



Fr Edward Lindekugel, S.J.
(1914-1966. In Zambia 1965-1966)

17 November 1966

Fr Edward was born in Yakima, Washington, USA on 16 April 1914 and when he had finished school at Marquette High School, he entered the Society in 1933.

He came from a large family of nine children, five of whom entered religious life. He went to 'The Mount' (Mount St Michael) for philosophical studies in 1937. He was ordained in 1946 at St Mary's, San Francisco, California. After tertianship he returned to the 'Mount' as minister in 1948. He served as minister until 1956 and then became the Rector until 1961, a stretch of thirteen years. A change was in the offing and he was posted back to the novitiate at Sheridan again as minister.

Zambia gained its independence in October 1964. Prior to that date the Oregon Province had sent Fr Lou Haven, the first of many Oregonians, to Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) in 1962. With the newly independent country and its settling down, the Catholic Relief Services wanted to send someone to spearhead their relief services and direct it to where the needs were greatest. The contact person was Fr Lindekugel who came to Zambia in September 1965 and lived at St Ignatius in Lusaka.

What were the most urgent needs of the country? Educational? Medical? Social? Fr Edward spent his days going from the Ministry of Finance to many other government offices to try to find out, but he found no desire to accept 'relief'. Not only that, but he never really found out what the real needs were. It was most frustrating to find the response from the Government so negative.

The seeds of cancer which eventually took him were already beginning to be felt. Six months after his arrival in Zambia he returned to the States for medical checks, but only eight months after his return, he died at Sacred Heart Hospital, Spokane, on the 17 November 1966 at the age of 52. He was buried at Mount St Michael's where he had spent 30 years of his life,

He was a capable person, kind and affable, and he fitted well into the international Jesuit community in Zambia.