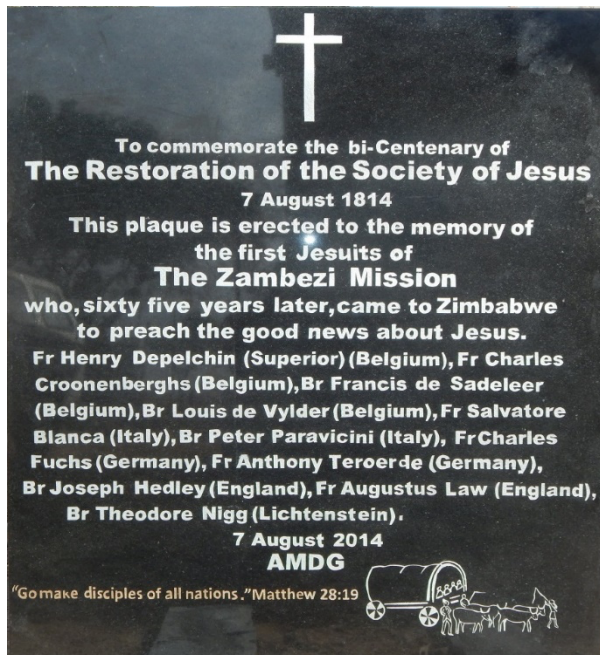


5 August

Fr SALVATORE BLANCA 16 November 1834 – 5 August 1916



Salvatore Blanca was one of the original eleven. Michael Gelfand tells us he was a Sicilian who joined the Society in 1859 and came to South Africa in 1879. He reached Tati with the others in August that same year and remained there till October 1880 when he returned to Grahamstown with Br Paravicini. So he was at Tati when Fr Fuchs died, the first of their number to do so.

In February, 1881 he was asked to try to reach Fr Law, who had actually died at Mzila's in the previous

November unknown to the rest of the group. He went round the coast by sea and Fr Engels, who accompanied him, recorded he was sea-sick for the whole journey. He reached Inhambane on the Mozambic coast in March. So bad were communications that the first firm news he had of Fr Law's death was from Europe although some messengers sent into the interior came back with accounts of a white man's death. Blanca decided there was nothing more he could do and he returned to Grahamstown and was put in charge of Graaf Reinet.

In 1883 he returned to Sicily. Francis Rea tells us he was proved to be unsuited to missionary life and he was one of those who complained about Depelchin.