

1 December

Fr CARL BROSIG

29 September 1891 – 1 December 1988

Dying at 97, Carl Brosig was the senior man of the province. He spent 47 years in pastoral work in Zimbabwe. In 1935 the newly founded East German province planned a mission in eastern Rhodesia and Bishop Chichester made over a portion of the vicariate to them centred at Triashill and stretching to Mount Darwin and Nyanga. Carl led a party which included three brothers to implement this plan. He gave us a glimpse of his life in 1937: 'I set out to visit St Benedict's school. Leaving early on Monday I visited St Anthony's out school 13 miles away on the road to Nyamaropa over a mountain range of 5000 feet. There I left the bus and tramped up hill and down dale for 2+ hours till I reached the school. It was then dark. Next morning, we had Holy Mass, Baptisms, inspection of the school and pastoral visits and in the afternoon another 2 miles walk to Crossdale...'

But the war intervened and it was painful for him to see the plan collapse. But it did not stop him working in a variety of other places sometimes alone and in great poverty without the help of friends in Germany. This was especially true during the 1940s. Working with his own hands helped him. He had a great love for the sick.

Born in Upper Silesia, Carl had emigrated to America as a young man and went to a Jesuit college there. He worked as a trader until in 1921 he entered the Society in Germany, a 'late' vocation. He was ordained in 1928 and worked with the youth in Silesia. It was paradise for him and years later he remembered the names of the boys he worked with. But the Nazis came and put a stop to his work.

He was now free to go to Africa. By 1978 his hearing, seeing and heart were all weakening and he went back to Germany for treatment. His condition did not allow him to return and he spent his last years in Berlin where visitors from Zimbabwe would call on him and get great encouragement from him.