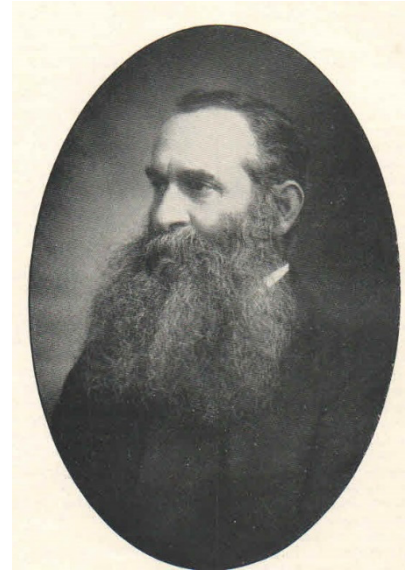


16 October

Fr JOSEPH RONCHI

2 April 1862 – 19 October 1911

Born in Bologna, Italy, he entered the Society in 1877 with a view to going to the Zambezi Mission. In 1881 he was in England to learn the language and do part of his studies. He then went to Quelimane for regency where he taught Portuguese students in the Jesuit college. He contracted fever there. Sent back to Europe he completed his studies and was ordained about 1891. He then worked in Fort Victoria (Masvingo) with the Dominican sisters in the hospital.



In 1898 he moved to Mutare where he had eight happy years working with the residents in the small settlement there and at the same time at with the workers laying down the railway line from Beira to Salisbury. Many of the workers were Italians and he would travel up and down the line visiting them. A worker on the railway, Portal Hyatt, 'had no love for missionaries but Fr Ronchi, the old Italian, with the little tin church was perfectly fearless and unselfish, the truest servant of his Master I have even had the privilege of meeting.' He lived in a tin hut like the railway workers did. He loved plants and flowers he used to collect from the wild and plant in his garden.

In 1906 he was moved to Salisbury and two years later to Empanjeni. There he struggled with the language (Ndebele), and his health deteriorated. He was sent to Dunbrody to recover and did so for a short while. But later he had to be sent back to Dunbrody and on the way he suddenly died at Kimberly. He was in 'splendid health on the 14th of October' but died two days later.

16 October

2 April 1862 – 16 October 1911

Fr. José RONCHI

He was born in Casal Fiumanense, Bologna, Italy, on April 2, 1862 and entered the Society of Jesus on October 31, 1877, in the Roman Province. He was sent to the Zambezia Mission (Mozambique) as a scholastic where he worked at Colégio do Bom Jesus, in Quelimane (1886 - 1887). He professed his final vows on November 13, 1895. He died on October 16, 1911, in Kimberly, South Africa.

(Cf. Catalogus Defunctorum in renata Societate Iesu ab a. 1814 ad a. 1970)