



Br. Vincenty Markiewicz, S.J
(1888-1924. In Zambia 1921-1924)
11 December 1924

Vincenty Markiewica was born on 9 July 1888 in Dynow-Brzozow in the southern tip of the eastern border with Russia. He entered the Society at Stara Wies in 1906 as a young man desirous for the priesthood but it was thought better that he become a brother. Initially he worked in the garden at Czechowice and then did house duties in several communities: Chyrow, Tarnopol and Nowy Sacz. He spent a number of years (1914-18) in the Jesuit printing press. Shortly after the First World War, he left for Northern Rhodesia and arrived in August 1921.

Within a few years he had already worked at several stations, with great youthful energy. His first assignment was Kasisi (1921) and the following year Chingombe (1922). He spent a short time in Kapoche (1923) before his final assignment Kabwe (1924) where he built a primary school named Santa Maria, run by the Dominican Sisters.

It was at this time that he exhumed the remains of Fr Czarlinsky, who died in 1921 at Kasenje on his way from Katondwe to Kasisi to take up residence there as Mission Superior. Fr Bert presided over the memorial Mass and reburial at Katondwe on 10 August 1924, almost three years to the day after the missionary collapsed from malaria and died in the presence of Br Longa, but before any medical help could arrive. Little did the young Markiewicz realized that it prefigured his own impending demise. Br Markeiewicz passed away in few months later from malaria in Chingombe on 11 December 1924 and was the first missionary to be buried there. The following year Sr Hyacinth at Kasisi passed away from the same malady and Fr Bert wrote a strongly worded letter, commanding all his men, under obedience, to take the standard daily dose that the officials of the Administration took – 5 gms of quinine daily. Unfortunately his good advice came too late for the generous brother.