



Fr Stanislaw Hankiewicz, S.J.
(1877-1928. In Zambia 1914-1925)

14 March 1928

Stanislaw Hankiewicz was born on 11 February 1877 in Krysowice-Moscisk of Stanislaw and Leokadia (Rudnicka). He entered the Society at Stara Wies in 1893, just after his sixteenth birthday. He did his regency in our college at Chyrow (1901-5) and was ordained at Cracow in July 1908. He volunteered immediately for the Zambesi Mission and set out for Mozambique the following year at the relatively young age of 32. He obviously was intelligent with a gift for languages but he never had robust health which was so necessary for the unhealthy climate of the Zambezi Valley. By 1910 he was already at St Francis Xavier in Angonia where he mastered chiNyanja. He spent some time at Boroma where there were a number of his fellow countrymen and then, with the Edict of Expulsion in 1910, he headed to Coalene (1912) on the coast from where he headed back to Poland. It is surprising that like some of his fellow Poles he did not cross the Luangwa River and set up at what became Katondwe but he probably needed a time at home for health reasons. Within a couple of years he was back – but now in Zambia.

He travelled out with Fr Czarlinski and Br Pacek and with them formed the first team of men to open up Chingombe Mission. The three of them set up a record in the early Mission by remaining in this very hot and isolated station for almost ten years. They were a good team: the energetic Czarlinski, the faithful and dedicated companion Hankiewicz and the versatile Pacek who erected the necessary buildings and maintained a thriving garden for survival.

Hankiewicz continued to develop his proficiency in the language and produced a small chiNyanja grammar, as well as a number of booklets. Some of this work became valuable a few years later when the Prefect Apostolic, Mgr Wolnik pushed chiNyanja as the liturgical language, as it was already the *lingua franca* of the Colonial Administration. However given the complexity of languages in the prefecture, Mgr Wolnik was always careful to cater for exceptions. Hankiewicz also introduced to the Christians some Polish hymns and even today Polish melodies can be heard in some of the Christmas carols. He was a good pastoral worker because of his proficiency in the language and the fact that his preferred mode of transport was on foot!

He left Chingombe in August 1923 just as Brs Kodrzyński and Jędrzejczyk completed the fine two story community house. He was sent to Kasisi as superior and arrived just after their community house had been completed by Br Longa. Times were moving and suddenly Fr Charles Bert arrived from Salisbury to make a report on the Mission in order to get things ready for the next stage of development which was to become a prefecture. A year later, the ecclesiastical superior, Mgr Brown of Salisbury arrived to review the situation and install Bert as Mission Superior on a temporary basis. There is a photograph of the two officials from Southern Rhodesia with the community at Kasisi. In the photo Hankiewicz already looks a sick man. He went back to Poland the following year (1925).

In the few years left to him, he continued to work for the Mission by his writings. He passed away on 14 March 1928 at the early age of 51 having spent eleven of these in Zambia and three in Mozambique.

14 March

11 February 1877 – 14 March 1928

Fr. Stanislaw HANKIEWICZ

He was born Krysowice, Poland, on February 11, 1877 and entered the Society of Jesus on February 27, 1893, in the Province of Galicia. He was sent to the Zambezia Mission (Mozambique) in 1909, working in Lifidzi, in Angónia, in Boroma and in Coalane. He took his final vows on February 2, 1910, in Boroma. He left Mozambique in 1912 and went to the mission of Chingombe, in Rhodesia. He died on March 14, 1928, in Krakow.

(Catalogus Defunctorum in renata Societate Iesu ab a. 1914 ad a. 1970).