



Br Michael Cich, S.J.
(1919-1977. In Zambia 1965-1972)

23 July 1977

Michael Cich was born in Olszanice near Rawa Polski (Poland) on 1 April 1919 of Andrezej and Maria Cich. He was a combatant in the Second World War, initially in the Russian Army (1939-1941) and then in the Polish Army (1941-1947). In the latter he was in the mechanical division erecting Bailey bridges and clearing land mines. He saw action in the intensive fighting that took place at Monte Casino in Italy. For the rest of his life he was hard of hearing as a result of his wartime experience.

After the war he worked for a number of years in the UK (1947-1951) picking up hotel work wherever he could. He went to the US in 1951 and worked mostly around Chicago, in factories and in metal works.

He joined the Society in 1963 and did his novitiate in Clarkston (Detroit). Under the influence of Fr Czapiewski in the Polish community in Chicago, he asked to be sent to the Lusaka Mission. He was already 46 years old and while he had worked in different jobs over the years he still had no clear-cut professional trade.

He began in Kasisi and did a three month language course in chiNyanja. He helped Br Boron on the farm but he had little expertise in it. He put up some buildings both for the community and for the orphanage. Eventually he requested a change. He was sent to Mpanshya and then to Katondwe. He found the heat of the Valley oppressive and when the time came for him to do tertianship he returned to Clarkston in Detroit where he met again his novitiate companions. He was happy with his time there and came to a clear discernment about his future. A few years later at the relatively young age of 56 he died of cancer in Chicago on 23 July 1977.