



**Fr Stanislaus Gozdzik, S.J.**  
**(1907-1948. In Zambia 1938-1948)**

**29 January 1948**

Stanislaus Gozdzik, the son of Lawrence and Josepha (nee Deren) Gozdzik, was born in Sulejow in central Poland on 1 September 1907. He entered the novitiate at Stara Wies in 1922. After two years of juniorate in Stara Wies and two in Pinsk he proceeded to philosophy in Krakow in 1928. He studied theology in Lublin where he was ordained in 1936.

After tertianship he left for Northern Rhodesia in 1938. He pronounced his final vows in Katondwe in 1939. He had a short but intensive and fruitful ministry. After a year of language study and getting to know the country at Katondwe, he took care of Kapoche which then extended to Mburuma's headquarters at Chakwenga on the Zambezi. His great interest in education led him to building new schools including a brick boarding school at Chakwenga for 40 boarders. His constant travels on land and in boat on the Zambezi made him popular with the local people wherever he went. However, it soon weakened his health.

In 1944 he was transferred to Chingombe where he constructed more schools: seven of them in brick and several others of wood and wattle. Like in Kapoche the hot climate, malaria and the constant journeying soon had an adverse effect on his health. One day, on a hot summer afternoon on the last Sunday in January he went with Br Perdik to bathe in the hot springs at Mikwa, hoping thus to alleviate his malaria. Two days he later on 29 February 1948 he passed away. He was only 41 years old.