth office are the Salesian Youth Festivals. So far, there were six such festivals; four in Zambia and two in Malawi. The young people from all ZMB countries gather together for a few days to share their experiences, their faith, their successes and their problems.

The ZMB Vice Province has been blessed with quite a number of good local religious vocations. Presently we have 12



Perpetual profession of Ch. Kunda



First Profession in Bauleni

ordained priests, one perpetually professed brother-coadiutor and 20 young Salesians in the initial formation. This is the result of the grace of God and the vocational animation being undertaken by confreres in many of our missions. This includes sharing the information about the congregation through leaflets, booklets and other printed material, the personal contacts with the candidates while they are still at the secondary schools, organizing “come and see programs”, retreats and recollection days and also visiting the families of our candidates. After a few years of our presence in Zambia, we already had our regular aspirantat opened in Bauleni and later on, the pre-novitiate. New places for aspirants were organized in Chingola and Lilongwe.

Those of the candidates who completed the pre-novitiate in Lusaka went for their novitiate and post-novitiate either to Lesotho, South Africa, Tanzania or D.R. Congo. Those of our young confreres who expressed their desire to become priests, went for their theological studies to Nairobi and recently also to Lubumbashi.

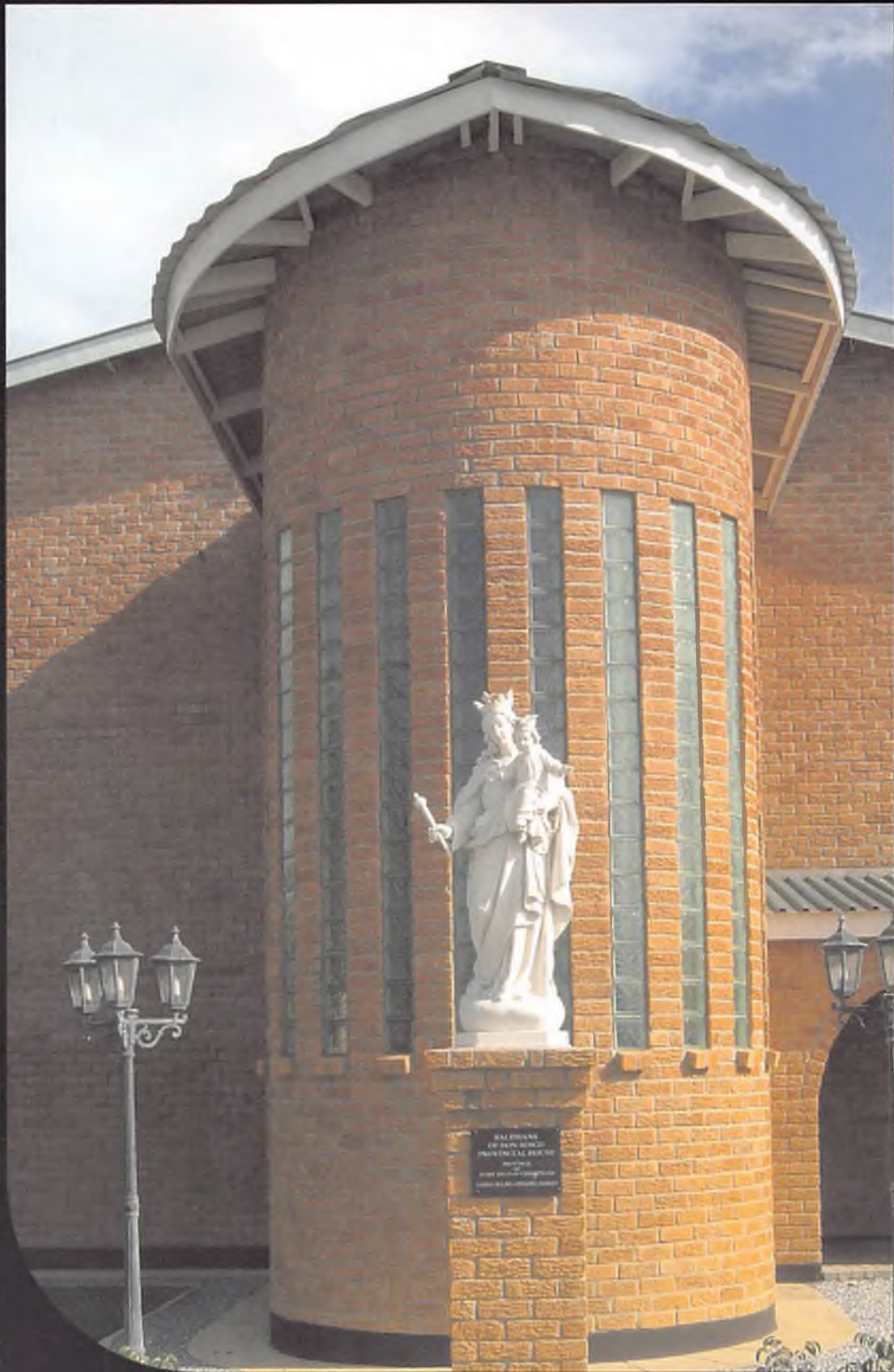
Some of the local ZMB Salesians completed their further studies at our University in Rome and one confrere at the Catholic University in Nairobi.



Priestly ordination in Chingola

ZMB

Vice Province



Provincial House - Chawama



9. THE ACTUAL SALESIAN PRESENCES IN ZMB

9.1. Bauleni.

The Salesians established their first presence in Lusaka, at Luzi Road 3, in 1984. We had our headquarters there, offices and residence of our superiors and also a few guest rooms.

The confreres who were staying at that place used to help with the Eucharistic celebration in some parishes of Lusaka. Bauleni was one of them. After some time, the Archbishop proposed that we take over that parish. Fr Cichecki with his council accepted the offer and so, in the year 1988, Fr. John Bernas and some other confreres moved from Luzi Road to Bauleni. The place required a lot of work to adapt it to our needs and plans. Within a few years, the following progress was made: a wall fence, the extension to the house, a new chapel and a new large building with many simple rooms and other facilities. When the conditions were satisfactory, we opened a formation house there for the candidates to our Congregation, aspirants and later on, pre-novices. The seminarians that came from Poland as missionaries also used to stay at Bauleni, where they learned English. In 1994, when the pre-novitiate was moved to Makeni, the facilities at Bauleni were used for different meetings, seminars, workshops and retreats by the Salesians and others. There was also some good development in the parish especially when Fr Joseph Ziolkiewicz was its parish priest. On the 17th of April 1994, Archbishop Adrian Mungandu blessed a new church at State Lodge. A few years later, another new church and the primary school were blessed and opened at Chifwema out-station. In May 1998, a newly constructed Street Kids Centre at Bauleni was blessed and opened by the Archbishop of Lusaka, Medardo Mazombwe. Around that time, the diocese started another project in the parish: the diocesan radio station called 'Yatsani'. In recent years, the parish church was nicely renovated both inside and outside. On the church site were built the Stations of the Way of the Cross together with a reconciliation chapel (grotto). The surroundings of the church were also beautifully arranged. In the year 2005, the pre-novitiate was moved back from Makeni to Bauleni. Presently, there are 5 confreres in Bauleni: Frs B. Zamberaln, T. Chisanga, E. Siame, J.B. Mulenga and Br S. Sieradz. Fr T. Chisanga is the full time Youth Coordinator of the Lusaka Archdiocese.



Confreres and pre-novices in Bauleni



Fr Bruno Zamberlan



Fr E. Siame



Fr T. Chisanga



Fr J. B. Mulenga



Br S. Sieradz

9.2 Chingola

Chingola is one of the seven mining towns on the Copperbelt in the Diocese of Ndola. The Salesians opened their first presence there in 1983 taking over two parishes: Sts. Peter and Paul in town itself and Kacema Musuma in Kasompe. The Copperbelt Region is a unique place in sub-Saharan Africa. In comparison with other provinces of Zambia, the Copperbelt Province was quite well developed because of the number of mines there and the thousands of people employed in them. When planning our first projects in Zambia, we thought that Chingola was a suitable place to establish a trade school for the young people of the area. The plot of the parish was too small to establish such a project there. We had to look for another piece of land and we got it quite soon from the City Council. Work



CHINGOLA



on the construction of the school premises started immediately. We were able to move there in 1991 and in the following year, the first students were accepted for training. When the main buildings were completed and the school was well established, the Bishop of Ndola, Dennis de Jong, blessed it solemnly on the 24th of May 1996. Later on, some more buildings were constructed, like a huge multi-purpose hall, the chapel and three staff houses for nine families. Fr Peter Gozdalski, the house administrator, was supervising most of the construction works done in Chingola. The school runs six different courses for around 150 students. Our mission in Chingola also has a big oratory, where hundreds of children and young people develop their different talents and spend their free time in a positive way.

9.3 Chimese

The Salesians considered taking over the Chimese parish in Mansa in the year 1982, but we didn't, because the church's plot was too small. Some of the neighbours refused to sell their plots so there was no chance of extending the property of the parish. The situation changed almost 20 years later. The people staying there agreed to sell their plots. The provincial along with his council decided to take over Chimese and to give up Nsakaluba, and that is what happened. In the year 2001, the confreres moved from Nsakaluba to Mansa. Chimese is a town parish with plenty of children and young people, most of them from rather poor families. The parish had no priests' house, so the construction of the Salesian house started and it was completed in 2003. The building of other premises for the young people and for the parish continues under the supervision of Fr M. Wzietek.

Presently, there are three Salesians there: Frs M. Wzietek, A. Zdzieborski and E. Wnek.

The Salesian Sisters have also established their presence there, next to our plot. Chimese has become one big Salesian Project undertaken to assist the young people of Mansa and the Luapula Province.

9.4 Harare

On May 25th 1995, a day after a solemn celebration of the Feast of MHC, Fr Bruno Zamberlan arrived in Harare. He was the first Salesian missionary to stay in Zimbabwe. The Archbishop of Harare, Patrick Chakaipa, asked us to take over the parish in the Kambuzuma area and to open a secondary school there. After visiting the place, we were of the opinion that the site was not suitable for a Salesian secondary school. On the 28th of January 1996, we took charge of the Kambuzuma parish with two out-stations: Warren Park and Rugare. Fr Casimir Kulczycki was appointed parish priest. The parish had no priest's residence so the confreres had to stay in a rented house for some months. Then they moved to the house bought by the diocese at Westwood Drive. Unfortunately, the building was in a poor state. We had to spend a lot of money renovating and adjusting it to our needs. Soon the place became not only our residence but also a place for the young people who came there in tens and even hundreds. Westwood became a flourishing Don Bosco Oratory. Later on, the church in

CHINGOLA COMMUNITY



Fr N. Lesa



Br A. Falek



Fr A. Kim



Cl L. Jere



Frs A. Zdzieborski, E. Wnek and M. Wzietek in Mansa



Fr P. Makina



Fr W. Kozlowski



Fr I. Musenge



Kambuzuma was also extended and renovated. Fr Lewis Malama, who worked for some time in Harare, says: *“As a religious congregation which is fully committed to youth ministry in the church, we can say that we witnessed in these last ten years a very active and soul-searching period. We strengthened the already existing activities, developed new ones and now we are chartering new paths.”*

Presently, there are three Salesians there: Frs W. Kozlowicz, P. Makina and I. Musenge.

9.5 Hwange

“The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men and women of our time, especially those who are poor or afflicted in any way are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well”, so taught the Fathers of the second Vatican Council (GS 1). Profoundly convinced of this truth, the Salesians of Don Bosco decided, in 2001, to open the mission in Hwange – Zimbabwe, 800 kilometers from the capital Harare, to answer to the needs of local church and the young people”. Fr G. Szurgot and Fr W. Molenda were the first Salesians that came to Hwange. They immediately started the plans for the future Don Bosco Technical Collage, just over 100 kilometres from the famous Victoria Falls. In 2002, Fr G Szurgot moved to Chingola as a Rector and B. Zamberlan came to Hwange. In the same year we took over St. Teresa’s Parish in Empumalanga. In 2003, the Salesian house was built and canonically erected under the title of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr Bruno was the first Salesian parish priest of St. Teresa and Fr T. Chota has since replaced him. In 2006, Frs Ch. Lenczuk and P. Malec joined the community. Soon after, they began the construction of the youth centre and future Technical College. *(Fr Lewis Malama)*



Fr. Ch. Lenczuk



Vol. Marek Wolkowski

9.6 Kabwe

St. Mary’s is a parish situated in the district town of Kabwe which was taken over by the Salesians in 1986. Fr Walter Kloc, who came to Kabwe from Chingola, where he worked as a school chaplain, was appointed as its parish priest. He started this Salesian presence together with a seminarian, J. Czerwinski, who was sent there to do his practical training. The parish has 10 out-stations. In one of them (Makululu), Fr Joseph Bem built a new church, which was blessed by Archbishop A. Mungandu on the 1st of February 1992. A few years later, Fr Joseph Ojczyk started on the construction of the new parish church. The existing church had become too small as the number of Catholics in the parish grew considerably. The facilities for the youth oratory were not sufficient and we managed to obtain a piece of land from the City Council, close to the parish site. There, a house for the Salesian community and some premises for the young people were constructed and officially opened in November 2006. Presently, the community works on the project for vulnerable children which will be a joint venture together with the parish. It will consist of the children’s village and some recreational facilities. This important project should begin in 2008. There are three confreres in Kabwe, namely: Frs A. Reut, P. Mulenga and A. Barrientos.

Fr P. Muenga



Fr A. Barrientos





9.7 Kazembe

In the northern part of Zambia, in the Luapula Province, there is a village called Mwansabombwe, better known as Kazembe. It is situated close to the big Luapula river, which marks the border between Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The village is considered to be the largest in the country. The first missionaries arrived there at the end of the 19th century but they were not allowed to build a mission station there. They had to leave the Luapula valley to which they returned thirty years later. Even then, they were still not allowed to settle in Kazembe and so, in the year 1930, they established the mission parish in Lufubu, 12 kilometers from Kazembe. The White Fathers had been running the mission for 45 years. In the year 1975, they left the place. For eight years, there were no priests staying in the mission. Bishop James Spaita decided to move the parish headquarters from Lufubu to Kazembe. The construction of the new mission had started in the year 1980, but was completed just before we moved there on the 23rd of September 1983. Our main work in Kazembe was the running of the Don Bosco Parish of about 8,000 Catholics, 10% of the total population. In 1986, we started the construction of the first Salesian school in Zambia, which was officially opened a year later in 1987 and has been known since as Don Bosco Carpentry Training Centre. Fr George Szurgot was the first ever principal in ZMB. In the passing years the school has been expanding; more premises were added including the boarding, and more students were accepted for training. The mission plot has also been extended and fenced. Br Andrew Falek succeeded Fr George and has been the principal of the school for almost 20 years. On the 9th of May 2004, a long awaited new and beautiful church was consecrated in Kazembe. The mission has quite good facilities for the oratory and for the wider youth pastoral work. Since Luwingu and Chingola were handed back to their respective dioceses, our mission in Kazembe has become the oldest one in ZMB. It is also the place, where hundreds of poor children are helped through the project called *"the distant adoption"*, which is run in cooperation with the Salesian Mission Centre in Warsaw (Poland). Presently, there are two Salesians working there: Frs J. Gotter and K. Socha.



Fr. C. Socha in Kazembe



Fr. J. Gotter in Kazembe

9.8 Lilongwe

The Salesians of Don Bosco have been in Malawi since 1995. In September of that year, the group of three confreres arrived in the capital city, Lilongwe, with a clear mission in their minds: to establish the first Salesian presence in the country. They were: Fr Aksamit Leszek, Fr Dziatkiewicz Paul and Fr Jagodzinski Stan. The Diocese offered us a big piece of the land of about 15 hectares in Area 23. The place looked quite promising, as it was on the outskirts of the town, with many people around, especially children and young people. And so we willingly accepted the Bishop's offer. Construction work started almost immediately. The huge hall of the youth centre and a residential wing for the Salesian community were ready within one year. In December 1996, the place was blessed by the Bishop of Lilongwe, Tarcisius Ziyaye, and the first Salesian mission in

Fr L. Malama



Br W. Thyrianiang



Fr P. Skolasinski



Fr W. Molenda



Fr P. Boryczka

LILONGWE COMMUNITY



Malawi was solemnly inaugurated. Soon after, the construction of the new technical college started. The Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute was officially opened on the 7th of October 2000. The opening ceremony was officiated by the President of Malawi, Dr. Bakili Muluzi, in the presence of the Apostolic Nuntio in Zambia, Bishop of Lilongwe, some other Bishops and the ZMB Provincial, Fr Casimir Socha

Hundreds of children and young people come to our oratory nearly every day. They find here a place for sports, games, studies, meetings, courses and prayers. It is a very lively youth centre. Don Bosco Parish was inaugurated 10 years ago, in December 1996. Initially, it had only one out-station. In the year 2000, the parish was extended when three other out-stations were built and a few years later, three more were added. At present in the parish, there are about 10,000 Catholics. Our college offers 2-year courses in 8 different trades for up to 350 students. Lilongwe is probably the most complex Salesian presence in ZMB.

9.9 Lufubu

In the middle of the African bush, in the year 1930, the Missionaries of Africa founded a Catholic mission and named it Lufubu. At that time, the place was still full of wild animals, including lions. The missionaries, as well as bringing the Good News of Salvation, brought a lot of development to the area, like primary schools, roads and farming. Unfortunately, due to some unpleasant happenings, they decided to leave the mission in 1975. However, they still took care of the parish until we came to Kazembe in 1983. Lufubu, with well over 1,000 Catholics, became the biggest out-station of Don Bosco Parish. The Bishop of Mansa, James Spaita, was not very comfortable with having the first mission in the Luapula valley abandoned. One day, he approached us with the idea of organizing an agricultural training centre in Lufubu to promote farming there and in the surrounding villages. Fr Cichecki, with his council, accepted the Bishop's proposal and asked Fr Joseph Ojczyk to study the possibility of such a project. A few months later, the work at the old Lufubu mission started. The house had to be renovated and the surroundings (courtyard, garden, fields...) put in order. Later on, two other confreres were assigned to work together with Fr Joseph; Br Thomas Skolasinski and Fr Joseph Bem. When the place was more or less ready, all three confreres moved from Kazembe to Lufubu at the end of 1989. The District Governor in Kawambwa approved our application for the extension of the project and gave us a few hundred hectares of the bush land. One of the main and most difficult tasks at that time was the clearing of the bush in preparing the fields for the cultivation of maize and other crops. Since the place had no electricity, we had to pay a lot of money to bring a power line to the mission. Within a few years, the following premises were constructed: houses for the instructors and other workers, buildings for keeping the animals (pigs, cows, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, rabbits...), storages, boarding for students, classrooms and a new house for the Salesian community. Also around that time, the church building and some other old parish buildings were renovated. On the 17th of April 1994, the Bishop of Mansa, Aaron Chisha,



Fr A. Wiacek



Fr Z. Labun



Br K. Mubanga



Mr K. Picjko



solemnly blessed and officially opened the Don Bosco Agricultural Training Centre in Lufubu. The young people including young married couples learn farming skills there, some of them studying for two years and others for one year. Those students who successfully complete their training are given an opportunity to start their own new farm at the Don Bosco village, about 25 km from Lufubu. Presently, there are three confreres there: Frs A. Wiacek, Z. Labun and Br. K. Mubanga.

9.10 Makeni

Like Salesians in any province, we were also thinking about our future in Zambia and in other countries of ZMB. We knew that one day we would no longer belong to the Warsaw province and that we would have to start “walking” on our own. One of the most important factors for the growth and existence of any province is proper vocational animation and suitable facilities. Therefore, the main aim of buying the plot in Makeni in 1993 was to keep it for the future formation house; be it either the pre-novitiate, novitiate or post-novitiate. And indeed, only a few months later, in February 1994, we moved our pre-novitiate from Bauleni to a new place at Makeni. In 1994, we bought yet another plot at Makeni, next to the one we got one year earlier. The two plots became one site of about 3 hectares. In May 1994, the ZMB headquarters were moved from Thorn Park to Makeni. In 1995, we held our first Provincial Chapter at this place. In October 2002, the provincial headquarters were moved yet again to another place, this time to Chawama. Towards the end of 2005, the pre-novitiate was also transferred from Makeni to Bauleni. Our place at Makeni is currently under reconstruction in view of opening the novitiate there in 2009 and later on the post-novitiate.

9.11 Nkhotakota

200 kilometers north of Lilongwe, by the Lake of Malawi, there is a small district town called Nkhotakota. In 1975, the White Fathers established a parish there with 18 out-stations. 22 years later, they were happy to hand it over to the Salesians. In April 1997, Fr Chester Zalubski arrived in Nkhotakota in order to study the local language and to learn more about the parish itself. A few months later, Fr Paul Skolasinski joined him and when the White Fathers left the place they remained in charge of it, with Fr Chester as parish priest. Since the beginning of our presence in Nkhotakota, the parish work has been our main activity. However, apart from the typical pastoral service, the confreres undertake many other different projects, like building new churches and halls, assisting the people during times of hunger, establishing “a distant adoption” program through which hundreds of children and young people are being helped in their education and in their daily struggles. Presently, there are two confreres in Nkhotakota: Frs P. Dziatkiewicz and O. Mulenga.

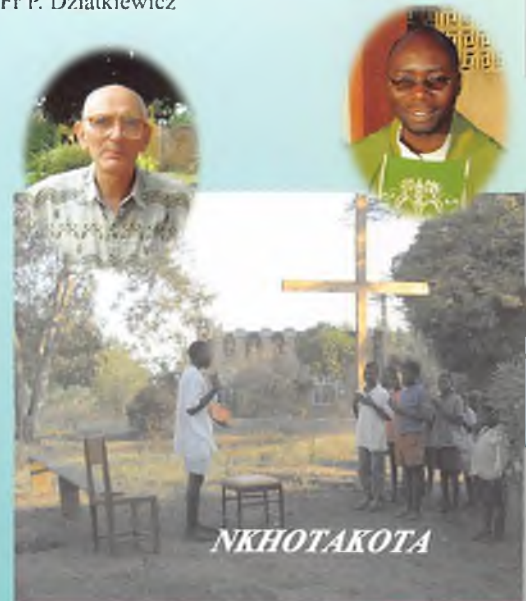
9.12 Rundu

Rundu is a regional town in the Okavango region and the centre of the Rundu Vicariate. Bishop Joseph Shikongo asked the Salesians to take over the cathedral parish in the town. The Provincial and his council accepted the



Fr P. Dziatkiewicz

Fr O. Mulenga



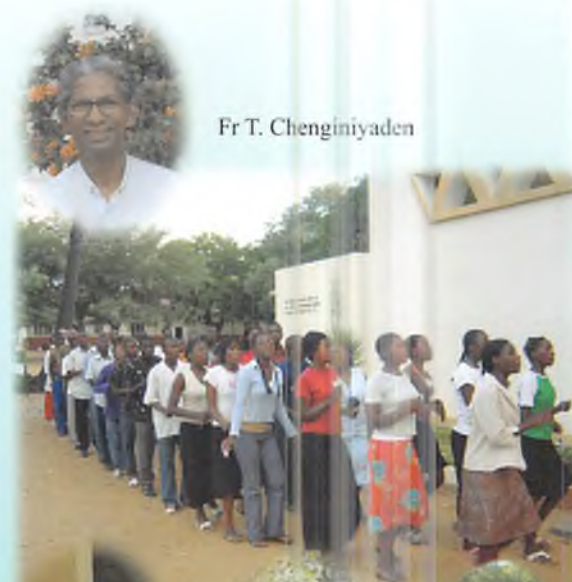
Fr J. Skowron



request of the Bishop and in 2002, Fr Dennis Higgins was transferred from Shambyu to Rundu. Later on, Fr. Joseph Skowron joined him there. Br Walter, who was at that time in Shambyu says: *"In Rundu, a fast growing town, plans were put in place to have a Salesian youth centre. Fr. Joseph is now coordinating the youth work in a newly constructed youth centre, in the heart of Rundu Town."* Br Walter again describes the situation of the Okavango region in the following words: *"People are poor and underdeveloped. They depend on livestock and agriculture. Many families were displaced and people moved from Angola across the Okavango River in search of peace. The economy of the country is comparatively good and the schools and healthcare reachable even to the poor in the region. The Salesians have a lot to offer. Today the Salesians have put roots in these two mission stations. To consolidate the presences, two more Salesians were sent to Namibia. They were: Fr Rosario Vaz and Fr Andrew Daniluk."*



Fr D. Higgins



Fr T. Chenginiyaden

9.13 Shambyu

The Salesians of Don Bosco from ZMB took over the Shambyu Catholic Mission in 1998. Fr Thomas Chienginiyaden and Fr Thomas Grzegorzewski were sent to the region a few months earlier, in October 1997, to learn the local language. Fr Chenginiyaden stayed in Shambyu, while Fr Grzegorzewski in Nyangana. The Oblates and the Bishop of Rundu, Joseph Shikongo, proposed these two missions to us. However, at that time we were not ready to take more than one place. We chose to stay in Shambyu. Fr Chenginiyaden was appointed as the new parish priest and Fr Grzegorzewski as his vicar and also the administrator. Fr Bernard van Roosmalen OMI, who was the parish priest of Shambyu for many years, handed over the mission to the Salesians on the 5th of July 1998.

Bro Walter Thyrniang writes: *'The Salesians concentrated on missionary work, providing pastoral service to the villages around. A new parish office was set up and it gradually grew into a mini-post office and information centre. The youthful touch of the Salesians became evident. The young people became more active, the programs and youth gatherings were popular and regular. A youth Convention was organized in 2000 and over 400 young people attended it. In the same year, census was taken and the number of Catholics was recorded at 14,000. The Hostel facilities for 300 boys and girls improved and the students in the schools received help and spiritual guidance... The Okavango River is the life giver to the semi-desert region of Namibia. The missions were built along the river. Villages are also found mainly along the river. The territory of the Shambyu Mission is very vast, some villages and out-stations are as far as 200 kilometers from the parish centre.'*



Fr A. Daniluk

Fr G. Szargot

Fr R. Vaz





10. SALESIAN PRESENCES IN ZMB THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED

IPUSUKILO Mission had only been in the Salesian hands for six years. We took it over from the White Fathers in 1986. It was a typical rural parish. Apart from the pastoral work, the Salesians who were there at that time, Fr Casimir Kulczycki and Fr Andrew Zdzieborski, tried to help the people of the area, especially the young people, with some social and material development. The big garden at the mission became a farming school. The young farmers in the surrounding villages were helped with farming instructions, equipment, seeds and fertilizer and they were also assisted in the selling of their crops. Fr Kulczycki managed to get enough money to buy a hammer mill for the mission. Some fishponds were also built and a tuck shop was opened where the people could buy some essential goods at affordable prices. In 1992, following the consolidation process of ZMB, the provincial council proposed the handing back of Ipusukilo Mission to the Archdiocese of Kasama. Archbishop James Spaita accepted our proposal and so on the 20th of August 1992, we left the place and the White Fathers returned to Ipusukilo once again.

CHINGOLA was one of the first places where the Salesians established their presence in Zambia. The Bishop of Ndola entrusted two parishes to our care: Sts. Peter and Paul in town and Kacema Musuma in Kasombe. Fr Bem and Fr Molendowski were appointed as parish priests respectively and stayed together in one community. Both parishes were well established and developed. The town parish occupied a rather small plot and hadn't much prospect for further extension. Kasombe parish had two out-stations. In one of them, Fr Molendowski built a new church, which was blessed by Bishop Dennis de Jong in 1989. With further development in mind, we were trying to get some kind of assurance from the Bishop that we could stay in that place for a longer period of time. However, since we failed to get such assurance, we proposed the handing of both parishes back to the diocese. Sts. Peter and Paul's parish was given back in December 1995 as was Kacema Musuma some months later.

NSAKALUBA Mission (in Mwense), was one of the parishes in the Diocese of Mansa that were proposed to us by Bishop James Spaita in 1982. However, the parish priest, Fr Celcius Chikonde, was not very keen on handing over the Nsakaluba parish to us at that time. A few years later, due to some trouble in the parish, the Bishop transferred Fr Chikonde and his vicar to other parishes. We were asked again by the Bishop to accept Nsakaluba. Since there was no priest immediately available at that time, Fr Cichecki sent a seminarian to Nsakaluba, Peter Gozdalski. He stayed there for some time with Fr Luka Antaya, a Canadian WF. Fr Paul Dziatkiewicz was appointed as the new parish priest and after returning from his holiday, he settled in Nsakaluba in 1986.

Nsakaluba was a parish of about 10,000 Catholics with well over 30 out-



Fr A. Zdzieborski



Frs A. Zdzieborski and the late K. Kulczycki saying mass in the parish church



Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Church



Frs P. Dziatkiewicz, K. Cichecki, W. Kozłowicz Sr K. Kuzminska, Br J. Orysiuk and Cl M. Leya in Nsakaluba mission.



stations. Some of them were far away

from the main mission; about 130km. Fr Paul proved to be very creative in his pastoral and social activities. He undertook and carried out quite a number of different projects, including: the renovation of the existing premises (houses, parish hall and offices), the construction of the new parish hall, the construction of the new parish office and the youth centre, fencing a good part of the mission plot, starting a pre-school (kindergarten), organizing different courses for the young people (bricklaying, tailoring, cooking, carpentry). During the Salesian presence in Nsakaluba, some other major projects were also carried out, like: a water borehole, a new and solid wall fence (a court-yard), a grotto, garages and stores. Nsakaluba had been a very lively Salesian parish for 15 years. In 2001, it was handed back to the Diocese of Mansa.

TERESIANUM Printing Press, in the Archdiocese of Lusaka, was taken over by the Salesians in 1988. Archbishop Adrian Mungandu and Fr Casimir Cichecki had great hopes that the press would regain its former glory and that it would develop even further. We tried our best to get to that high standard, but somehow we failed. There were many reasons for this: we had no Salesian qualified in printing, old and unreliable machines, insufficient funds to buy new machines and the arrival of many new printing presses in Lusaka created tough competition. Despite that unfavourable situation, the Salesians did a good job during their 13 years at Teresianum. The place and surroundings were greatly improved. There were no unnecessary stoppages in printing activities. Apart from the commercial part of the press, we started a typographic school there, offering two-year courses to the young people. Due to the needs and plans of the ZMB vice province, the Teresianum Printing Press was handed back to the Archdiocese of Lusaka on the 5th of December 2001.

LUWINGU was the first Salesian Headquarters in Zambia. It was here that the provincial delegate, Fr Casimir Cichecki, resided before he moved to Lusaka in 1985. Luwingu was one of the biggest parishes in the Archdiocese of Kasama with about 40 out-stations. Our main work there was to run the parish and to take pastoral care of the big secondary school for boys and girls. To assist the young people of the area, the Salesians built a small technical school and organized a youth centre with some sports facilities. Unfortunately, the school was not very successful and was soon closed down. In the first few years of our presence in Zambia, Luwingu was the place where we used to have our retreats. For that purpose, a new building with guest rooms and other facilities was constructed and the mission property was also fenced with a brick wall. After 21 years of our presence in Luwingu, the mission was handed back to the Archdiocese of Kasama on the 19th of September 2004.



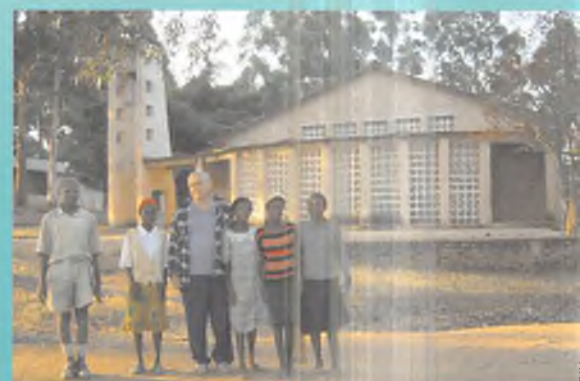
TERESIANUM PRESS



TERESIANUM PRESS



LUWINGU MISSION



FR A. DANILUK IN FRONT OF THE PARISH CHURCH



11. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

By Fr Joseph Czerwinski, sdb

The future is developed from the past and present. We, as Salesians in ZMB who are living today, will have an indelible effect on the future of our presence in ZMB. We also know that as a result of our frail human nature, there are always positive and not so positive moments in our evangelizing mission to the young in our everyday life. However, we do hope and pray that these positive effects are stronger than the weaknesses and Our Lady and Patroness – Mary Help of Christians, is here to help and guide us in the same way as She was guiding and showing the way to Don Bosco.

We know that we can only build on a solid foundation of Christian charity, strong faith and forgiveness in order to be in the Church *'signs and bearers of the love of God for young people, especially those who are poor: By carrying out this mission we find our own way to holiness'*. (C. 2)

In order to move forward in a more organised way and in seriously considering the suggestion of the Provincial Chapters, the five year plan was prepared with the help of two professional Salesians from India Fr. J. Arimpoor, sdb and T. Jery, sdb.

In this planning, the focus is on the Initial and on-going Formation, qualification of the confreres, working with lay people, greater transparency and accountability and reaching out meaningfully to the young at risk.

For our young Vice Province, the Initial and on-going formation of the confreres is definitely our priority, and it is a necessity. The personal spiritual renewal of each and every confrere is the key element in the successful evangelizing mission to the young. This renewal is being done through retreats, seminars, lectures and various meetings, but above all, through the return to the playgrounds so that we may re-discover and put into practice our Salesian Charisma. Our Rector Major writes:... *"by making our own the motto 'Da mihi animas,*

cetera tolle' we intend to take up Don Bosco's spiritual and apostolic program, resulting in this tireless work for the 'glory of God and the salvation of souls'. In this way, we can find once again the origin of our Charisma, the purpose of our mission and the future of our congregation. We cannot return to Don Bosco unless we return to the young".

As we are having a steady increase in vocations, I clearly see that another necessary step of consolidation is that the ZMB Novitiate, 'is a must'. Therefore, after intensive talks and negotiations with the AFM - SA Province and Don Cereda, the General Councillor for Formation, it was agreed that we will open the Novitiate in Lusaka in 2009 (*Letter of Don F. Cereda - 9.05.2006*). We have already commenced fund raising activities in different provinces. Last year, fund raising was done in Poland and this year, it will take place in the USA.

The plans have been drawn up and approved by the Rector Major with his council. We place this project in the hands of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians, the Patroness of our Vice Province.

Additionally, as the number of our young confreres is progressively increasing, (we currently have 21 young Salesians in the Initial Formation at





various levels), we have to also consider commencing the Post-Noviciate. This, I see as the next big imminent project for the Vice Province.

In our Vice-Province, we are trying, as much as possible, to address the challenges of a practical, technical education. One of the best ways of raising one's social status is through a good education. Don Bosco was sure of this and that was why he funded technical schools, to enable young people to decide their fate as conscious and responsible citizens. Education helps to restore the dignity of a person, which in Africa is often diminished.

Our technical schools in Chingola, Kazembe, Lufubu, Mansa, Hwange and Lilongwe, together account for the education of a thousand poor and disadvantaged young people who were unable to continue education due to material or social reasons. Because we train young people who are poor, the burden of the daily running of our schools falls on the shoulders of the communities and the province. Larger schools contain small production workshops whose output is not normally sufficient to cover the running costs. Nevertheless, we try, where possible, to continue along these lines with faith that this is the correct path of helping the young – once started and faithfully pursued by Don Bosco himself.

Therefore, in order to improve the quality of our Training Centres and Educational Centres, we see the importance of our Confreres having the necessary qualifications, and the importance of upgrading the qualifications that our Salesian Confreres already possess.

One of the greatest challenges, in my opinion, is the problem of HIV/AIDS and its social reverberations. This disease spreads very fast, destroying families and traditions in the process. Nowadays, a traditional family is not able to take care of all its children who need to be fed, clothed and sent to school. This is a great challenge for us Salesians as our mission is geared towards the young.

Much has been done in this field in the respective communities and by individual Salesians.

The Behavior Change Program, Distant

Adoption Scheme and Home Base Care Program serve the most affected and underprivileged in society.

Each community is challenged to respond to the needs of the 'youth-at-risk'. Our Project in Kabwe will be geared specifically towards this purpose and we hope that we will help more orphans and needy children in Kabwe.

I must say that although we do try our best, we have not yet responded fully to this challenge. This is the next big challenge for our Vice Province.

Furthermore, we see the need to stress the point on 'transparency' in all areas. We have just celebrated the second Provincial Community Day, where each community contributed towards a 'Solidarity fund' in order to support the construction of the novitiate. The positive response shows that the confreres are all in favour of the Novitiate being in Lusaka. Let us all try to contribute as much as we can.

These are major challenges which Salesians will try to address in the spirit of Don Bosco. There are many other projects and programs being realized in communities and at Provincial level (Youth Festivals, various educative courses and seminars for youth and adults) but we cannot mention all of them here.

Don Bosco's charisma and his mission to the young found rich soil in which to grow here in Africa. Right now, there are two Provinces and 10 Vice Provinces with over 1,200 Salesians on this Continent. Don Bosco's dream and his vision to Christianize Africa slowly becomes a reality. It was and is possible only because of the deep faith and total commitment of the first Salesian missionaries who dedicated their lives to the evangelization of Africa and planting the Salesian Charisma in its soil.

It is thanks to their courage and dedication to the Salesian works that the young Provinces have grown in numbers of local confreres who will slowly take over the responsibility for the missions.

In a special way, I would like to recall Fr. Casimir Cichecki, who led the first Salesian missionary expedition to Zambia and completely committed



himself to the missions in Southern Africa. He died in Lusaka in the jubilee year 2000 and is buried at Kasisi cemetery. Two other confreres: Fr. Joseph Ojczyk, sdb and Fr. Oscar Zamora, sdb are buried alongside Fr. Casimir.

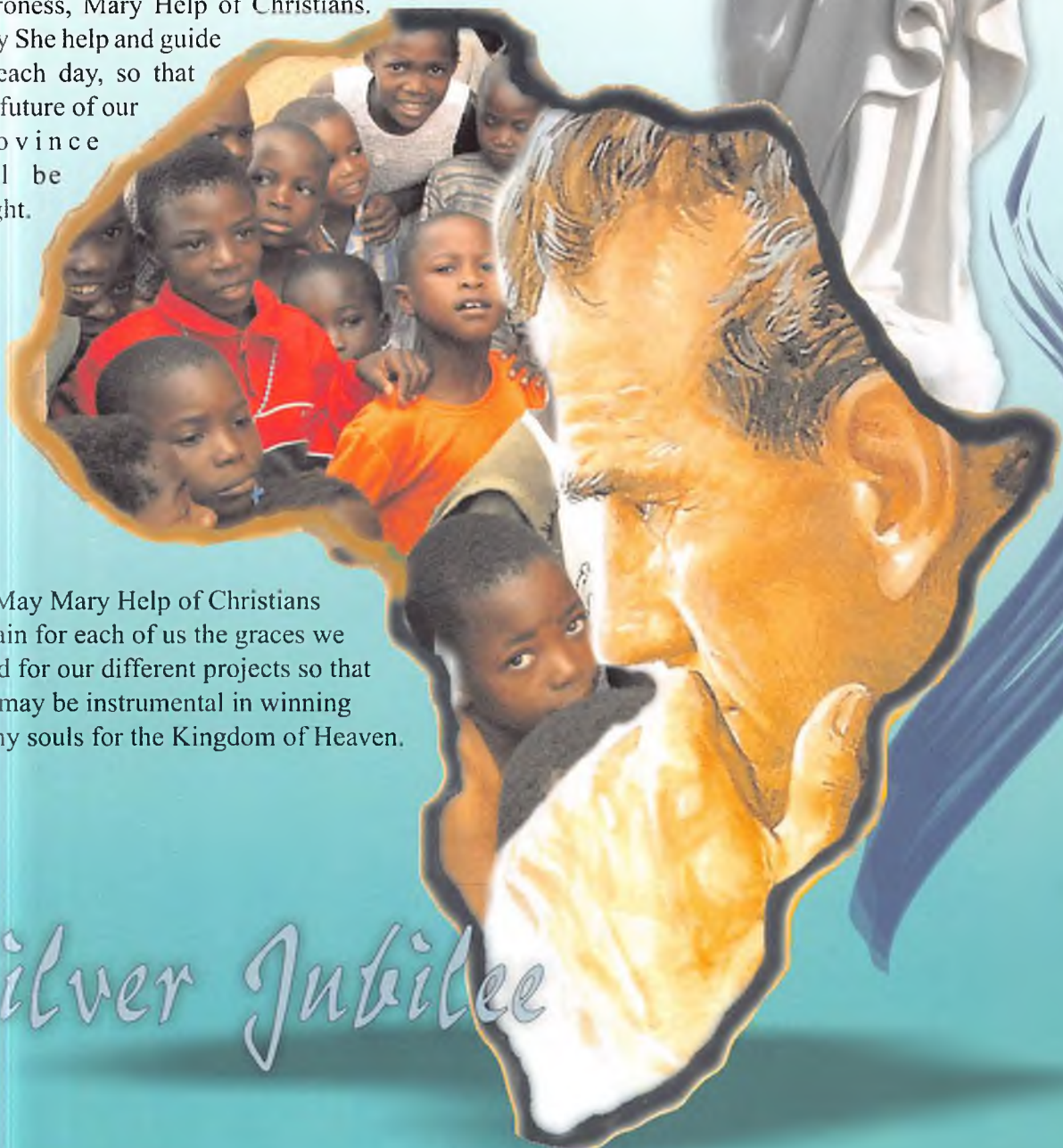
Other pioneers : Frs. Karczewski Louis sdb, Bem Joseph sdb, Szmyt Eugene, sdb, and Molendowski Teddy sdb, left for eternity in their respective provinces of origin in Poland.

May their personal example, deep faith and courage be an inspiration for all of us in ZMB. I am sure that they help us from their heavenly home and intercede with our Mission.

Finally, I entrust the future of ZMB to Our Patroness, Mary Help of Christians.

May She help and guide us each day, so that the future of our Province will be bright.

May Mary Help of Christians obtain for each of us the graces we need for our different projects so that we may be instrumental in winning many souls for the Kingdom of Heaven.



Silver Jubilee



12. THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS OF THE FIRST 25 YEARS & OTHER NOTABLE CONFRES



Fr Augustine Dziedziel, sdb was born on the 24th April, 1935. He did his Novitiate in Kopicz and made his First Religious Profession in the Salesian Congregation on the 15th of August, 1953. He was ordained priest in 1959. He was the Provincial of the Krakow Province from 1970 – 1976. In 1978 he was nominated as the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Polish Provinces. When “Project Africa” was launched, Don Augustine tirelessly animated Salesian confreres in Poland and thanks to his great efforts, the first Missionary group was organized and sent to Zambia in 1982.

As a Delegate of the Rector Major he continually supported the Mission in Africa, animating the confreres in Europe and helping the Missionaries in Zambia. Thanks to his efforts and care, the ZMB Circumscription was created in 1994 with its first superior, Fr Boryczka Peter. The Circumscription in 1999 became the Vice Province of Mary Help of Christians.

Fr Augustine did not lose his missionary spirit and zeal as he still works tirelessly in the Circumscription of the Eastern Europe – EST.

We express our gratitude to him for the difficult, pioneering work done well in Zambia and promise him our prayerful support in his continuous missionary work.



Fr Kant Bronislaw, sdb was born on the 25th of February, 1930. He completed his Novitiate in Czerwinski and on the 2nd of August, 1947 he made his First Profession in the Salesian Congregation. He was ordained priest on the 15th of June 1957 in Plock.

As a director of Salesian Mission Office in Lodz and later in Warsaw, he really helped all the Salesian Missionaries who were coming back to their provinces of origin.

When ‘Project Africa’ commenced, Fr. Kant dedicated most of his experience, expertise and loving care to all new Missionaries who were leaving for Africa. He organized the language courses, made all the travel arrangements and was very helpful to those who were coming back and required medical check ups. The Mission Procure in Warsaw became the real home for all the Missionaries that needed rest and spiritual and physical renewal.

This year Fr Kant Bronislaw celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination. Our best wishes and prayerful support go to him in this special year.

We are very grateful indeed, to Fr Kant, for all the help and support we received from him, during these years and we promise him our prayers.



Fr Cichecki Kazimierz, sdb was born on the 12th of December 1918 in Parzeczew, Poland. His father died when he was only 3 years old and he was brought up by his mother, together with his younger brother, Vincent. When he was 19 years old, Kazimierz entered the novitiate in Czerwinski and made his First Profession on the 2nd of August, 1938.

He was ordained priest in 1946, just after World War II. After his ordination he studied Pedagogy at Lodz University, while at the same time, he was also working at the Salesian Technical School in Lodz. For many years he worked in the Houses of Formation, teaching different subjects. He was also the Dean of Studies at the Salesian Seminary, in Lad.

When ‘Project Africa’ was initiated, he volunteered to come to Zambia. He was chosen as the Superior Delegate of the first group of Missionaries that arrived in Zambia on the 12th of October, 1982. After the Ci-Bemba Language Course in Ilondola, Fr Kazimierz worked in Luwingu Parish and later, he moved to Lusaka where he organized the Salesian



Headquarters for the newly created Delegation. He was the Superior Delegate for almost 10 years, organizing the Salesian Presences in Zambia, visiting the communities and encouraging confreres to work with the local Church in a true Salesian Spirit. He opened houses in Ipusukilo, Nsakaluba, Lufubu, Lusaka (Bauleni and Tersianum) and Kabwe. He also prepared the way for the foundation of the Salesian Mission in Malawi and Zimbabwe. He never retired from Salesian work. As a senior confrere and part of the Community of Bauleni, he was actively involved in the pastoral program of the Parish and Retreat Centre. He died suddenly on the 9th of September 2000, in Lusaka, after celebrating the Holy Eucharist in the Street Kids Centre of Bauleni. At his funeral Mass, the farewell speech was given by His Excellency, Cardinal A. Kozłowiecki, SJ, who presented Fr. Kazimierz as an example of a true Missionary. Although he came to the Mission in his older age, he was able to adapt himself fully to the new situation and gave of himself completely, in spreading the Good News, in a true Salesian Spirit. May his Soul Rest in Peace.



Fr Boryczka Peter, sdb was born on the 13th of June, 1953 in Smegorzow, Poland. He entered the Novitiate in 1970 and made his First Profession at Wozniakow, in 1971. He was ordained priest in 1980 at Lad and worked for one year at St. Theresa's Parish in Lodz. He volunteered for the Missions and after the language course in England, came to Zambia with the first missionary expedition in 1982.

He was Rector and Parish Priest at Kazembe. In 1990, he was appointed the Superior Delegate of the Mission in Zambia.

In 1994, Zambia became a Circumscription, under the title of Mary Help of Christians. Fr Peter was appointed as its first Superior. He consolidated the existing presences and further developed the Salesian work in Zambia. The new projects were opened in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Fr Peter was a Superior from 1990 until 1999.

Presently, Fr Peter works as a Parish Priest at St. J. Bosco Parish in Lilongwe – Malawi. Fr Peter, together with Fr Dziatkiewicz Paul, sdb, who is also working in Malawi, are of the first pioneers that arrived in Zambia 25 years ago in order to commence the Salesian work in Southern and Central Africa.



Fr Socha Casmir, sdb was born on the 21st of July, 1953 in Dynow, Poland. He did his Novitiate in Kopiec and made his First Religious Profession in the Salesian Congregation in 1974, at Krakow. He was ordained priest in 1981 at Krakow. After his Priestly Ordination, he worked at the Parish in Czestochowa and studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Czestochowa.

He completed the studies and came to Zambia in 1988. He worked in our Technical Schools in Chingola, and Luwingu. He was also the Vicar of the Delegate, Fr P. Borycaka. In 1999, the ZMB Circumscription was made a Vice Province, under the title of Mary Help of Christians, comprising of four countries of southern-central Africa, namely, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Fr Casmir was appointed its first Superior in September 1999. He consolidated the presences and two new houses were opened, one in Zimbabwe and the other in Namibia. In 2002, the New Provincial house was officially opened and blessed by the Regional Councillor for Africa and Madagascar, Don V. De Pablo. After finishing his term of office, Fr Casmir spent a year working in the joint novitiate in South Africa. He is presently the principal of Don Bosco Carpentry School in Kazembe.



Fr Czerwinski Joseph, sdb was born on the 22nd of March, 1962 in Gluchow, Poland.

He entered the Novitiate in 1982 and made his First Profession at Czerwinski on the 22nd of August 1983. He came to Zambia in December 1985 as a seminarian and did the practical training in Kabwe. He made his perpetual profession in the Salesian Society at Kendal, England on the 21st of August 1989. He finished the theological studies in England and was ordained priest in 1992 at Lad, Poland. In the same year, he returned to Zambia. He worked in Lusaka in Teresianum Press and he commenced the typographic school for the young people there. In 1997, he was transferred to Lilongwe – Malawi, and nominated as a rector of the community and a parish priest of St. J. Bosco Parish in Area 23. In 2000, he was appointed as the Provincial Vicar and worked mainly in Lusaka.

In 2005, he was appointed as the Superior of the ZBM Vice Province and was officially installed on the 6th of January 2005.



Fr Dziatkiewicz Paul, sdb was born on the 15th of January, 1949 in Wroclaw, Poland. He completed his Novitiate and made his First Profession in the Salesian Congregation at Kopiec in 1966. He was ordained priest in 1977. He was inspired by “Project Africa”. He volunteered for the missions and after doing the language course in England, came to Zambia with the first missionary expedition on the 12th of October, 1982.

He worked in the parishes in northern Zambia and for a considerable time, he was the Rector of the Salesian Agriculture Center, in Lufubu. This is a significant Salesian presence and an important project which aims at empowering young people to acquire agricultural skills in order to become self-reliant small-scale farmers.

Presently, he works in Malawi in one of our biggest Parishes in Nkhotakota.

Together with Fr Boryczka Peter, he is one of the first pioneers who arrived in Zambia 25 years ago and commenced the Salesian work in Southern and Central Africa.





13. Priestly Jubilees 2007

50 years of priesthood	Fr Kant Bronislaw, sdb	Golden Jubilee
40 years of priesthood	Fr Gotter Joseph, sdb	Ruby Jubilee
35 years of priesthood	Fr Zdzieborski Andrew, sdb	Coral Jubilee
30 years of priesthood	Fr Dziatkiewicz Paul, sdb	Pearl Jubilee
30 years of Priesthood	Fr Higgins Dennis, sdb	Pearl Jubilee
25 years of priesthood	Fr Daniluk Andrew, sdb	Silver Jubilee
25 years of priesthood	Fr Kozlowicz Wojtek, sdb	Silver Jubilee
15 years of priesthood	Fr Rychcik Christopher, sdb	
15 years of priesthood	Fr Czerwinski Joseph, sdb	
5 years of priesthood	Fr Chota Tresford, sdb	
5 years of priesthood	Fr Makina Patrick, sdb	
5 years of priesthood	Fr Musenge Ignatius, sdb	

We wish ALL the Jubilants every blessing and all the necessary graces they need to carry out their Salesian priestly ministry for the young.

May they joyfully persevere in their vocation and always be fervent in proclaiming the Good News to those who need it most, especially the poor and abandoned young people





13.1 List of the Confreres of ZMB Vice Province

Clerics:

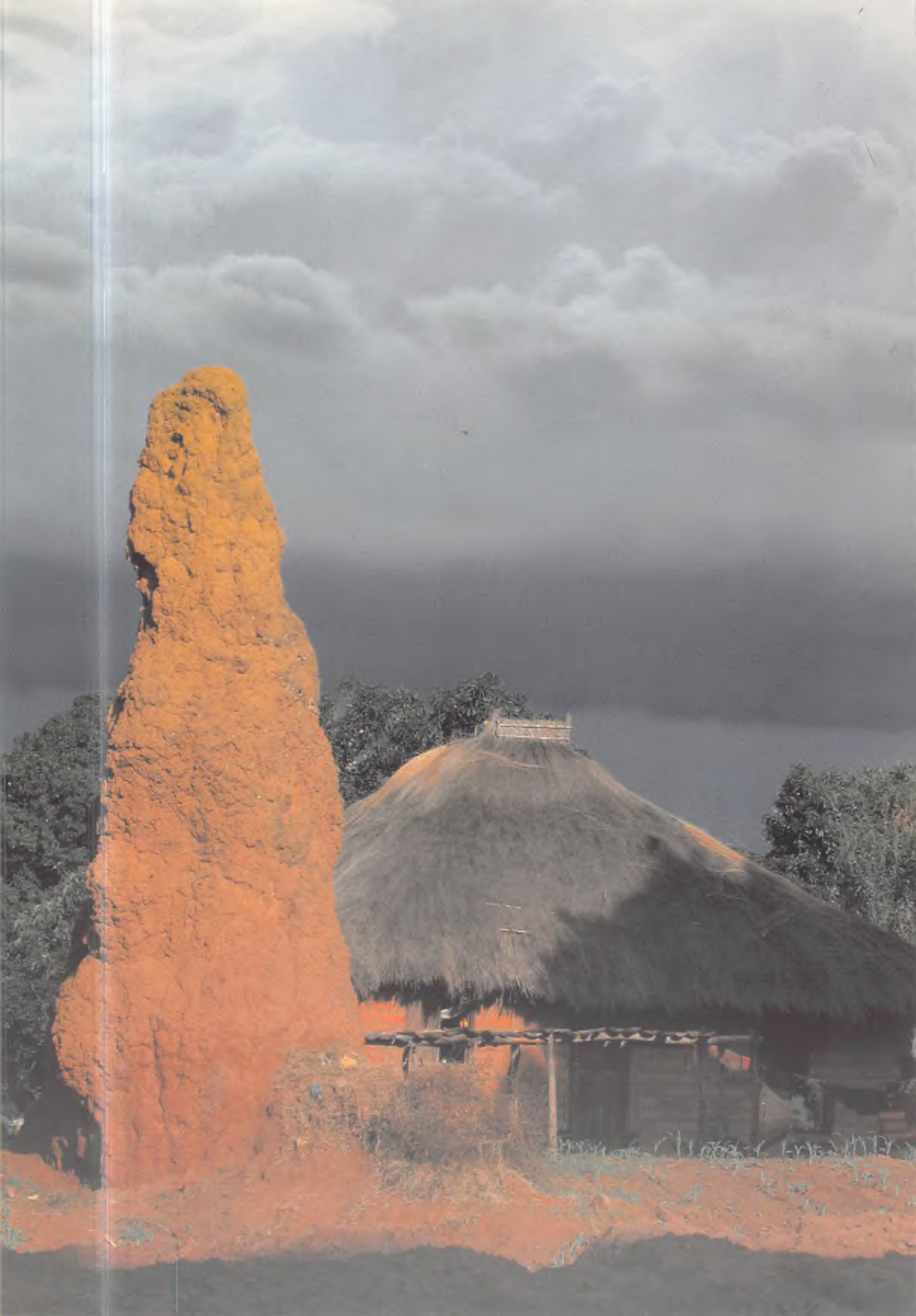
Cl Bwalya	Jerome	Fr Chisanga	Trespford
Cl Hamweete	Alphoncious	Fr Chota	Tresford
Cl Jere	Louis	Fr Czerwiński	Józef
Cl Kabanga	Gasiano	Fr Daniluk	Andrzej
Cl Kaunda	Jacob	Fr Dziatkiewicz	Paweł
Cl Kunda	Christopher	Fr Gotter	Józef
Cl Lungu	Raphael	Fr Grzegorzewski	Tomasz
Cl Mbandama	Michael	Fr Higgins	Dennis
Cl Mesi	Alexio	Fr Kim	Alexander
Cl Mpundu	Macarius	Fr Kozłowicz	Wojciech
Cl Muhime	Patrick	Fr Labun	Zygmunt
Cl Mutamba	Clement	Fr Lenczuk	Czesław
Cl Muza	Oscar	Fr Lesa	Norbert
Cl Mzanywa	John	Fr Makina	Patrick
Cl Ngosa	Dennis	Fr Malama	Lewis
Cl Njamba	Alpha	Fr Malec	Piotr
Cl Phiri	Mark E.	Fr Molenda	Waldemar
Cl Phiri	George E.	Fr Mulenga	Clement
		Fr Mulenga	John Bosco
		Fr Mulenga	Oswald
		Fr Mulenga	Pontiano
		Fr Musenge	Ignatius
		Fr Ormeño	Jorge Enrique
		Fr Panachida	Andrzej
		Fr Reut	Andrzej
		Fr Rychcik	Krzysztof
		Fr Siame	Eustace
		Fr Skolasiński	Paweł
		Fr Skowron	Józef
		Fr Socha	Kazimierz
		Fr Szurgot	Jerzy
		Fr Tembo	Vincent
		Fr Wiącek	Adam
		Fr Wnęk	Eugeniusz
		Fr Wziętek	Michał
		Fr Vaz	Rosario
		Fr Załubski	Czesław
		Fr Zamberlan	Bruno
		Fr Zdzieborski	Andrzej

Coadiutors:

Br Basumatary	Martin
Br Falek	Andrezej
Br Makumba	Sylvester
Br Mubanga	Kenny
Br Nyondo	Joseph
Br Sieradz	Stefan
Br Skolasinski	Thomas
Br Thyrniang	Walter

Priests:

Fr Aksamit	Leszek
Fr Bartodziej	Sławomir
Fr Barrientos	Javier Antonio
Fr Boryczka	Piotr
Fr Chenginiyaden	Thomas







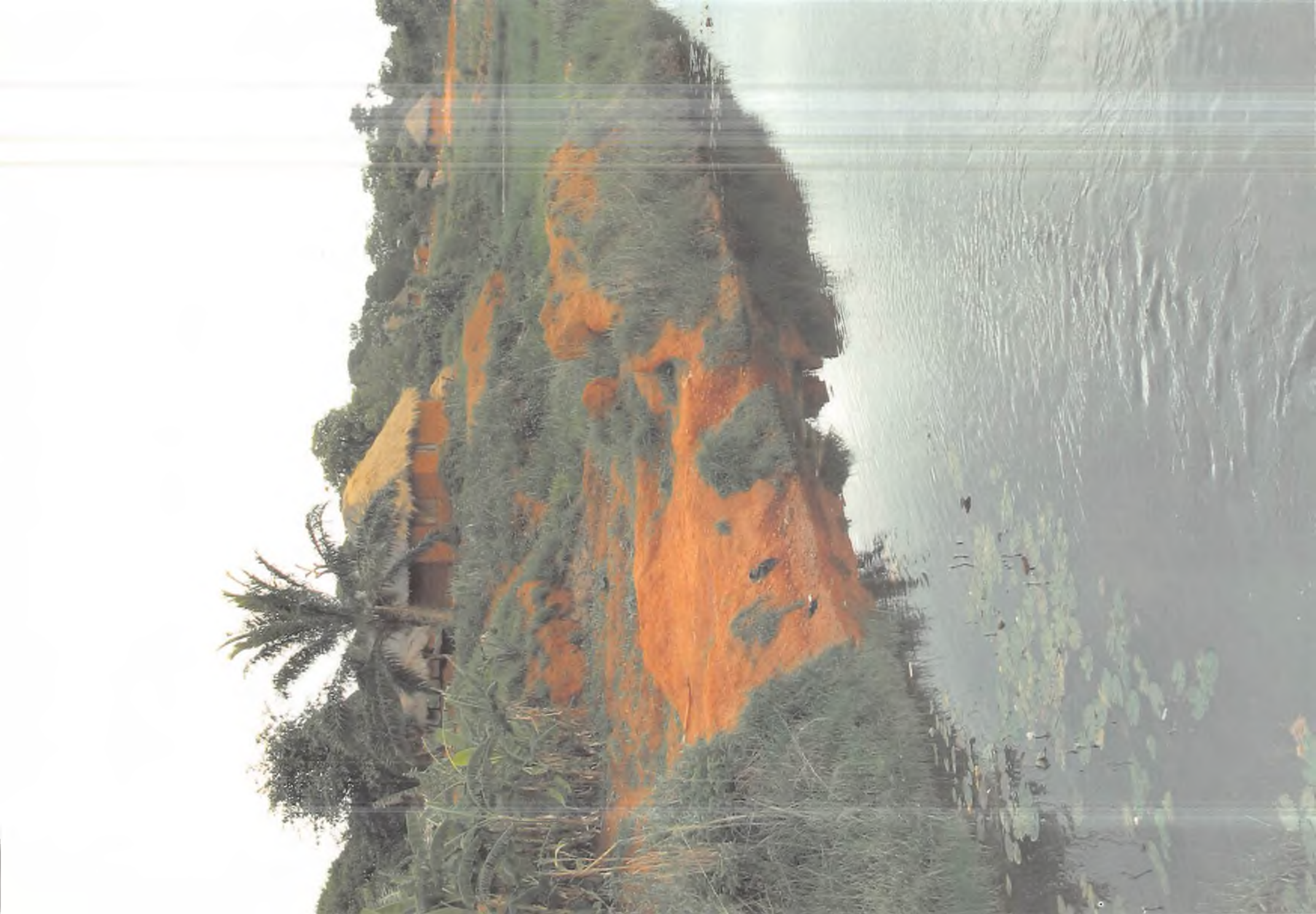




Photo Gallery

SALESIAN PARISHES



We carry out our mission chiefly in such works and activities that make possible the human and christian education of the young, such as oratories and youth centres, schools and technical institutes, boarding establishments and houses for young people in difficulties. In parishes and mission residences we contribute to the spreading of the Gospel and to the advancement of the people.

We collaborate in the pastoral programme of the particular church out of the riches of our specific vocation.

We dedicate ourselves also to every other kind of work which has as its scope the salvation of the young.

(Constitutions 42)



Kabwe - St. Mary's Parish



Rundu - St Mary's Parish



Hwange - St. Theresa's Parish



Nkhotakota - St. Paul's Parish



Kazembe - St. J. Bosco Parish



Bauleni - St. M. Mulumba Parish



Harare - All Saints' Parish



PARISH ACTIVITIES



Mansa - St James' Parish



Luwingu - St Peter's Parish



Lilongwe - St John Bosco Parish



Shambyu - St. Joseph's Parish



Lilongwe - Church under construction



Corpus Christi - Procession in Lufubu



Baptism in Kambuzuma - Harare (Fr Musenge I.)



Procession in Bauleni



Eucharist in the outstation of Chinese (Fr A. Zdzieborski)



Beginning of the Eucharist in Kazembe



Homily by Fr. P. Mulenga



Silver **25** Jubilee



Corpus Christi - Luwingu (Fr. A. Daniluk)



Bringing the offertory gifts in W. Park



After the Mass in Munyama (Fr A. Reut)



Mass at Katoba (Fr. Ch. Zalubski)



Youth Mass in Kabwe



Celebrating the Sac. of Reconciliation



Offertory gifts in Lilongwe



Entrance procession for the Mass in Hwange



Corpus Christi - Kabwe (Fr. A. Barrientos)



Choir during the Mass in Bauleni



Villagers going for Mass in Chimese



Legion of Mary in W. Park - Harare



Fr. J. B. Mulenga is blessing the marriage



TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

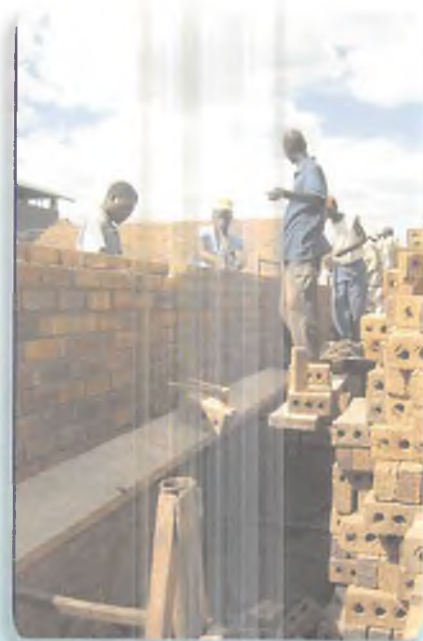


As educators we work together with our young people to bring all their talents and aptitudes to full maturity. According to circumstances we share our food with them and further their trade skills and cultural advancement. Always and in every case we help them to be open to truth and to develop in themselves a responsible freedom. To this end we commit ourselves to inculcating in them a convinced appreciation of true values which will lead them to a life of dialogue and service.

(Constitutions 32)



Four ZMB School Principals: Fr. N. Lesa, Mr Banda Brs A. Falek and W. Thyminag, in Lilongwe



Hwange - Technical College



Chingola- Technical School



Lufubu - Agricultural Training Centre



Mansa - Skills Centre



Kazembe - Technical School



Silver **25** Jubilee



Technical College in Lilongwe



Graduation in Chingola



Tailoring section - Lilongwe



Bricklaying classes in Chingola



IT classes in Harare



Tailoring classes in Lilongwe



Harvesting in Lufubu



Metal workshop in Chingola



Carpentry workshop in Lilongwe



First year students in Kazembe



Chingola - After morning assembly



IT classes in Chingola



Graduation in Lilongwe



IT classes in Lilongwe



YOUTH CENTRES



Don Bosco lived a pastoral experience in his first Oratory which serves as a model; it was for the youngsters a home that evangelised, a school that prepared them for life, and a playground where friends could meet and enjoy themselves.

As we carry out our mission today, the Valdocco experience is still the lasting criterion for discernment and renewal in all our activities and works.

(Constitutions 40)





Silver **25** Jubilee



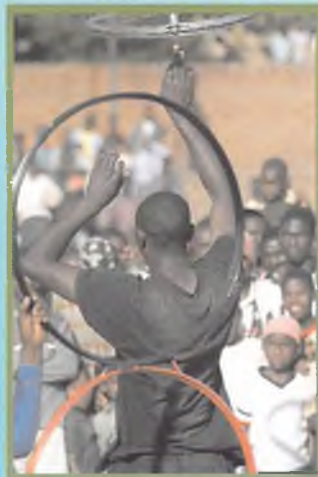
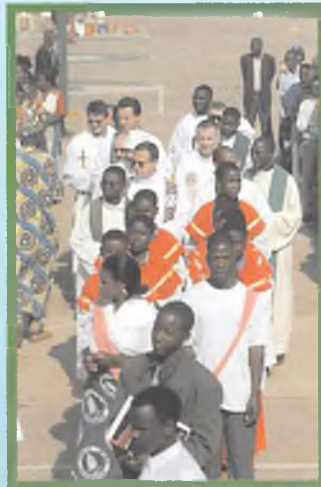


The practice of the preventive system demands a fundamental disposition on our part: an empathy with the young and a willingness to be with them: "Here in your midst I feel completely at home; for me, living means being with you". We are actively present among the young in brotherly friendship, helping them in their efforts to grow in what is good, and encouraging them to cast off every form of slavery, so that their weakness may not be overcome by evil. This presence affords us a true understanding of the world of the young and unites us with them in all the healthy aspects of their restless energy.

(Constitutions 39)



Silver **25** Jubilee





VOCATIONS



Each one of us is called by God to form part of the Salesian Society. Because of this God gives him personal gifts, and by faithful correspondence he finds his way to complete fulfilment in Christ. The Society recognises his vocation and helps him to develop it; and he, as a responsible member, puts himself and his gifts at the service of the community and of its common tasks. Every call is an indication that the Lord loves the Congregation, wants to see it vibrant for the good of the Church and never ceases to enrich it with new apostolic energy.

(Constitutions 22)



Rector Major with novices in RSA



Recreation



ZMB Novices in Johannesburg



First Profession of C. Mulenga SDB in Johannesburg



First Profession in Bauleni



First Profession in Bauleni



ZMB Seminarians in Moshi - Tanzania



Priestly Ordination of Fr L. Malama in Lusaka



Priestly Ordination of Fr O. Mulenga in Chingola



Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Br. S. Sieradz



Priestly Ordination of Fr E. Siame in Kasama



Lusaka Young Priest Meeting in Lusaka



Newly Ordained Frs G. Ormeno, A. Barrientos and O. Mulenga in Lusaka



Historical Events



The province unites the different local communities in one large community. It is canonically erected when the necessary and sufficient conditions exist for promoting in a specific juridical circumscription the life and mission of the Congregation with the autonomy that belongs to it according to the Constitutions. Through its structures the province strengthens the bonds of communion between the members and the local communities and offers a specific service to the particular Church (Constitutions 157)



First Chapter of ZMB - Makeni 1995
Moderator - Fr Joseph Czerwinski



Third Chapter of ZMB - Bauleni 2001
Moderator - Fr Joseph Czerwinski



Fourth Chapter of ZMB - Chawama 2004
Moderator - Fr Christopher Rychcik



Fifth Chapter of ZMB - Chawama 2007
Moderator - Fr Bruno Zambran



Fourth Chapter in session



Fourth Chapter in prayer



Fifth Chapter in session



Fifth Chapter in session



Fifth Chapter in prayer



Silver 25 Jubilee



Visit of Cardinal Bertone



With Cardinal A. Kozlowicki in Mpunde



With Rector Major P. Chavez in Nairobi



Rector Major Don E. Vigano in Lusaka - 1988



Don L. V. Looy in Lusaka



Don A. Tallon in Thorn Park - Lusaka



Don A. Domenech in Lusaka



Three ZMB Superiors with Don A. Tallon



Don V. De Paolo in Kazembe



Retreat in Bauleni with Fr. Ch. Saldana, sdb



Don V. De Paolo in Lusaka



Don Domenech in Lusaka



Meeting of the Formation Commission of CIVAM



Silver **25** Jubilee



First SDBs pioneers in Zimbabwe
Frs G. Szurgot and B. Zamberlan
with Bishop of Hwange R. Ndlovu



Fr. C. Cichecki and other Polish Missionaries
receiving government awards



ZMB Parish Priests in Lufubu



Retreat in Bauleni with Don G. Mazzali



Pioneers on the way to Malawi
Frs L. Aksamit, P. Dziatkiewicz, S. Jagodzinski



Installation of the New Provincial
of ZMB Fr J. Czerwinski



Retreat in Lusaka - 2003



Mass with Apostolic Nuncio
Archbishop N. Girasoli



Provincial Assembly - Bauleni 2006



Silver 25 Jubilee



Feast Day of the Province Lusaka - Chawama April 2007



Feast day of the Province 2007

Priestly anniversary of Fr L. Aksamit



Young people on the way to Germany for World Youth Day in 2005

Development Office Commission at work

Youth Commission



Youth Commission at work

D.O. Commission

Rectors' Meeting - Chawama



Silver **25** Jubilee



Former Provincial House in Makeni



Recreation during the ZMB Feast Day



Joy of the young people in Chingola



Harare - Silver Jubilee of Priesthood of Fr Casimir Kulczycki



ZMB Provincial Council in Chawama



Presentation of Sr. Florence FMA in Lilongwe



Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Br S. Sieradz in Chawama (Main celebrant Don V. De Pablo)



Fr J. Ziokiewicz convalescing in the Mission Center in Warsaw



Before morning Mass in Makulu



Students from Kazembe Tech. School ready for travel...



Co-operators to be at the meeting



You have stolen my heart... the youngest oratorians in Mansa



DEPARTED
CONFRERES



The community supports with greater love and prayer the confrere who is gravely ill. When the hour comes for him to bring his consecrated life to its fulfilment, his brothers help him to enter fully into Christ's paschal mystery. Death for the salesian is made bright by the hope of entering into the joy of his Lord, and when it happens that a salesian dies working for souls, the Congregation has won a great triumph. The memory of departed confreres unites, "in a love that will not pass away", those who are still pilgrims with those who are already resting in Christ.

(Constitutions 54)



Fr Casimir Cichecki SDB
† 9/09/2000



Fr Casimir Kulczycki SDB
† 18/01/2005



Fr Joseph Bem SDB
† 16/12/1998



Fr Joseph Ojczyk SDB
† 26/10/2004



Fr Tadeo Molendowski SDB
† 16/03/2004



Fr Oscar Zamora SDB
† 20/08/2006



Fr Louis Karczewski SDB
† 13/11/1990



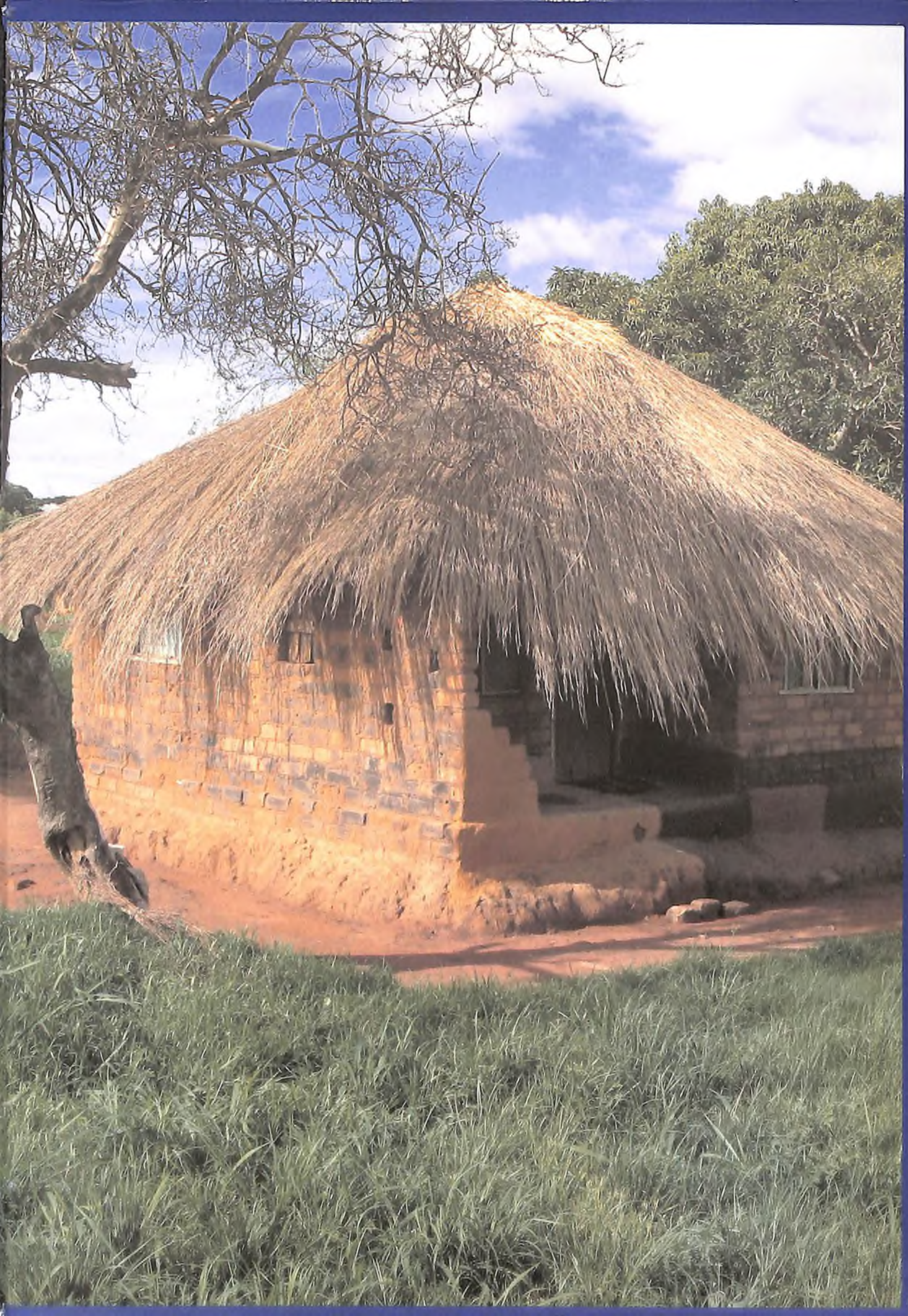
Br Jan Orysiuk SDB
† 27/04/1993



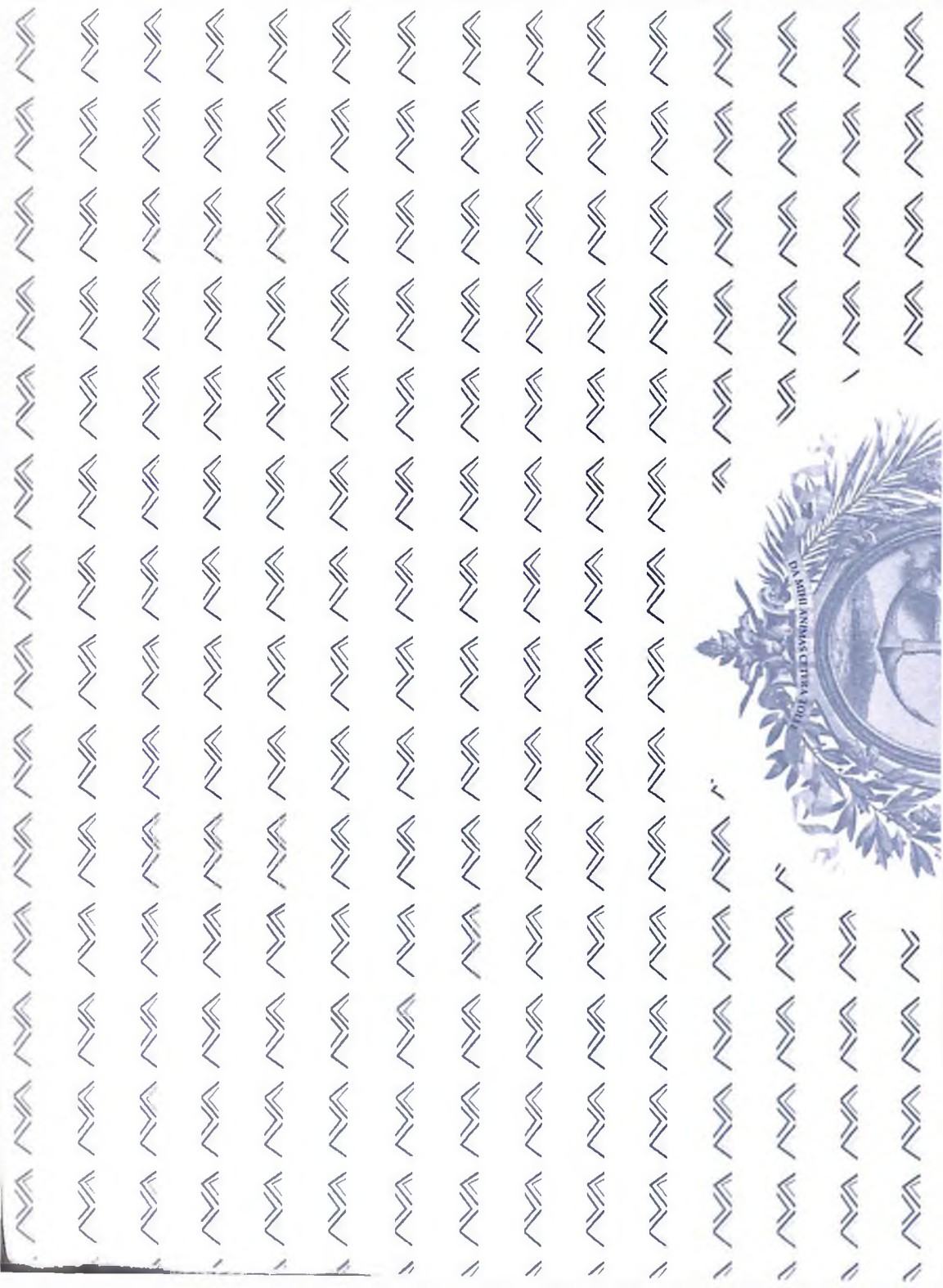
Fr Eugene Szmyt SDB
† 28/02/2001

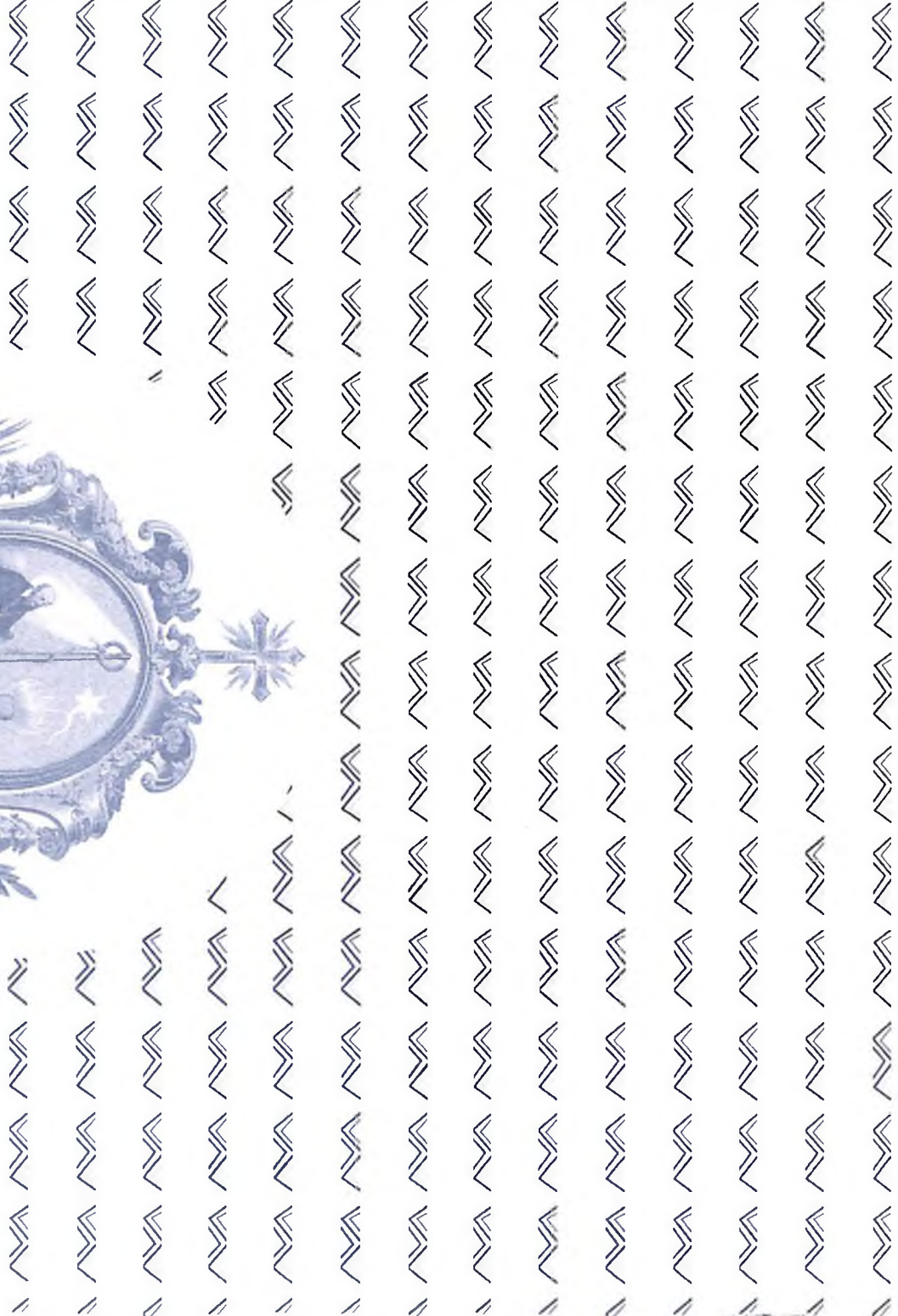
Eternal Rest give unto them O Lord

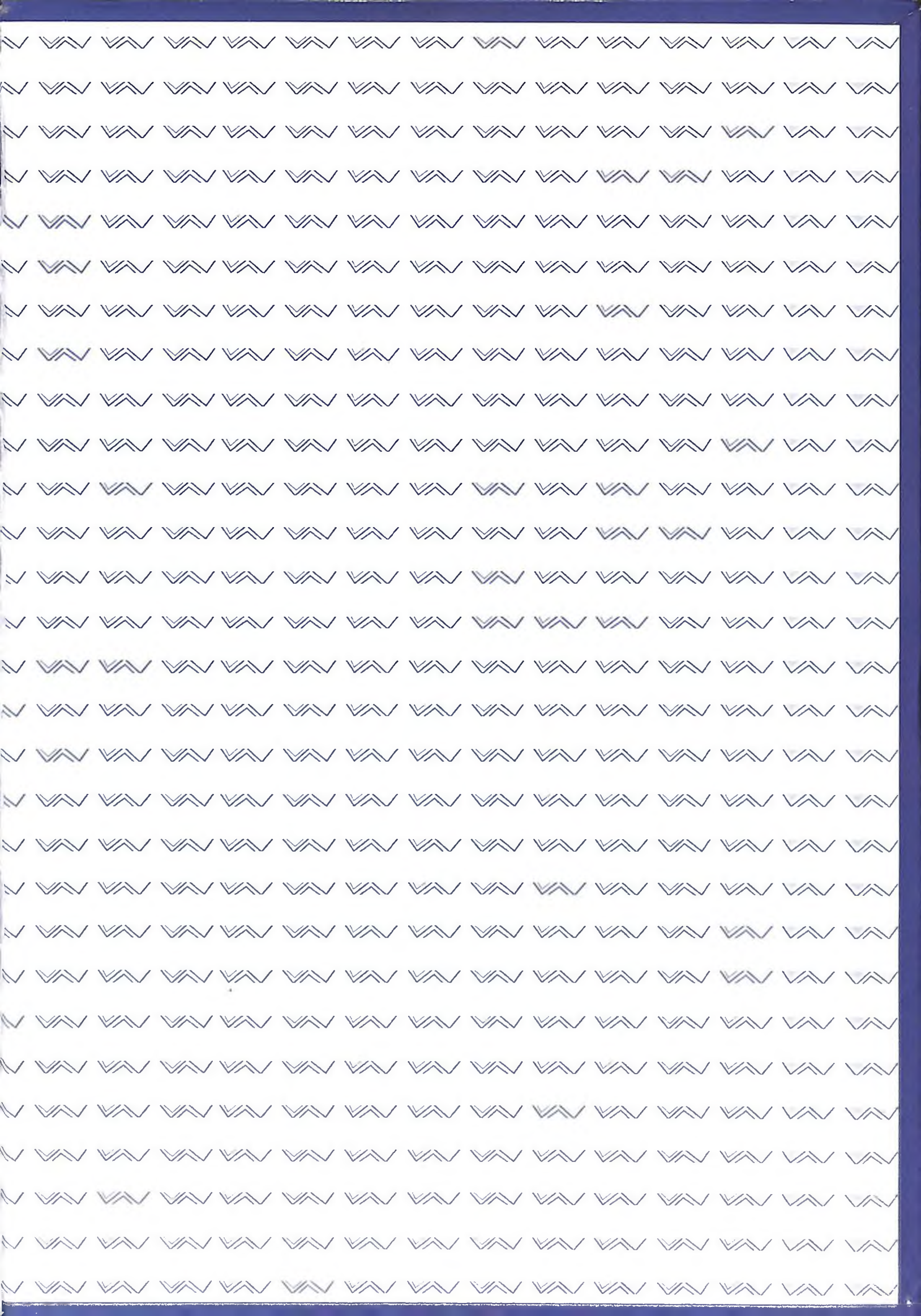
May they Rest in Peace











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