



Fr John Carroll, S.J.
(1923-1990. In Zambia 1985-1990)

9 April 1990

Fr John was born into a naval family in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA on 17 February 1923. After high school he entered the Society at Shadowbrook, Lenox MA, in 1942. Weston College saw him for philosophy and theology where he was also ordained priest in 1955. For regency he went to Jamaica to St George's College in Kingston, where he taught history, *inter alia*, from 1949 to 1952.

History became the love and work of his life. The University of Toronto conferred an M A on him in the field of Modern Empire-Commonwealth History. With this under his belt, he returned to St George's, Jamaica, 1959 to 1964 teaching history and becoming dean there, as well as doing some research into Jamaican history which brought him to the University of London, Queen's College to study Imperial History. The title of his thesis was *The Government of Jamaica 1900 to 1913 with special reference to the rule of Sir Sydney Olivier*.

A change of scene and occupation found him at St John's Canton MA, for a period of ten years up to 1983 as associate pastor and organizer of an adult education program. He founded the 'Inspired Word Society' to promote Scriptural knowledge.

The next move saw him in Africa, in Monrovia, Liberia, this time to St Paul's Major Seminary lecturing in church history, general African history as well as specialized courses on Sierra Leone, the Gambia and Liberia, patristics and contemporary philosophy. This was for two years 1983 to 1985. Apart from lecturing he was also chaplain in Cuttington University College, in Bong County, Liberia.

For the next five years from 1985, he made the jump from West Africa to lecture in Kachebere Major Seminary on the border of Zambia/Malawi to teach church history, philosophy and psychology. He was appointed as Vice-Rector for a period of two years, but this was not really to his liking as things were difficult and staffing was a big problem. In a letter to his Provincial in 1989 he wrote, 'Censorship and the seizure of books are a disconcerting way of life. I have had enough of Central Africa!'

He was looking forward to a sabbatical at the end of his time in Kachebere, and was making great plans for more historical research in London at the School of African and Oriental Studies. However that was not to be. He died suddenly on 9 April 1990 at Likuni, Malawi and was buried there.

While visiting and studying in London, he assisted in a parish where he stayed, and after his death, a parishioner wrote about him in a letter: "We remember him in prayer as he did us. His expression for each day was "one closer to God". I am sure this is now realized in his "closeness" and God remembers his faithfulness."