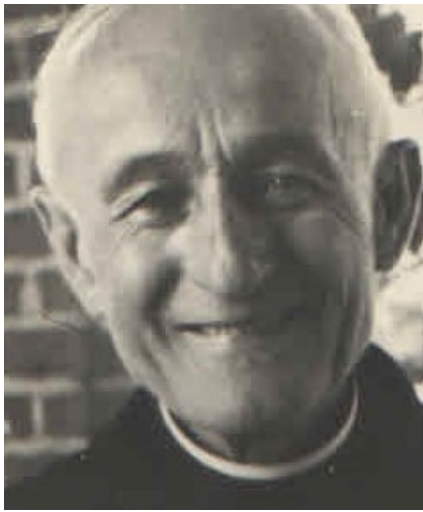


30 November

## Br JOHN BAPTIST BREITEN 22 August 1869 – 30 November 1955



Br Breiten was born in Nanort, Hesse-Nassau, Germany, and joined the Jesuit sin 1887. He almost died when he arrived in Salisbury having contracted blackwater fever but M. Ignatius OP nursed him back to health with maize porridge poultices applied to his back. At the time of his death, he was said to be the last survivor of the early Jesuits, that is, those who came before 1897.

Most of his early years were at Chishawasha though he did spend time at Dunbrody to recover his health a second time when he contracted malaria while reclaiming a swamp. There he worked with Br Caulfield who taught him viticulture. Chishawasha later became known for the quality of its wine. John Baptist had green fingers for many other crops and Rhodes used to order bread and potatoes from Chishawasha due to their quality!

When Monte Cassino was taken over by the Jesuits from the Mariannahill priests and brothers, 'Hurry up', that is, *Kurumidza*, as he was called, was sent there to work the farm. This nickname reveals he was not only kind (see the photo) and hard-working but he could get impatient and press people continually – excessively? - to get a move on. He later worked in Kutama, Makumbe, St Barbara's and St Benedict's before retiring to Monte Cassino where he died.

