

**Fr Waclaw Kolodziejczyk, S.J.**  
**(1909-1991. In Zambia 1955-1964)**

**7 May 1991**



Waclaw Kolodziejczyk was born on 10 July 1909 of Michael and Wiktorja (nee Albrych) at Dabrowa Zielona, Radomski – north of Cracow. He entered the Society in 1929 at Stara Wies and graduated from his philosophical studies in Cracow in 1933. His regency was spent in the well known Jesuit boarding school in Chyrow from 1933-35. He went to Lublin for his theology and was ordained in 1938.

He had no sooner completed his theology, than the Second World War broke out and he was soon arrested by the Soviet KGB while in Kolomyja and deported to Swierdłowska in Russia in June 1940. Thanks to an amnesty agreed upon by the Allies, he was released the following year and immediately joined the Second Polish Army under General Anders, as a chaplain. He accompanied the troops through their Middle East campaigns and passed through Persia, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Italy.

After demobilization he served in the Polish camps in England. He spent some time in studies (1947-50) in London and then he became fully involved in ministry to the Polish community. He was the editor of the Polish Sodality magazine published in London from 1947 to 1955.

In 1955 he was missioned to Zambia and spent most his nine years (1955-64) in pastoral ministry in Katondwe. However in 1964 he suffered a stroke and went back to England for treatment. He made a good recovery and so he took up his old ministry in London. After a short time he continued his previous work with the Polish community in Northampton which was in the middle of the country. Thanks to his organizational ability, the community was able to procure the permanent use of a Church for their various liturgies.

When his health began to deteriorate he was hospitalized in the ex-Polish military hospital in Penley (North Wales) where he died on 7 May 1991. He was buried in a cemetery adjacent to the Jesuit Spirituality Centre of St Beuno's in north Wales.