

8 July

## **Br GERHARD ZOCHOLL** 12 December 1926 – 8 August 1966



Gerhard was only 39 when he was blown up in an accident at Marymount Mission. He was alone but it seems he was trying to weld a drum which he thought was empty. It wasn't, and it was closed so that when heated the paraffin inside exploded and killed him. It was a terrible shock to everyone on the mission and they went to the church in tears and prayed and sang. He was buried at Marymount, the first of the new group of German Jesuits who began to come out when the Chinhoyi Mission was established at the end of the 1950s.

Born in Gdansk, Gerhard was forced to join the army in 1943 at the height of the war and after it was over, he had to move to West Germany. He did accountancy and surveying for a time and then joined the Society in 1951. He volunteered for Africa in 1960 and spent all his time – six years – at Marymount. It was not easy as there was so much work at that isolated mission where he was the only brother. He learnt how to deal with all the areas needing his attention; in building or maintenance.

People knew him as always helpful and cheerful with a deep faith and no one could find anything negative to say about him. He lives on in the memory of the people.