

31 July

Fr ADOLPH HESSE

23 July 1863 – 31 July 1951



Born in Olpe, Westphalia, Germany, Adolph Hesse entered the Society when he was 29, in 1892 and was ordained in 1900. We have little information about him beyond that he spent the next 50 years in the country in a variety of places: Chishawasha (1900-21), Monte Cassino (1922-25), Driefontein (1926-29), Monte Cassino again (1930-33), St Barbara's 1934 -37, and Umtali (Mutare) (1938-46). For his last 14 years (including Umtali) he was chaplain to convents as his strength deteriorated and his eyes grew dim.

His obituarist simply says he did all 'the things that had to be done; administering the sacraments, preaching, instructing, listening, looking after the vegetable garden, the cattle, the buildings and the transport. ... He had always drawn his inspiration from the vast thoughts in the psalms and his consolation in his old age was to read aloud his own translation into his native tongue of the Book of Psalms.'