

4 December

Fr JOHN MAGAN

6 June 1915 – 4 December 1989



John Magan was a New York province Jesuit who read in a newsletter in 1972 that the Jesuits in Rhodesia were looking for volunteers and he generously offered himself. A long correspondence ensued between Fr Patrick McNamara, the local Superior, and his provincial with the result that John did come out in 1973 and was based at first at Campion House. He developed a great interest in the Euro African (Coloured) community which, he felt, was neglected. He wrote two long memoranda – one of 13 pages and one of 33 – outlining his views. He wanted to start a Catholic Community Centre for Catholic Coloureds (CCCCC). A perusal of these papers, which do not seem to mention Fr Bill Thomas who devoted his whole life to the Coloureds, suggests he had many good ideas about community and a community of communities.

His file does not go into details as to why this proposal ran into the sand but it was war time and he broke his hip in 1977 and went home and his provincial thought it best he stays home.