

29 December

## **Fr ALPHONSE DAIGNAULT** 28 January 1850 – 29 December 1938

Alphonse Daignault was born in Longueuil, Quebec, and entered the Society in 1870 after serving for a time in the Papal Zouaves. Ordained in 1881, he was one of a party of 17, the largest ever, who came out to the Zambezi Mission in 1884. Briefly at St Aidan's, he went in 1886 to Quelimane as superior of the Lower Zambezi Mission until it was handed over to the Portuguese province. Hartmann was there too and nearly died of the fever and Daignault looked after him and got him out. In



1887 Daignault was novice master at Graaff Reinet but that same year he was named as the third superior of the Zambezi Mission after Weld retired.

In 1890 when the Pioneer Column was gathering, a Catholic trooper asked for a chaplain and Daignault appointed Hartmann who then became the first Jesuit to enter Mashonaland. Daignault went further and arranged for the Dominicans to accompany the column though in the event they had to wait for some months at Macloutsie before proceeding.

In 1892, Kerr, Daignault's successor, sent him to Europe to recruit men and the German Jesuits responded generously with seven men, five brothers and two priests, who became the backbone of the new mission at Chishawasha. In 1896, during the Ndebele Rising, Daignault was in Bulawayo helping to fortify the town and nurse the sick while Barthelemy went out with the troopers into the field. During this time Daignault was also teaching at St George's and doing night patrols in the town.

In 1898 he returned to England partly for health reasons, partly to secure funds for the mission. The following year he returned with the Notre Dame Sisters who came to serve Empandeni. In 1900 he was at Chishawasha and then in 1902 he left for England as procurator of the mission and was based at Stonyhurst. In 1907 he was recalled to Canada where he died 31 years later in Montreal, aged 88.

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**Fr. Afonso DAIGNAULT**

He was born in Longueuil, Quebec, Canada, on January 28, 1850. He was a pontifical zuavit and in May 1868 he left for Italy. He entered the Society of Jesus on January 28, 1870, in Rome. He studied in Bressanone (Brixen) an Italian city, in the province of Bolzano, under Austrian rule, in Montreal, in Maryl and in the United States and in England. He was ordained priest in 1881 at Saint Beunos-, Wales. In 1884, he left for the Zambézia Mission. He was General Superior of the Lower Zambezi (Mozambique) from 1885 to 1887 and then of the entire Zambezia Mission until 1890. He took his final vows on February 2, 1887, in Dunbrody, British Cape Colony, South Africa. He worked in Europe as Mission Procurator and returned to Zambezia in 1894. He had to leave the Mission, in 1901, due to illness. He also worked in Canada, as Rector of the Immaculate Conception Scholasticate, in Montreal (1908 - 1911). He died on December 29, 1938, in Montreal.

(Cf. Diccionario Histórico de la Compañía de Jesús, II, p. 1038)