



Narcisse Rutta, n.S.J.
(1949-1973. In Zambia 1969-1970; 1972-1973)

1 October 1973

Narcisse Rutta was born in Kiziru, near Bukoba, Tanzania in 1949. He was among the first group to enter the Jesuit Novitiate in Lusaka in 1969. However, in November the following year, he left the novitiate because he disagreed with his superior that he should follow the regular course of studies of philosophy after the novitiate and not immediately go on for secular studies. His novice master wrote at the time: 'Narcisse is a gifted youth, a strong and determined character; if only his spiritual gifts matched his natural ones, he would make a first-class Jesuit.'

Narcisse returned to Tanzania got a temporary job and passed his A-levels. Realizing he had made a mistake, he asked to be readmitted to the novitiate. His superior, after the novice master made it clear that he should not receive any special treatment and should do a full two-year novitiate, allowed him to reenter. He began his novitiate again in May 1972.

On 29 September 1973 on an outing with three of his fellow novices, Narcisse who had a driving license, failed to make a corner on Chalimbana Road and lost control of the minibus. He died later of his injuries; one other novice suffered serious injuries also, but recovered from them.

At his funeral Mass the novice master described Narcisse in the following words: "He was a talented, generous and dedicated person with a remarkably strong will, a clear practical and critical mind, and a great zest for life." His brother, Darius travelled from Tanzania by bus arriving two days after the funeral. However, he was able to visit the grave at Kasisi on behalf of the grieving family before returning to his university studies.