

23 March

FR GEORG SUNDER

18 January 1906 – 23 March 1994



Detmold, Lippe where George Sunder was born is a strong Protestant part of Germany and he was often the only Catholic in his class at school. He had one brother who also became a priest, though not a Jesuit, and their father, having no one to pass on his savings to, invested in the establishment of the East German and Lithuanian provinces.

George entered the Society in 1924 and studied in Holland and Jersey. He did his regency in Kaunas, Lithuania, teaching Greek (at short notice). The war found him in Silesia in a parish and during the chaos

at the end of the war he moved with them from place to place. Sometimes he would cross the river to West Germany on the back of a man who was renowned for doing this service. He became superior of the East German region but had to leave abruptly for West Germany when he discovered the East German police were looking for him. He escaped by a dramatic circuitous route around the city of Berlin.

After spending time in the novitiate in London learning English when the present writer was there, he reached Zimbabwe for the first time aged 53 in 1959. He then had to learn Shona and in 1961 he was in Kadoma. He soon became superior of the Sinoia mission after Fr Otto and, among other missions, founded Banket and St Rupert's. His attempt to found a training farm near Alaska failed for a number of reasons but the equipment gathered for the venture was put to good use at St Albert's and later Kangaire.

He was in Banket in 1971 and St Albert's in 1975. From 1978-86 he was at Kariba where he developed an imaginative apostolate of inviting the many visitors to St Barbara's unique church on the hill above the dam, to take a card if they were interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church. Many did and he had a huge correspondence as he introduced them, by post, to the faith.

He was again in Banket in 1987 and finally retired to the House of Adoration in 1990 where he served the retired Dominican sisters and he died there in their hands.