

12 August

Br MARTIN KALTSCHMID 8 November 1868 – 12 August 1949



Born in Austria, Martin Kaltschmidt entered the Society in 1892. He served in Empandeni from 1905 to 1924 when he returned to Austria and died there 25 years later. There seems to be little in the archives about him beyond a letter of Fr Biehler to the Mission Superior, just before Martin

returned to Austria;

A letter from the Austrian provincial was too much for poor Br Kaltschmidt after doing his own will for twenty years, to bend down to the will of another. It was the same report of superior's complaints after every visitation. Still, twenty years in the same place deserves a change and a rest. But this will cause you troubles.'

What the context of this letter was can only be guessed. But clearly there was something wrong. Perhaps it says something about life in isolated communities in those days? Or perhaps it suggests something about regimented, in contrast to personal, approaches to formation?

The picture above shows the old school at Empandeni