



Fr Jan Jarski, S.J.
(1924-1989. In Zambia 1953-1955)
20 August 1989

Jan Jarski was born on 3 September 1924 in Birca, south-east of Cracow near the Slovakian border. He was only a teenager when the Second World War irrupted in his country in 1939. He was taken prisoner by the Germany Army and spent some time in a concentration camp. These early painful experiences deeply marked the young man and he carried the trauma with him for life. Unlike many of his fellow prisoners, he did something about it and succeeded in escaping from the camp and went to join the Polish Army.

A few years after the end of the war he entered the Society (1950) in Italy where he continued his philosophical studies. In some way the experience of the war had liberated him from the need to head back to the problems of reconstruction at home. He volunteered to go to Northern Rhodesia and was the first Polish scholastics to come out for regency. He spent his time (1953-1955) in supervising the building of the new minor seminary at Mpima. He also did some teaching.

He went off to the United States for his theology and was ordained there on 14 June 1958. His final year of theology and tertianship followed. His life already had taken several major changes even within the Society of Jesus. He asked to go to Brazil where he taught English, among other subjects, for the rest of his life. He passed away in our College in Sao Paulo. He suffered a heart attack on 28 February 1989 but he made a good recovery and continued his work both in the class room and in the library of the Jesuit community. However on 20 August 1989 while hearing confessions during the liturgy of the Word for the student Mass, he died suddenly. The students were much affected by the manner of his passing.