

8 April

Br ALEXIO MUZVIDZWA 25 January 1952 – 8 April 2000



Alexio Musvidzwa was employed at Makumbi mission in car maintenance and welding from 1971-74 and in 1975 he entered the Society. After vows he had experience of administration on different missions and in 1982 went to Choma in Zambia for a course in auto mechanics but he did not find it helpful. In 1984 he moved to Marymount as administrator and in charge of maintenance.

1989 saw him in Dublin at Mater Dei, studying religious education. 'It took me time', he wrote, 'to be fully accepted by my classmates because every time I was reminded of being an African. This was done by either direct confrontation or by actions. I fought very hard to make the group realise that I was not just an African but a human person like anyone else. So far, I have no regrets about being here. It is a challenge in many ways and an experience.'

When the course was over, he moved to London to await his visa for America and tertianship. He was keen to earn his keep at Southwell House in London by doing maintenance jobs

In 1990 he did his tertianship in Austin, Texas, 'I enjoyed every minute of it. At one point he was teaching mathematics to Mexican Americans and Afro Americans and a few whites in the prison.

In 1991, he returned to Zimbabwe to be administrator at the seminary and after his death Archbishop Chakaipa wrote to the provincial how he was 'affectionately remembered for his services there.' He then returned to St Boniface as administrator and again the appreciation of the bishop of Chinhoyi and the priests was shown by their attendance at his funeral. He was noted for being bold in speaking his mind and yet leaving people happy after he had said what he had to say.

He too, like his friend Evaristo Mapuranga, died relatively young (48) and maybe we can say he too was caught up in a culture which Fr General Nicholas was to warn us about; 'When we are pleasant to one another, but we do not dare to face difficult issues together or discern together, this suggests that something is more powerful than the Gospel in our community dynamics.'