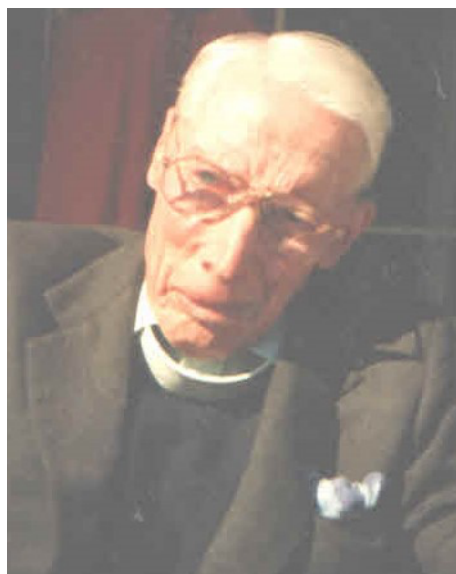25 August

Fr MAURICE REA   28 May 1910 - 25 August 2004

Fr William (Pussy) Rea's brother Maurice was born four years after him in Calgary, Canada. He too acquired a nickname – Beau – as he was fastidious about his appearance. He finished his education at Mount St Mary's and entered the novitiate in 1930. He did his regency at St George's and was ordained in 1942.

He returned to Africa in 1948 and went to Makumbe for six years before going to teach Scripture at the seminary for eleven years. He then went Chishawasha and later St Peter's, moving to St Albert's in 1968 he was there at the time of the abduction of the students in 1973. Three years later he was in Bulawayo as chaplain at the Christian Brothers' school. In 1979, he went to Canada for health reasons and, though there was talk of him staying there, he returned to Zimbabwe to Campion House before going back to Bulawayo a second time in 1984.

He was known for his blunt no-nonsense responses. He was one of the first to move to the new Richartz House in 1998 and this writer remembers calling on him and saying, 'this is a good place. People can pop into to see you any time.' 'Yes', he replied, 'and they can pop out.' His was a quiet presence and Br Benedick Ngawaseke, who cared for him for years, noticed his patience as he waited. When a younger man died, his comment was 'lucky bugger.' He had to wait until he was 94 before his time came to go.