



**Fr Donald Ziemba, S.J.**  
**(1937-11986. In Zambia 1964-1968)**

**29 March 1986**

Donald Ziemba was born on 30 December 1937 in Chicago, an American of Polish parents. After school he wished to join the Jesuits and entered the Chicago novitiate in 1957 for the Minor Polish Province, as he wanted to go to the mission in Northern Rhodesia. He did his philosophy in Mobile, Alabama. He already had a B.Lit. (1961) and a B.Sc. in Biology (1963). He obtained a masters in philosophy. At an early stage in the Society, he aspired to take a degree in medicine to become a doctor and made this aspiration known to Fr Plawecki, the superior in Lusaka.

He came to Northern Rhodesia just before Independence in 1964 and then proposed to the superior that he do two years regency and return to the USA to take his masters in Biology, with a view to pursuing medicine. However he spent the three years of regency at Mpima Minor Seminary in Kabwe, teaching and being involved in the activities of the school. However, his interests were not in teaching this age group.

He returned to the USA in 1968 with the blessing of the new superior, Fr Cichecki, to spend a year getting his M. Sc. in Biology, before proceeding to theology at St Louis University. Don was ordained in 1971 and wrote to the new provincial, Fr Counihan about his desires. The request was turned down. He then qualified in Clinical Pastoral Education (PCE) and it was suggested to him that he could come back to Zambia to teach biology in the Copperbelt Teacher Training College but he would first have to teach for two years in a secondary school to get his Diploma in Education.

His superior in Loyola University wrote: 'Don has indeed gotten deeper into Clinical Pastoral Education work. After completing his own supervisory training program, he has taken charge of the CPE program at Loyola University's McGaw Hospital. His interests are now entirely taken up with this work and he no longer wishes to return to Zambia'.

With his usual energy and outgoing personality he did very well in this pastoral ministry. He was at ease with people and able to relate with them in their pastoral needs during their stay at the hospital. While out jogging one day he collapsed and passed away before they could get him to the hospital. He was only 49 years of age.