

May 10

Br JOHN BAPTIST KRECHEL

17 December 1863 – 10 May 1942



Br Krechel was born in Hausen, Germany, and became a stonemason before entering the Society in 1893. He spent his whole life in Zimbabwe at Chishawasha, except for two years at Makumbe and St Benedict's.

It was tough work; quarrying, dressing, cutting and carving and all the time training local people in the skill. All the stone work carvings at Chishawasha were his work as also was the altar at the newly built Cathedral in the city (built 1924) dedicated to St Francis Xavier. The picture shows the Baptismal font in the Cathedral which he carved.

In his old age, when no longer able to do the heavy work, he turned his attention to instructing catechumens as he had gained a good grasp of Shona. He was also sacristan and nursed the sick in his final years.

