



**Fr Augustyn Smyda, S.J.**  
**(1936-2004. In Zambia 1970-1982)**

**17 October 2004**

Augustyn (Gus) Smyda, son of Jan and Stanisława Driedzina, was born on 18 March 1936 in the village of Kokuszka, in southern Poland. He joined the Society at Stara Wies in the Polish South Province in August 1953. After the usual course of studies he was ordained on 21 June 1964. His first assignment was as minister and pastoral assistant in our retreat house of Czechowice-Dziedzice where he remained until his departure for Zambia.

He arrived in Zambia on 31 January 1968 with Frs Szuba, Wargocki and Kondrat being the first group to get the necessary permission from the Communist Government to go to the missions. At the end of his first year he went to England to do his tertianship and avail of a good course in English. By the end of the following year he was already in Ilondola, learning chiBemba. His first assignment was at Kasisi (1971-1975) where he became superior from 1972 onwards taking over from Fr Zeno Pilsyk. He divided the parish into five areas for easier administration. He went to Rome for a course in spirituality in 1976.

He then spent a couple of years in Melbourne, Australia (1976-1978) replacing a fellow countryman who ministered to the Polish community there. On his return to Zambia, he was appointed to Railway parish, Kabwe (1978-1980). In 1981 he did pastoral work in Kitwe.

He was a capable and pleasant person who fitted easily into any situation. He was caring, outgoing and interested in people. However in himself he felt the need for frequent changes of scenery and so we find his Jesuit itinerary quite unusual.

He was sent to the Polish Mission Procure in Chicago, USA as an understudy to Fr Chapiewski but by 1983/1984 we find him back again in Poland where he served for many years in our residence in Nowy Sacz. He ministered for a few years to the Polish migrant workers in Greece. He died tragically in a car accident in Poland on 12 October 2004.