

June 2

Br ALPHONSE KURY

4 August 1862 – 2 June 1892

Alphonse came from Switzerland and entered the Society in 1883. Fr Schomberg Kerr brought him to Salisbury to care for the house at Hartmann Hill (see picture) where Fr Leboeuf was staying. He looked after the house and gardens and was a frequent sight in the market with his vegetables and fruits for sale.



On a visit to Chishawasha in 1896 he was caught in an ambush and fired on and a local man who was with him was killed. He galloped to the Mission to warn them of an imminent attack and they had time to prepare their defence.

He was noted for his great kindness and cheerfulness.

In February 1897 he accompanied Leboeuf on a visit to Fort Victoria (Masvingo) where they were drenched in the rain in their open cart and were unable to dry out. The weather was better on the way back but Br Kury was quite ill with fever. The fever continued off and on for the next year but he kept up his work. Eventually, in May 1898, it became serious when symptoms of Black Water Fever were observed when the kidneys malfunctioned. Leboeuf did all he could to care for him, taking him to the hospital the Dominican sisters had established, but he died there.