

8 July

FR FABIAN MASSINA SITOLO

23 September 1963 – 5 July 2009



‘Fabisch’ was born in Kwekwe and joined the Society in 1985, doing his novitiate in Lusaka and his philosophy in Kimwenza. He was ordained by Bishop Reckter in Makumbi in 1998 (see photo with his mother) and died of cancer only eleven years later. He served as a pastoral priest at Mbare, Musami, Makumbe, Makonde and Banket. Ever lively and ready to laugh, he could turn any situation into a joke. When the provincial, Stephen Buckland, remarked on his preparations for a big celebration for his twenty-five years a Jesuit, that Jesuits don’t normally make a big thing of such a milestone, Fabian remarked, ‘Well, that’s one person who won’t be invited!’ In the event, his early death prevented any such celebration.

Fabian was delighted when he was approved for final vows even though, again, his illness and early death intervened before he could make them.

His death was deeply felt by his companions. Admire Nhika noted, “the silent tension that easily emerges when a Jesuit dies. The family are saying, ‘this person belongs to us and we should have a say’, while the Jesuits claim responsibility for the person and may forget the relatives’ wishes. But the family were grateful when they realised that Fabian lived with people who cared for him as a companion.’

