



Fr Domingos Isaac Mlauzi, S.J.

(1929-1993. In Malawi 1983- 1993)

29 March 1993

Domingos Mlauzi was born in Kanyaja, Angonia (Mozambique) on 21 November 1929. He studied at Lifidzi Mission and did a teacher's training course in Boroma from 1944-1947, after which he taught for two years. In 1949 he left for Portugal to attend the Apostolic School of Macieira of Cambra and joined the Society in Soutelo, Braga in 1952. After his philosophy he returned to Mozambique and did his regency at Lifidzi, Boroma and Fonte Boa Mission. During this time he produced a Portuguese-chiNyanja dictionary. He headed for his theology to Spain from 1962-1966 and was ordained by Bishop Ribeiro at Lifidzi in 1966. He continued working in Chabwalo, Angonia. He was made superior at Lifidzi Mission in 1975.

With the revolutionary government in power, he was imprisoned in 1978 first at Ulongwe, then at Tete and in 1979 he was transferred to Lichinga Civil Prison from which he was allowed to spend the nights in the Bishop's house. He was then taken to the Msawize Re-education Camp. He was moved to a similar camp at Campo. He went back to Unango Camp which was visited by President Samora Machel on 22 October 1979 who asked him if he was still a priest. When he said he was, the president just shook his head and left. With diminished health he was sent to Lichinga to see the doctor where he was again able to spend the nights in the Bishop's house. He was strongly advised to escape to Malawi, in view of some confidential information he received. With a faithful guide he managed the 40 hours walk through difficult and dangerous paths over the border into Malawi. In October 1980 two of the Malawian bishops made representation to the authorities and he was given a Malawian passport.

In 1981 he studied at St Francis University in California and in 1983 he applied to enter the Zambia/Malawi Province. He taught at St. Peter's Major Seminary in Zomba and in 1987 was transferred to Ntcheu and worked at Nsipe Parish. He was superior of the community of Dganya (Ntcheu) which was attached to the Vice-Province of Mozambique. He had with him Frs Salvador Ferrao and Luis Goncalves, both working with the Mozambican refugees.

Sal Farrao writes about him: 'He had a lot of pastime activities. His favorite was Scrabble. Without a game after dinner he would not go to sleep. Those who did not know the game had to learn it, like me, but later on he had a tough time defeating me. Sometimes we played the game in Portuguese because one of us could not play it in English. When we played, some words would remind him of his time in the concentration camps and of what he did there and how he escaped – and he would share that experience. When Fr Stan Mascarenhas visited, they would play until late in the night and their game never ended without a loud argument'!

He had a gift for water divining. He helped many people and institutions to identify places where they could dig and get water. He fed pigeons on the palm of his hand. We would regularly see him with his breviary in his hand or with the rosary in the evening hours. He enjoyed smoking and now and then sipped a bit of whiskey. Fr Mike Schultheis, when he visited us, always brought him a good brand of cigarettes and a decent bottle of whiskey'.

He became ill in July 1992 and left for Lisbon for treatment where they discovered he had cancer of the bladder. He died in Lisbon, Portugal, on 29 March 1993 and was

buried the next day. We had Mass for him at the same time in one of the refugee camps, where his close relatives were living. Bishop Chisendera was to have said the Mass but his car broke down on the way. Later he said: 'In Mlauzi the diocese has lost the services of a man of God.'

29 March

21 November 1929 – 29 March 1993

Fr. Domingos Isaac MLAUZI

He was born in Canyanja, Angónia, Mozambique, on 21 November 1929 and entered the Society of Jesus on 07 September 1952, in Soutelo, Braga. After the juniorate in Soutelo (1954 - 1956), he studied philosophy in Braga, at the Faculty of Philosophy (1956 - 1959). He went to Mozambique for his regency (1959 - 1962) where he worked at the mission in Lifidzi for one year and, in Boroma, as a teacher in the Teacher Training School, for two years. He did his theology at San Cugat del Vallés, Barcelona from 1962 to 1966. He was ordained priest on 29 July 1966, at the mission in Lifidzi. From Lifidzi, he was in charge of the mission of Chabualo. He took his final vows on 8 September 1973, in Lifidzi. He was appointed superior of the Lifidzi mission in 1975. He was arrested in November 1978 and taken to the prison of Tete and from there, at the end of January 1979, he was sent to the re-education camp of Unango, in Niassa. There, he went through many tribulations. In September 1979, with the help of a Muslim friend, he escaped to Malawi where he taught at the Major Seminary. In 1992, due to illness, he went to Lisbon. He died on March 29, 1993, in Lisbon.

(Cf. APSI, Livro das entradas; Necrológio; JESUITAS..., n. 192, Abril 1993)