



**Fr Julius Pogany, S.J.**  
**(1909-1985. In Zambia 1971-1977)**

**11 May 1985**

Julius Pogany was born on 7 April 1909 in Bogajevo (Yugoslavia at the time) and he grew up during the turmoil of the first and second world wars. He entered the Society at Zagreb in the Croatian Province (1934). He did his philosophy in Gallarate in the north of Italy (1936-1939) just before the Second World War broke out. His regency was in Travnik in the middle of his home country. He began his theology at Sarajevo (1940-1941) but had to abandon it and go to Rome to finish (1941-1944). There he was ordained in 1943. He remained in Rome for his tertianship (1944-1945). When the war was over he returned home and his first assignment was to be socius to the master of novices (1945-1948) which included teaching scholastics.

In 1949 he was sent on mission to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) which had just gained its independence in 1948 and there he settled down to teaching mathematics and physics in our St Aloysius College in Galle, at the southern tip of the island. He proved to be an excellent teacher with an inborn ability to control his class without raising his voice. He found his time as rector (1960-1965) difficult for the country was quite divided with its national problems due to many factors, including the conflict of Sinhalese and Tamils and the faltering economy. Still it was a good 20 years for him and he was awarded an honorary citizenship. However, the nationalization of the relatively small private education sector, including St Aloysius College, really upset him.

He came to Zambia in order to continue teaching and hoping to regain some of his lost health in a drier and less humid climate. Again as a teacher in Mpima he excelled for his initial two year period but he never fully recovered his health.

He returned briefly to Sri Lanka but his health continued to deteriorate and his old resentment over the nationalization of the college continued to rankle with him. His own companions there noticed a sharp decline in his overall wellbeing and recognized that 'he was not the same man as before'.

It was agreed that he return to Zambia (end of 1974) and he was sent to teach in Canisius Secondary School but after a short time he had to be withdrawn from the classroom. He still soldiered on with some tutorial work and ministry in the chaplaincy but for practical matters he was quite lost.

It was obvious that senility had set in and an effort was made to find a suitable retirement location for him. The Sisters at Galle (Sri Lanka) graciously agreed to care for him for his remaining years and he was then escorted back by Fr John Fitzgerald via the Seychelles where John later took up ministry. Julius passed away some time later on 11 May 1985.