

We Remember Them

**A BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF
DECEASED OBLATES WHO SERVED IN NATAL**

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JULY 2015**

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BROTHER LEO GUMEDE
FIRST ZULU OBLATE (1902)

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

OBLATE GROUP IN COURTYARD OF PRESBYTERY, LOOP STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG, c.1905

BACK: Bro. Leo Gumede; Bro. Alexander Boudon; Fr John Tual

MIDDLE: Fr Hermann Bold; Fr Lucien Delagnes; Fr Leo Manuel; Fr Felix Coupé

FRONT: Fr Augustine Jenn; Bishop Henry Delalle; Fr Anselme Rousset

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First Edition

PART I

NECROLOGY OF OBLATES WHO WORKED AND DIED IN THE NATAL PROVINCE



FOREWORD

If human beings have anything in common, it is the ability to forget. Sometimes it is good to forget. It can serve as a healing balm, especially in the case of broken relationships, and so help people to start again and restore original ties of love.

On the other hand, there are certain things we should not forget, especially when the past event or people have had an influence for good in our lives. Such are our parents, relatives, friends, teachers, and others we remember with gratitude and affection. That is why every nation upholds its heroes, those who struggled and died for freedom, dignity, justice and peace, and erects statues, road signs, and other memory aids, in case we should forget them.

Lest we forget those missionaries who came to our shores to plant the Cross of Christ and to evangelize our forefathers and mothers, this publication attempts to give us a photographic and biographical reminder of them all. They were the 'hidden apostles'. They worked; they suffered indignities; they lived lives of poverty and self-sacrifice. They were human, yes, with all their faults and failings, but they gave their all so that others might come to know Jesus Christ and the Good News he came to bring to humanity. Under the sign of the Cross of Christ and the banner of Mary Immaculate they spent their lives in the service of the Gospel. May we never forget them. This book is dedicated to each one of them.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS to the following sources from which almost all the information below was gleaned:

1) Professor Joy Brain's books, *Catholic Beginnings in Natal and Beyond* and *Catholics in Natal II*; 2) *Trekking for Souls* by Fr J E Brady OMI; 3) Bishop Jolivet's Journals; 4) *The St Mary's Story* by J.G. Duckworth; 5) *Historical Dictionary of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*, Vol II; 6) *From Hidien till Anthofer: A brief description of the lives of the Oblates buried in the Central Province of SA (1871-2010)* by Ludger Ademmer OMI; 7) *Biographical Sketches of the Oblates of the Anglo-Irish Province* by Richard Haslam OMI; 8) the Archives at the Oblate General Archives, Rome; 9) and the OMI Provincial Archives of the USA. All direct quotations are from the first two books written by Professor Joy Brain, unless otherwise stated. I would like to add very special thanks to Fr Maciej Michalski, OMI General Archivist, who has been extremely helpful and kind on numerous occasions when requested to send information; and to Mrs Jenny Duckworth for her patience and invaluable assistance in proof-reading, correcting, formatting, etc. This book could not have been printed without the assistance given so kindly by these two people.



INTRODUCTION

CHARLES JOSEPH EUGENE DE MAZENOD (1782–1861)



*After the French Revolution, France was in a pitiable state, socially and religiously. The Church was struggling to survive and to pick up the pieces for survival. On 1 August 1782, at Aix-en-Provence in France, Charles-Joseph Eugene de Mazenod was born. He grew up in a well-to-do but dysfunctional family and, as a young man, enjoyed a life of ease and pleasure. But it wasn't long after that that he felt an unmistakable desire to become a priest. After his studies for the priesthood, and after ordination, he devoted his ministry to the poor of Aix. Soon others were attracted by his charismatic approach and joined him to become the nucleus of a religious community, the Missionaries of Provence. Later Eugene was named Bishop of Marseille. The thrust of his missionary approach was towards lapsed Catholics and the neglected youth. In 1816, his little group of missionaries was approved by the Pope and took on the name of **Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate**. Although he had only a handful of missionaries in his newly founded Congregation, he began receiving requests from the Holy See to send his missionaries abroad. Thus, in 1841,*

began the world-wide expansion of this group of missionaries first to England and Canada (Far North) in 1841, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and USA in 1847, South Africa in 1852 and Ireland in 1856. Today the Oblates are found in 55 countries throughout the world. Eugene de Mazenod died on the 21 May 1861 (aged 78) at Marseille. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on the 3 December 1995 in Rome.



OUR DECEASED

“They are before God, bearing the sign, the kind of character proper to our Institute, the vows common to all its members, the firm habit of the same virtues. We are linked to them by the bonds of a special charity. They are still our brothers and we are theirs. They now live in our mother-house, our main residence. The prayers and the love they retain for us will one day draw us to them and we shall live in our place of rest together with them.” (Letter of Founder to Fr Courtès, 22 July 1828)



FIRST ST MARY'S CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY IN LOOP STREET,
PIETERMARITZBURG BUILT IN 1852.
THESE WERE THE FIRST CATHOLIC MISSION BUILDINGS IN NATAL.

ALLAERT, Charles Alphonse

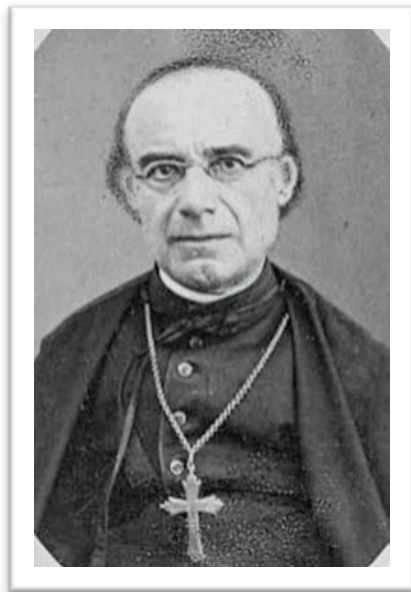
Charles was born on 11 December 1867 at Elveringham (Alveringham) in the diocese of Brugge (Bruges/Brussels), Belgium. His parents were August and Anna (born Varsavel). At first he studied at Furns Seminary, Belgium, then in Turnhout with the Jesuits. As an adult he wanted to avoid conscription and military service so, through the '*missions Etrangères*' in Paris, he went to Minnesota in the USA in order to join the Oblate Congregation. He entered the novitiate at Tewksbury in 1888 and made his first vows on the 18 May 1889. He then went to Ottawa to begin his studies for the priesthood at St Joseph's Scholasticate on the 18 August 1889, and made his final profession there on the 25 May 1890 at the age of 23 with the Oblate number 1470. He studied philosophy for six months at St Paul's, Minnesota, and was then sent to Rome to study theology on 1 September 1890. He was ordained in Rome in 1891 and received his first obedience for the missions in the Natal Vicariate. In 1892 we find him in Pietermaritzburg but by 1895 he was in Clocolan in the Orange Free State.

According to a doctor's diagnosis in Bloemfontein, Allaert had a very nervous disposition. His medical report stated that it had developed into 'hysteria virilis' due to a weak condition of his right lung which was already in the first stage of consumption. This played on Allaert's behaviour to such an extent that it seriously affected his physical behaviour and apostolic work. A letter from Fr Bompert to Bishop Gaughren stated that Allaert seemed to be a hypochondriac. The doctor strongly recommended that Allaert be sent to work nearer the coast as the climate in Kimberley did not suit his condition.

On 1 December 1897 Bishop Jolivet wrote in his Journal that Fr Hammer visited Pietermaritzburg after bringing Fr Allaert to the Sanatorium at Estcourt. Six months later, on 8 June 1898, Fr Allaert died at Estcourt at the young age of 31. So ended the short life of this missionary. (*Acknowledgements to Fr Ludger Ademmer OMI and OMI General Archives*)



ALLARD, Bishop Jean-François



Marie Jean-François Allard was born at La Roche in the diocese of Gap, near Briançon, Hautes Alpes, on 27 November 1806. He began his studies for the priesthood at the Little Seminary of Embrun, and completed them at Gap. He was then ordained to the diocesan priesthood on the 30 June 1830 by Bishop Arbaud. For the next five years he took charge of the parish of La Rochette, near Gap, and from 1834 to 1837 he taught mathematics and philosophy at the seminary of Embrun. It was then that he decided to join the very young Missionary Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1838. He made his final profession on the 1 December 1839 at N.D. du Laus, thus becoming one of the early members of the Congregation with the Oblation number 76. In September 1839 he taught Sacred Scripture at the Major Seminary in Lumières. However, two years later, he was again teaching Sacred Scripture at the major seminary in Marseille. Shortly afterwards, on 21 August 1843, he was sent to Canada together with Fr Telmon, who had come to France to attend the General Chapter of the OMI, and two deacons, Nicholas Laverlochre and August Brunet.

There he was again novice master for the Oblate Congregation and also taught at the seminary at Bytown (now Ottawa). When Rome requested Bishop de Mazenod, the Founder of the OMI Congregation, to send missionaries to the newly established Vicariate of Natal in South Africa, he chose Fr Jean-François Allard to head the little band of missionaries.

On 4 December 1850, Bishop de Mazenod wrote to Allard to inform him that he had been named vicar-apostolic of the newly formed Vicariate of Natal, with the title of Bishop of Samaria. Though horrified at the request, Allard was told by the Founder that he was to accept the nomination under obedience. "The Vicar of Christ calls you; immediately on receipt of this letter set out on your journey." (JB) Allard was 44 years of age at the time, spoke little English and was of a retiring disposition. He was ordained Titular Bishop of Samaria and Vicar Apostolic of Natal on the 29 January 1851 by de Mazenod himself, assisted by Bishops Guibert OMI (later to become Cardinal Archbishop of Paris) and Wicart. Allard, accompanied by Frs Jean-Baptiste Sabon and newly ordained Irish Oblate, Lawrence Joseph Dunne, a deacon Julian Alphonse Logegaray and a lay brother, Joseph

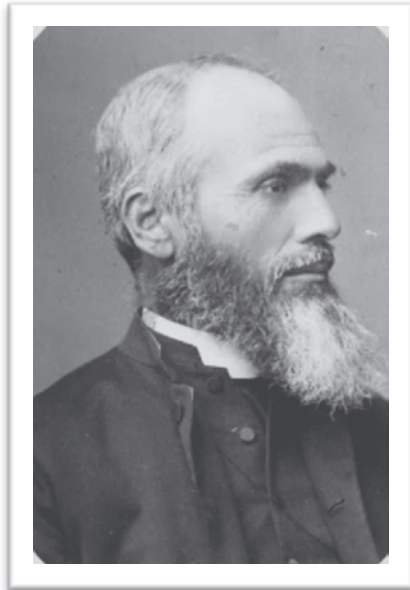


Compin, set sail from Marseille on 13 November 1851 on the ship *La Providence*. They finally arrived at Port Natal on 15 March 1852, after having spent six weeks in Cape Town. There was no one to welcome the new arrivals except a very kind Protestant who took them ashore in his boat and sheltered them in his house until they could find suitable accommodation. A small house was rented in Smith Street which then served as presbytery and chapel where

the first Mass was said on 19 March 1852. On 1 April the Bishop and his companions left for Pietermaritzburg, leaving Fr Sabon in charge at Durban. So began the missionary outreach into the interior which was to spread into Basutoland (Lesotho), Orange Free State (Free State), Kimberley, Bechuanaland (Botswana), Transkei and later the Transvaal (Gauteng). Allard made his headquarters in the capital, Pietermaritzburg. His vicariate covered an enormous portion of South Africa. With very little finance, and with only three priests at his disposal, Allard faced an almost impossible task. To make it worse, at the end of the first year, 1852, Dunne left Natal to return to England, and later Logegaray also abandoned the priesthood and Compin left to return to France. In January 1854 the long-awaited reinforcements of Oblates arrived consisting of Fr Justin Barret, deacon Joseph Gerard, and a lay brother, Brother Bernard. They first had to learn both the English and Zulu languages before Allard was able to start an apostolate among the Zulus. However, Allard's efforts to begin evangelizing the Zulu people were not successful. The first attempt at St Michael's ended in utter failure as did the second. Then Allard decided to open a new mission among the Amacele in July 1860, (Our Lady of Seven Dolours) but this undertaking was also not successful, and so in November 1861, Allard and Fr Gerard decided to move further inland and they headed for Basutoland, (Lesotho) where he and Fr Joseph Gerard were favourably received, and where eventually the Oblate missionaries met with great success. Allard remained in Basutoland leaving Natal more or less in the care of Fr Barret and a handful of priests. There were many complaints among the priests who felt that Allard was too rigid in his treatment of them and did not understand their difficulties, plus the fact that he was virtually inaccessible to his priests in Natal. Finally, in 1871, the Oblate General Administration sent Fr Martinet to Natal to make a canonical visitation of the Vicariate. As a result of this visit, Allard eventually resigned and retired to Rome on 28 June 1874. In Rome he was promoted to the office of consultor to Propaganda, with the title of Archbishop of Taron. He was then 68 years of age and had served as vicar-apostolic of Natal for 23 years. He lived in a private house at via Monterone 79, where Bishop Jolivet was later to visit him. Then in 1887 he moved to the new scholasticate at via Vittorino da Feltre, where he lived until his death on the 26 Sept 1889 aged 83. Allard remained an exemplary religious and was revered by those who got to know him.



BARRET, Justin



Justin Barret was born at Labéte Mauléon in the Lower Pyrenees) on 27 August (or 1 September) 1826. After making his final profession in the Oblate Congregation on 8 December 1850 at Notre-Dame de l'Osier, he was ordained priest at Marseille on 25 March (or 3 April) 1853. He was one of the second batch of Oblate missionaries who arrived in Natal in January 1854, together with deacon Joseph Gerard and Brother Pierre Bernard. Barret was described as being an excellent preacher, although rather nervous, and of sound judgment. This proved to be true as both Bishops Allard and Jolivet relied heavily on him as a counsellor and leader. When Allard later decided to reside in Basutoland he virtually left Natal in the care of Barret. He was also said to be a talented artist.

Both Barret and Gerard immediately set about learning English, and then the Zulu language in which they both became proficient. They were the first Oblates to venture 'into the unknown' in order to establish a Catholic mission at St Michael's on the south coast of Natal. This first endeavour was a dismal failure, but the hardships suffered by these intrepid missionaries would one day bear fruit, and St Michael's

later became a flourishing mission station after the Mariannhill Missionaries took it over. After the failure of St Michael's, in 1875, Barret was put in charge of the small boys' school in Pietermaritzburg which eventually became the well-known St Charles' School/College. When Bishop Jolivet succeeded Bishop Allard in January 1875, Barret was in Pietermaritzburg, in charge of St Mary's parish which he served for fifty years. It should be noted that this parish took in the areas of Estcourt, Ladysmith, Newcastle and Greytown as well, which meant that Barret was often away from his headquarters. He was much in demand as a retreat master for the Religious Sisters of the Vicariate and was also one of Jolivet's consultors or councillors, as well as being a confidante and companion. He served as vicarial bursar for many years. In December 1880 Jolivet was leaving Pretoria to go to Kimberley and, because he was afraid that he might get caught up in the Boer uprising against British rule, he drew up a will leaving all the church possessions in Natal into the care of Fr Barret. In February 1885 Barret was elected to represent his brother Oblates at the General Chapter in Paris, so he travelled with Jolivet to the

Continent, where he also visited the Pope in Rome. On 12 December 1900, Barret celebrated his golden jubilee of profession; on 25 March 1903, his golden jubilee of priesthood, and on the 8 December 1910 he celebrated 60 years of religious profession. After a long and fruitful ministry, Barret died in Durban on the 11 January 1911, aged 85, much loved, respected and admired by all, Catholics, Protestants and even non-Christians alike. His body was returned to Pietermaritzburg for the Requiem Mass and funeral and was buried in the Commercial Road



cemetery. On the occasion of his death a letter written by 'A Maritzburg Jew' was printed in the *Times of Natal* expressing a glowing admiration for Fr Barret, who he said “was endowed with that human spirituality that claimed the attention of men of opposite faiths. He combined the best qualities of the parish priest with the best qualities of the gentleman. His many activities were not amongst the occupants of the gilded pew; his attention was attracted by those whom the Church of his Holy Master was intended to reach. His long and useful life was permeated with the true 'charity that believeth and hopeth in all things.'” (J. Duckworth)



FR JUSTIN BARRET'S GOLDEN JUBILEE, 25 MARCH 1903

*Seated: Fr O. Monginoux, Fr. J. Barret, Bp C. Jolivet, Fr A. Baudry, Fr L. Mathieu
Standing: Bro. Tivenan, Fr J. O'Donnell, Fr A. Chauvin, Fr P. Gourlay,
Fr J. Le Texier, Bro. S. Belanger, Bro. C. Poirier*



BARTHÉLEMY, Jules



Jules was born at Frenelle-la-Petite in Lorraine on 30 July 1834. He joined the Oblate Congregation at Notre-Dame de l'Osier on 31 October 1854, making his final profession on 15 May 1856. He was ordained to the priesthood in Marseille on 24 June 1860 and, after serving at the College of Vico, Corsica, was sent to the Natal mission in August 1862 from where he was sent to Basutoland (Lesotho). He was apparently a very difficult character and, after misunderstandings between him and Bishop Allard, he returned to France in 1868 at Allard's request. However, after Allard's resignation, Barthélemy returned to South Africa in 1875 with Bishop Jolivet and returned to Basutoland. He again took up the study of Sesotho, which he had not forgotten, and soon mastered the language. He translated Sacred History into Sesotho, *Matsipa a Bible*.

When Fr Gerard was asked to open a new mission at St Monica's in the Leribe district, Barthélemy was sent to be his companion in July 1878, and the two apparently suffered severe hardships at the height of winter. From there, in the same month, Barthélemy was sent to

St Joseph's mission at Korokoro. Unfortunately his difficult personality clashed with the Holy Family Sisters and parishioners, and in March 1884 he was transferred from Basutoland and sent to work at St Michael's mission in Natal. His stay there was not very long, due, apparently, to a lack of response on the part of the chief and the people. In 1889 Bishop Jolivet made another attempt to re-open St Michael's mission and Fr Barthélemy was sent there again to take care of the spiritual side, while Mr Pavel, a recent convert, would look after the material and financial affairs. This arrangement did not last however, as both these men were known to be quick-tempered, and in 1890 Pavel sent his resignation to the Bishop who then sent Fr Gourlay to take complete charge of the mission until November of the same year, when the Bishop reached an agreement with Abbot Pfanner that the Trappists would take over the mission. Barthélemy was then sent to take charge of the African Catholics in Durban who had slowly but surely grown in number and had attached themselves to St Joseph's church in West Street. Barthélemy died in Durban on 24 May 1902, aged 68.



BAUDRY, Alexander. *(See Necrology part 2)*

BÉLANGER, Brother Samuel

Samuel Bélanger was born on 5 August 1846 in Saint Simon (diocese of Rimouski, Quebec, Canada). According to the records in the General Archives of the OMI Congregation in Rome, Samuel made his novitiate in Pietermaritzburg in 1882–1883, after which he made his first vows. Eight years later he made his final profession on 28 May 1881, as mentioned by Jolivet in his journal. In 1884–1885 he was working at the Bluff mission “...where he was cultivating a vegetable garden at the mission to supply the sisters and visiting missionaries.” In 1885 he was sent to Oakford for a while to help Fr Mathieu who was just beginning to establish the Oakford mission. Bro. Bélanger “...helped him to erect the first rough building.”(JB) He was back in Pietermaritzburg in 1887, after which we hear nothing more about him. According to the Oblate necrology, he died in Pietermaritzburg on the 17 February 1920, aged 74.



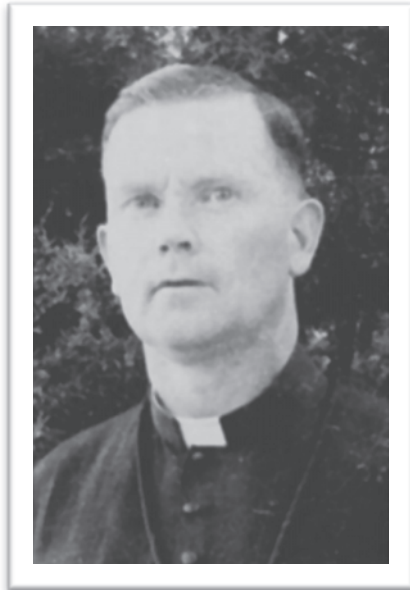
BELNER, Victor Jean (John)



Victor Belner was born on the 21 (25) March 1877 at Faurquement in the diocese of Metz. His baptismal certificate adds that he was French by option, but German in fact. His parents were Isidore and Celine (born Ney). He did his secondary schooling at Notre Dame de Sion from 1889 to August 1897. On the 14 August 1897 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Angers and made his first and final vows on 15 August 1899. He then went to begin his priestly studies at Liège, Belgium. He was ordained to the Diaconate on the 13 July 1902 and to the priesthood on the 12 July 1903. He received his first obedience to the Natal Vicariate, and on arrival was sent to Pretoria in 1904. Two years later he was in Johannesburg. By 1908 he was at Newcastle, acting as bursar (treasurer), and then, in 1911, we find him in Pietermaritzburg where he was teaching at St Charles' School for a year or part thereof. In 1912 he went to Ladysmith where he ministered for five years until 1917 when he was back in Pietermaritzburg as an assistant, and the following year in Durban. Bishop Delalle appointed him as assistant treasurer in 1927 and, in 1933, full time treasurer of the Vicariate. It seems that he remained there till his death in Durban on the 2 September 1941, aged 64. He was buried in the West Street cemetery.



BENSON, John



John was born on 28 July 1904 at Turtulla Thurles, Tipperary, Ireland into a farming family. At the age of 29 he decided to become a priest in the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and at the end of his novitiate year in 1933 he made his first profession in 1934, final vows in September 1938, and was ordained priest on the 23 June 1940. He came to Natal on the 22 December 1941. He began his apostolate by supplying at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg for a month in January 1942, after which he served as assistant priest at St Peter's, Point, and chaplain to Addington Hospital from February 1942 to November 1946. Thereafter he worked in several parishes in the Archdiocese of Durban, mainly as assistant priest, and then ministered at Ladysmith from 1946–1948. He returned to Durban in 1948 and, while serving as assistant priest at Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban, he also took charge of Woodlands, Wentworth, and Isipingo. He remained as assistant at Emmanuel Cathedral until 1958 when he was sent to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg until 1959. From there he was appointed chaplain to St Augustine's hospital, Durban from 1959 to 1961, then assistant at St

Anthony's, Pietermaritzburg, from 1961 to 1968, after which he went to Red Hill from 1968 to 1969. After this he served for short periods at Umhlanga Rocks and St Anthony's, Durban, then on to Pinetown from 1970 to 1974, and finally again at Emmanuel Cathedral from 1974 to 1984. From there he retired to Glenmore Oblate Centre in 1984, where he remained till 1989. On the 14 March 1989 he underwent an operation in Addington Hospital, following which he retired to Nazareth House where he remained till his death on the 9 October 1989. He had served as chaplain to the Legion of Mary for many years, as well as to Nazareth House from 1954–1961, and to Villa Assumpta, Pietermaritzburg from 1961–1968. John was a dedicated priest throughout his life and a faithful Oblate of Mary Immaculate. Whilst he was at the Cathedral, John was known for one particular habit: he read the daily newspaper thoroughly, and then loved to give a brief summary at meal times, whether anyone was prepared to listen or not!

Fr John Patterson, a fellow Irish Oblate, wrote: "Father John looked stern but he had a good sense of humour. But on the whole he saw life as serious. He dearly loved God but also feared him not a little. His life was more limited than need be, but it was his choice so he could give his full attention to the job on hand... He had strict convictions about SIN and it featured in all his sermons. He had not much time for those he considered used theological sleight of hand to make sins disappear. He knew only one way of doing that...in the confession box. He was always willing

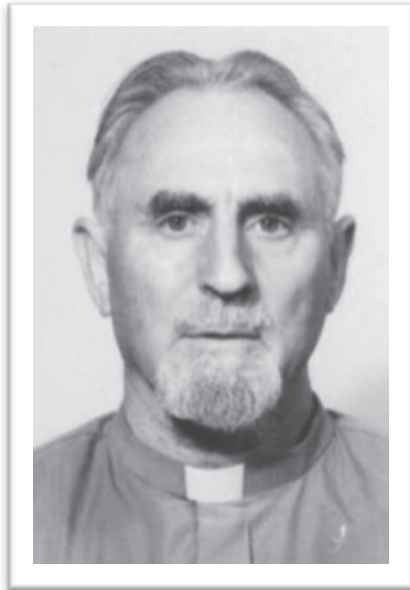


to be there to minister to the penitent but the sting came in the tail. His penances were always stiff. He tried to make the punishment fit the crime.” Fr Patterson then concluded his tribute by stating that John could be known by “...Firmness of purpose to be the priest he was called to be, Willingness to be of help when he could, Loyalty to the Pope and to the Congregation.”

After a Requiem Mass in Emmanuel Cathedral on the 13 October 1989, the funeral took place at Cedara where he was buried in the Oblate Cemetery. He was then 85 years old.



BOHEC, Pierre Marie



Pierre was born on 12 September 1921 at Lammeur, Quimper, France. At the age of 18 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at La Brosse-Montceaux and made his first profession there on the 24 October 1940, and his final profession on the 8 December 1944. He began his studies for the priesthood at La Brosse and was ordained on the 15 April 1945. He received his first obedience for the Province of Natal, and arrived in Durban in 1947. After a brief four month opportunity to learn English and isiZulu he began his missionary work as an Assistant at Esigodini Mission in August 1947. From there he went to help at St Paul's, Greyville from June 1948 to November 1950, after which he served at Mbava and Ntshongweni for a year each. In March 1952 he was appointed priest-in-charge of Seven Oaks (1952–1956) and Bergville for a year. He spent the next two years supplying at Ekukhanyeni and Congella, and then returned to St Paul's, Greyville, as priest-in-charge. After six months in Stanger (KwaDukuza), he went to take charge of Howick in June 1963, and remained there till November 1968, after which he went to Weenen where he ministered for 6 years.

His next appointment was for a year at KwaMashu, followed by two years at Matimatolo, and 7 years at Maphumulo. His final appointment was as chaplain to King Edward VIII Hospital in February 1984 where he did sterling work among the sick and dying. Due to ill-health he was forced to retire from active ministry and took up residence at Sabon House in the mid 1990's. As his health deteriorated he was moved to Nazareth House where he died peacefully on the 18 December 1999, aged 78.



BOUDON, Brother Alexander



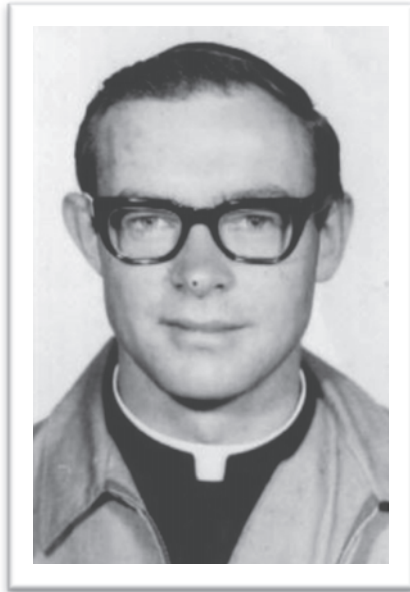
Alexander was born on 5 March 1870 in Veyrés, in the diocese of Mende, France. His father was Pierre Boudon and his mother Virginia Marie Agnes. He entered the Oblate Novitiate on 30 October 1887 in St Gerlach, where he made his first vows the following year on 1 November 1888, after which he worked for just over a year at a place called St François. At the beginning of 1891 he received his obedience for Natal. Bishop Jolivet, in his Journal, stated on 6 March 1891: "...Two Oblate Brothers arrived in Durban to join in the missionary work of the Oblates viz. Brothers Alexandre Boudon and Julian Poirier." Then on the 20 January 1894 Jolivet wrote: "...Solemn dedication of the new church built by Fr Baudry and Brother Boudon and the Africans of the mission according to my plans. I am very pleased with this church...The reporter of the *Natal Advertiser* and a good number of people of Durban were also there." That building replaced the original chapel built by Fr Baudry in 1880. Boudon made his final vows on 8 December 1895 in Pietermaritzburg. It would seem that Boudon enjoyed playing practical jokes. Again Jolivet, in his Journal, writes on 10 March 1899 (the fiftieth

anniversary of his Oblation): "...Family feast in Durban. We were highly amused at Fr Le Texier's terror who thought he had received the visit of a boa [python] during the night at the Bluff: a joke played on him by Fr Coupé and Brother Boudon."

Around 1921 Boudon was at Umsinsini, St Joachim mission, on the south coast of Natal for a short while, then returned to Durban where he was stationed at the Cathedral for many years. He died in Durban on 2 December 1950, aged 80.



BOYD, Rodney Leo



Rodney was born in Durban on the 25 July 1941 of Leo and Anne Boyd. After his primary and secondary education at Marist Brothers' College in Durban, Rodney decided to become a priest in the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He entered the novitiate in Germiston in 1961 and made his first vows on the 17 February 1962, after which he went to St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, to pursue his studies for the priesthood. He made his final profession on the 17 February 1965, and was ordained priest on the 28 June 1968. His first assignment on leaving the Scholasticate was to teach at Inchanga High School, which was then still in the hands of the Oblates (1969–1973). During that time he also acted as boarding master. Then in 1973 he was a full time student at Natal University and from 1974–1977 he was assigned to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, as an assistant. From 1977–1980 he worked in what was called Hostel Ministry in Clermont, ministering to those men and women involved in the migratory labour system living in large hostels. In 1980 he was appointed parish priest of Mooi River, where he worked for ten years after which, in 1990, he was transferred

to Lamontville Township as parish priest where he remained for two years. From 1992 to 1999 he was assigned to Inanda as parish priest, and then went to take charge of the Inchanga parish (1999–2001). He then took over St Anne's parish in Chesterville from 2002–2004. That year he went to reside at Sacred Heart parish, Woodlands, but acted as chaplain to Addington Hospital (2004–2010). By 2011 his health had begun to deteriorate and he retired to Nazareth House where he remained for the next three years.

Rodney had somewhat of a restless spirit in him. He was never satisfied with what he was doing. There was always 'another way' of doing something, another and better way of handling a situation, another side to a story. This restless spirit seemed to affect every aspect of his life. He was a health fanatic and followed various systems of health 'cures' and health diets, with the result that eventually it affected his health. In the end he became so thin that he had hardly any flesh left on him. But Rodney was also a man of prayer. He was in a true sense a man of God. He was faithful to his spiritual exercises and hours of contemplation. He had a deeply caring nature and took a genuine interest in anyone's problems, especially if they appeared to be victims of injustice. On the 21 June 2013, Rodney quietly and lovingly gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he had loved so deeply and served so faithfully during his life. His Requiem Mass took place at Assumption parish, Durban, from where his remains were taken to Cedara to be buried in the Oblate cemetery there. He was 72 years of age.



BRAZIL, Patrick Joseph



'Paddy', as he was affectionately known to his brother Oblates in Natal, was born in the city of Dublin, Eire, on the 17 March 1910. After having worked as a bus conductor for some years in that city, he decided to become a priest, and joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1937 when he entered the Novitiate in Cahermoyle. He made his first vows in 1938 and his final profession in 1941. After his studies at Piltown he was ordained to the priesthood on 29 June 1944. He received his obedience to Natal and arrived on the 15 August 1946. He was immediately posted to the High School at Inchanga where he taught until his untimely death. Paddy had a contagious sense of humour which affected all who came into contact with him, and he always spread cheer in his community at Inchanga. Although fully occupied with his teaching career in the High School and Juniorate, he found time to do missionary work in Hillcrest and the Valley of a Thousand Hills every weekend where he founded and continued to serve several outstations. He was an indefatigable missionary and was loved and respected by all his brother Oblates and the Zulu people he served with such zeal.

On the night of the 21 November 1961 he was taken suddenly ill and collapsed in pain. He was rushed to Mariannhill hospital by his confrere, Fr Barry Clancy, and from there he was taken by ambulance to St Augustine's hospital in Durban where it was diagnosed that he had a ruptured aorta beyond all medical help. He died peacefully in the early morning of the 22nd, after having been anointed by Revd Fr Nicholas Humphreys OP who was in the hospital at the time. He was only 51 years of age.

The then Oblate Provincial, Fr Raymond Coates, wrote to Fr Brazil's sister, stating: "While you have lost a dear brother we also have lost a wonderful priest, a man filled with the great ideals of his vocation and one who devoted himself to his work in a most wonderful way. His acceptance of his various duties was an example to us all ...Not only was he an exemplary priest but he was also a good friend to all who knew him. From all aspects of his work in Natal he will be missed and I doubt very much if we will ever realize all he meant to us. He was loved

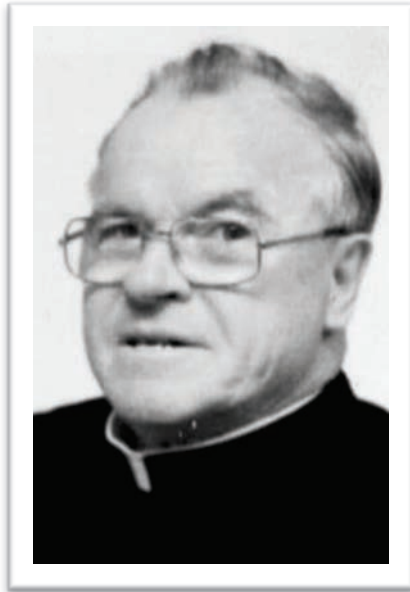


by all and the excellent attendance at his funeral yesterday, showed quite clearly how much he will be missed by the great number of priests, brothers and lay people who came to pay their last respects. Just on a hundred priests attended the funeral and they were not only from this Province, but also from the neighbouring dioceses and two came from the Transvaal. Among those who attended were representatives of the different religious

communities of sisters and brothers as well, and the church at Inchanga proved far too small to hold all the lay people, both white and African. The African people have lost a good friend and spiritual father and their grief was clearly shown at the graveside... He was buried in the little cemetery on the hill at the mission where he had spent all his priestly life in South Africa and where his dear African people will be able to pray at his grave. He is buried at Inchanga next to Father Hanon, the founder of the Inchanga Mission, and indeed two great soldiers of Christ rest together to await the last call of their Master. May they rest in peace.”



BYRNE, Colbert



Colbert was born in Dublin, Ireland, on the 8 September 1916. He entered the Oblate novitiate in Cahermoyle on the 15 August 1938 and then did his priestly studies at Daingean and Piltown, where he was ordained priest on the 29 June 1943, after which he received his obedience for Natal. He began his ministry at the Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban, but in August 1946 he went to learn the Zulu language at Mhlumayo in the Ladysmith district until February 1947 when he was posted to Newcastle where he worked for two years. In August 1949 he was sent to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg but was there only a few months until March 1950 when he was appointed parish priest of Genezzano Mission on the north coast where he remained for 10 years. In February 1960 he was appointed parish priest of Amanzimtoti for the next 9 years. In 1969 he was transferred to St Anthony's parish in Pietermaritzburg. In 1974 he served at Westville for a few months after which he was assigned to Reservoir Hills as priest in charge. In March 1977 he was sent to Port Shepstone and then to Margate and finally to Jericho Mission in 1978 where he remained till his death on the 28 December 1984.

Colbert was the son of an Irish father who was a military man and who was in prison at the time of Colbert's birth because of resistance to British Imperialism in Ireland. Colbert never forgot that, and throughout his life he had a fervent and strong loyalty to the country of his birth. He was a rather jovial character and loved company. He will be remembered for his pastoral visiting and for his insistence on Catechism classes. He was at one time appointed Catechetical Director for the Archdiocese of Durban. Although he was a man with a loud booming voice he had a tender heart, and was always kind and helpful. He believed in hospitality and did his best for visitors especially his brother priests.

'Loyalty' sums up Colbert Byrne, whether it was loyalty to the Church, Pope, Archbishop, family, parish, or Oblate congregation. He was faithful to small things, especially to his service of his people. The Knights of Da Gama awarded him the 'Award of Merit' of the Order for his 38 years of dedication, his spiritual guidance as Regional Chaplain, and his successful endeavours of initiating the first Indian Brothers to the Order.



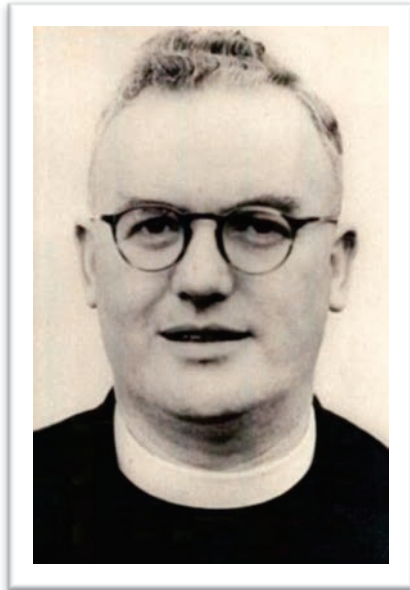
On the 28 December 1984, Colbert collapsed at Jericho Mission with a severe angina attack at about 7.30 p.m. On that same day, in the morning, he had celebrated Mass for the repose of the soul of his brother Oblate priest, Fr Paulus Mzolo, who had died the previous day and

had then, in the afternoon, conducted a nuptial Mass. When he returned home, he complained of being tired. He sat down in his armchair and had a heart attack. The Franciscan Sisters at the mission were with him as he prepared for death with the prayer of Jesus on his lips. It was a beautiful death and apparently well rehearsed as he had suffered many attacks of angina in the last few years and had been living on borrowed time. When it was suggested that he retire because of his heart condition his response was that he preferred to die in harness and that is exactly what happened. He died as he had wished: in the course of duty. He had kept all his books and registers up to date, and all matters were accounted for as if he well knew his time was near. He was 69 years of age.

His funeral Mass took place at Jericho Mission on the 3 January 1985, after which his remains were transported to Cedara where he was buried in the Oblate Cemetery.



BYRNE, Leo



Leo Byrne was born in Dublin on the 13 October 1911. He entered the Oblate Congregation in 1932, making his first vows the following year, and his final vows on the 29 September 1936. He did his priestly studies at Belmont and Daingean, and was ordained to the priesthood on 26 June 1938 at Daingean. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban on the 16 November 1939. To begin with he was posted to Congella in 1940 and then as parish priest to Pinetown in 1942. In January 1960 he was appointed parish priest of the newly-established parish of Our Lady of Lourdes at Westville, which he had been instrumental in founding whilst serving in Pinetown. In 1966 he spent several months as acting parish priest of Clairwood and on the 10 January 1967 was appointed parish priest of the new parish of St Vincent de Paul, Pietermaritzburg.

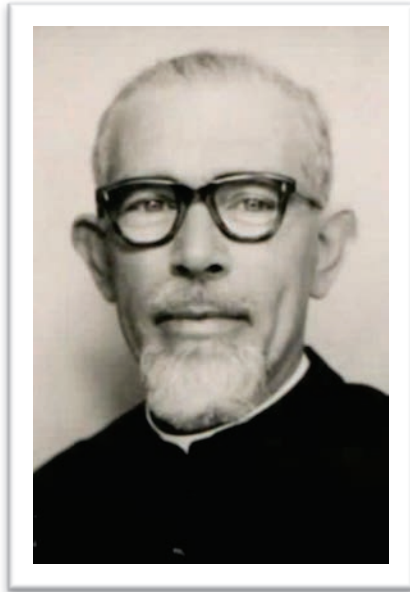
Leo had a great sense of humour, but he also had a quick temper. After his death the Oblate Provincial wrote to his sister in Ireland stating: "Leo was loved and appreciated by all his brother Oblates in this Province. He always showed the greatest kindness and friendship

towards his brother priests. His wonderful sense of humour will be missed by us all. There is one trait that characterized Leo which we shall never forget and that is his love and concern for the under-privileged. How many people Leo helped, either financially or by his kindness, will never be known. He showed a great interest in social welfare work."

On the 1 September 1971, at 61 years of age, Leo suffered a heart attack and died, most probably in his sleep. He was discovered the next morning in his bed when he failed to rise for Mass at St Vincent's in Pietermaritzburg. His features were restful and showed no sign of pain or struggle. His funeral took place on the 7 September in St Mary's Church, after which the burial took place in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



CANEVET, Ernest

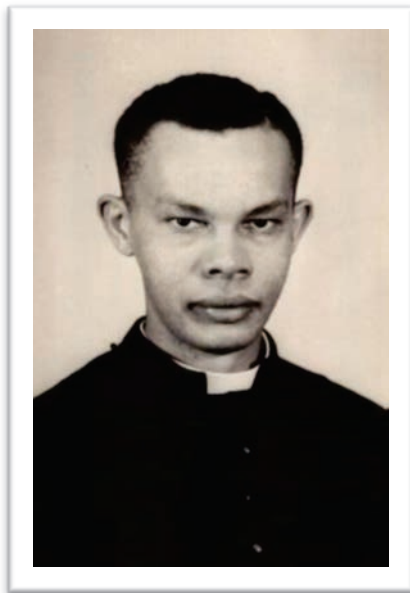


Ernest was born on the 18 September 1907 at Trégunc, Finistere, France. At the age of 20 years he entered the Oblate novitiate and made his first vows on the 17 July 1927 and his final vows on the 29 September 1930. He completed his studies for the priesthood at Liège and was ordained on the 17 July 1932 by Bishop Henry Delalle of Natal. After receiving his obedience for Natal, he arrived on the 12 October 1933, and was sent to Mhlumayo and Ladysmith. From there he spent some time in Maphumulo, followed by Inchanga and then back to Mhlumayo. He also served at Malvern, Inanda, Verulam and Seven Oaks. In 1957 he was sent to take over the newly established Clermont parish and resided at Durban Cathedral while he supervised the building of the priest's house at Clermont. He intended to build the church in traditional Zulu style. Ernest was an accomplished isiZulu linguist, who was also much in demand as preacher or announcer at archdiocesan functions. He had an unbounded love for the African people. He also had a fine singing voice which often could be heard booming in the public address system as he led the congregation at public celebrations.

On Sunday, 29 July 1962, he had completed all the Sunday services and went to retire after a hard day's work. Apparently he had complained to some friends of a severe headache. He went to bed, and died peacefully in his sleep. His body lay in state in Emmanuel Cathedral on the night of Tuesday 31st, and the funeral Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hurley in the presence of a huge number of clergy and laity, the Cathedral was packed to overflowing. His remains were then taken to Cedara where he was buried in the new Oblate cemetery, being the first to be buried there. He was then only 55 years of age. The following headlines in the Natal *Sunday Tribune* sums up the devotion in which he was held by the African people: "7000 Africans Mourn Him: Seven thousand Africans – most of them Zulus – trekked hundreds of miles by car, bicycle and push-cart to Durban last week to say good-bye to a dearly-loved friend."



CAREY, Cyril Sebastian Kirk



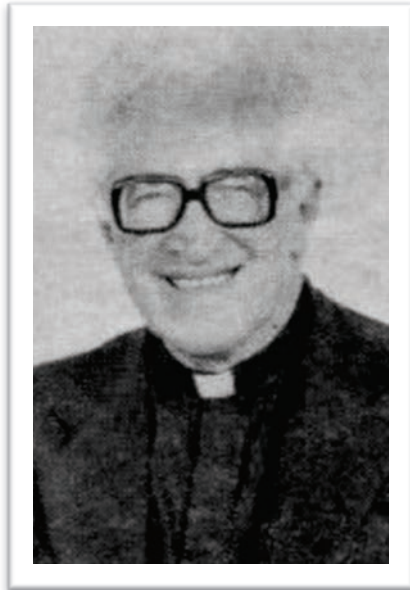
Cyril was born in Ladysmith on the 4 February 1927. After qualifying as a teacher and having taught for a few years, he decided to join the Oblates, and entered the Novitiate in Germiston in 1950, together with Albert Danker and Charles Langlois, the three being the first 'Coloured' vocations to the Natal Oblate Province since its inception. Cyril pronounced his first vows on the 27 February 1951 and his final vows in 1954. He was ordained to the priesthood on the 10 December 1955 at Emmanuel Cathedral. From then on he served as assistant priest in several parishes/mission stations: Besters (1956), Ladysmith (1957), Inchanga (1959), Inanda (Ekukhanyeni) (1960), St Louis, Clairwood (1961-1969). Cyril was then assigned as parish priest to the new parish of Christ the King in the recently established township of Wentworth, which became the largest parish in the Archdiocese of Durban with about 10,000 members, according to a tribute written by Mr Paddy Kearney. Paddy summed up Fr Carey in the following words: "What was striking about Father Cyril was, first of all, that he was a big man – tall and imposing, a fine figure as president of any liturgical celebration."

Fr Barry Wood, the Provincial at the time, spoke of Cyril as being "...big and sensitive of heart." Cyril, with his undying enthusiasm, managed to turn the down-trodden people of Wentworth into a proud and vibrant Christian community. Cyril used the liturgy and put it to its best advantage in his ministry. Each Sunday was another Easter. But Cyril also suffered insults from people who resented his intrusion into their daily lives. He was often caught in gang-warfare and on more than one occasion was saved from a violent death by the grace of God. He was also a strong champion of human rights in the struggle against apartheid and discrimination.

After 23 years of untiring and all-consuming ministry at Christ the King parish, Cyril's health collapsed. He spent the remaining few years in retirement at Nazareth House, but continued to help wherever there was a need. On Monday 15 July 1996, at the age of 69, with his brother and sister-in-law at his bedside, Cyril breathed his last, and passed peacefully and joyfully into the arms of the God he had served so faithfully as his priest. He was buried at Cedara.



CARR, Daniel Joseph

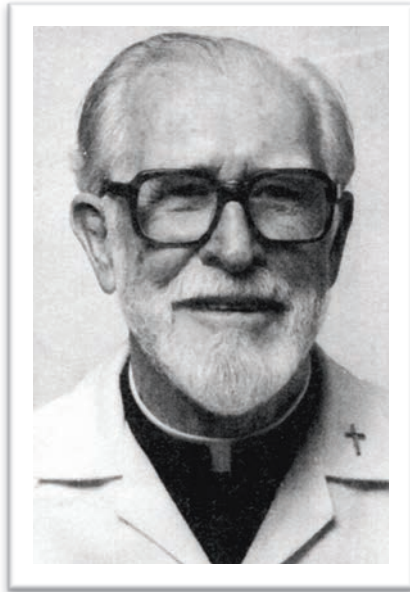


Danny, as he was affectionately called by his confreres, was born at Waltham, Massachusetts, USA, on 5 April 1909. At the age of 23 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Tewksbury, MA, and made his first vows on 8 September 1932, and his final vows in 1935. He was ordained to the priesthood at Washington, DC on 9 June 1938 and then received his obedience for Natal, arriving on the 27 October 1938. He began his ministry by going to Inchanga for a few months to learn isiZulu. In July 1939 he was posted to Edendale till November of the same year. From there he went to Waterfall mission, Upper Tongaat (1939–1941), Congella (1941–1942), Dundee (Jan. – June 1942), Seven Oaks (June 1942 –September 1944), Mhlumayo (Sept 1944 –Sept 1949), and finally to Clairwood (July 1950 – 1960). After serving as assistant at St Francis Xavier, Bluff for a few months, he was assigned to St Peter's parish, Montebello in May 1960 where he remained till his death.

Danny was rather short and stocky, full of untiring enthusiasm in his missionary work. He was totally dedicated to the African people, who turned a deaf ear to his strong American accent when speaking in isiZulu! He had a very kind heart, especially towards the less privileged. He had his own interpretation of the liturgy and application to rubrics and regulations. He had a great devotion to the Blessed Eucharist, and always had Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament following immediately after Mass. When this was prohibited by Rome, Danny obeyed the prohibition and so had Benediction immediately before Mass! Long before trination was permitted, Danny was already celebrating three (if not four!) Masses when needed, so that the faithful would not be deprived of Holy Mass. It was not surprising that his health suffered, and when retirement was suggested, he replied that he would prefer to die 'in harness'; and that is precisely what happened. On Sunday 18 March 1984, he was leading the congregation in the Stations of the Cross when he collapsed. He died of cardiac arrest. At least 700 people attended his funeral at Montebello, after which his body was taken to Cedara for burial. Danny was 75 years of age at his death.



CARRINGTON, Theodore

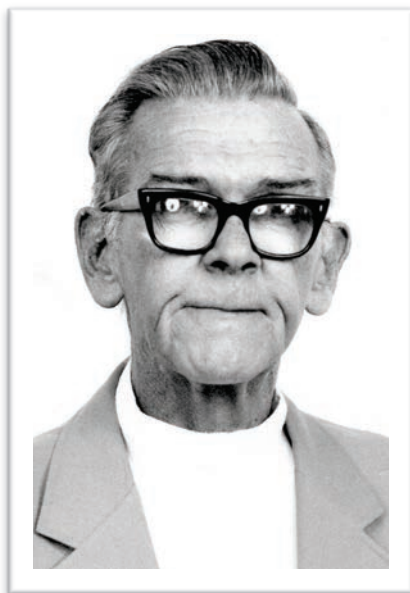


Theodore ('Theo' as he was better known) was born at East London, Cape Province on the 17 July 1908. His older brother became a Jesuit priest ministering in England. Theo completed his secondary education at Selborne College in East London after which he worked for a few years in Natal. During that time he took part in the Durban Philharmonic Orchestra as its flautist. When he decided to become an Oblate, he was sent to the Belmont Late Vocation College in Ireland to further his education and then went to the Novitiate in Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick in September 1939. He pronounced his first vows in September 1940 and then began his studies for the priesthood at Piltown, where he made his final vows in September 1943. He was ordained priest at Piltown on 29 June 1945 and returned to South Africa in July 1946. He was first assigned as assistant priest at Emmanuel Cathedral where he served from July 1946–48 and his next assignment was at Bellair from August to November 1948. From here he had a rather lengthy stay in Ladysmith as parish priest from December 1948–56 and from there went to Stanger (KwaDukuza) from

1956–59 again as parish priest. In April 1959 he took charge of St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg until March 1965 after which he took over St Francis Xavier at the Bluff for the next six years (1965–71). In August 1971 he was appointed parish priest of Blessed Sacrament, Virginia (Durban) where he had a long stay of 28 years! Whilst there he celebrated his ninetieth birthday. In 1999 he retired to Nazareth House in Durban where he remained for the next two years till his death on 12 November 2001 after a long and very fruitful ministry of 56 years. He was 92 years of age. He is buried in the cemetery at Cedara.



CAVANAGH, Desmond



Des was born in Pietermaritzburg on 24 July 1927. He completed his secondary education at St Charles' College, Pietermaritzburg, while it was still in the hands of the Marist Brothers, matriculating in 1944. Although Des had poor eye-sight throughout his life, he managed to take part successfully in the sporting activities and academic studies of the school. After matriculating, he spent two years working before he decided to become a priest. He went to the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston in 1946 and made his first vows on the 17 February 1947 and then began his clerical studies at St Joseph's Scholasticate at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg. He was involved in the move to Cleland in July/August of that year. He made his final vows on 17 February 1950. In May 1952 the National Marian Congress was held in Durban to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to South Africa in the persons of Bishop Allard and companions. Bishops, clergy and laity from all over South Africa and neighbouring countries poured into Durban for the occasion. As part of this celebration, on the 2 May 1952, Desmond Cavanagh was ordained

to the priesthood by the Apostolic Delegate (also Papal Legate) Archbishop Martin Lucas SVD, on Durban Race Course, thus most probably having the largest number of Bishops as well as the largest congregation any cleric, priest or Bishop, ever had in this country! At the end of that year he was appointed bursar of St Joseph's Scholasticate, a post he held for the next three years. This also involved him in the management of the farm at Cedara. In 1955 he was sent to Emmanuel Cathedral as one of the assistant priests, and ministered there for close to six years (1961), after which he went to St Joseph's parish, Greyville for two years (1961–1963). In 1963 he was sent to Estcourt as assistant, and remained there until 1972. During his stay at Estcourt he was sent to Rome in 1970 for two months to attend the General Conference for Mission and Pastoral. From 1973–1981 he was parish priest of Weenen, which was then a rather isolated mission. After this he took charge of the parish of Inchanga from 1982–1985 and from there he returned to Durban as Superior of the Oblate Centre at Glenmore, Durban (1985–1990). In 1985 he was appointed Provincial Bursar, a post he held until 1992. His next move was to take charge of the Oblate Retreat Centre at Redacres, Merrivale (1990–1992). In 1992 he was appointed parish priest of St Vincent's parish, Pietermaritzburg where he remained till 1997.



Desmond was a diabetic for most of his life, and this aggravated his poor eyesight, but never a word of complaint was heard from him. Des also had a rather phlegmatic temperament and nothing seemed to faze him. He took everything in his stride and was hardly ever known to raise his voice in anger. Unfortunately his eyesight worsened to the extent that he was no longer able to undertake active ministry and was hardly able to read, so he retired to Redacres in 1997. In 2001 his health had deteriorated to such an extent that he required special nursing care and he was admitted to Riverside Convalescent Home in Pietermaritzburg. Towards the end he began losing consciousness and on 18 October 2002 he passed away peacefully into the hands of the Lord whom he had served faithfully all his religious life. He was then 75 years of age. His remains were interred in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



CHAUVIN, Auguste



Auguste was born in 1868 in the Diocese of Caval (?Laval), France. As a young man he joined the Oblate Congregation and made his final profession on 15 August 1887 at Notre Dame de Sion at the age of 19. While still a scholastic he received his obedience for the Vicariate of Natal in 1888. Both he and deacon Peter Gourlay travelled with Fr Soullier who was going to Natal as a canonical visitor. They sailed from Southampton on 23 August 1888, and arrived in Durban on the 18 September 1888. Chauvin was then 20 years of age. Gourlay was ordained to the priesthood on the 22nd but Chauvin had still to pursue his theological studies. Both, however, began to learn the Tamil language so as to be able to minister to the Indian population who had recently arrived in Durban. On December of 1888 he was sent to St Charles' school in Pietermaritzburg to take care of the boys there and in June 1889 he was appointed Latin and French teacher at the school. At the same time he visited Indian families in the city and showed great zeal. In October 1889 he was appointed assistant *econome* (treasurer) of the Pietermaritzburg house. He was eventually ordained to the

diaconate on the 21 February 1891, and to the priesthood on 1 May 1892 in St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg. He was then 24 years of age. The following year he was appointed *econome* of the Pietermaritzburg house. At the same time he assisted Fr Gourlay in his work among the Indian people at St Anthony's mission in Pietermaritzburg till 1905. While there he raised the money needed for the building of a separate chapel for the Indian community. On the 25 April 1894 Frs Chauvin, Baudry and Mayr accompanied Bishop Jolivet to Mariannhill to be present at the blessing and installation by Jolivet of the new Abbot, Amandus Schölzig. In August 1897 Chauvin went to Newcastle where he stayed for a short while doing supply work before returning to Pietermaritzburg where, in addition to parish and school duties, he was chaplain to the military hospital in Pietermaritzburg during the Anglo-Boer War (1900-1902) and also visited the troops stationed at Kranskop several times. Bishop Delalle appointed Chauvin as his vicarial bursar or treasurer.

In 1904 St Charles' College was left without a principal for a year until the appointment of Fr Sormany and, during that period, Chauvin was appointed to take care of the running of the school though he was not engaged in the teaching. In August of the same year he was elected delegate to represent the Natal Oblates at the General Chapter, and travelled to Europe with Bishop Delalle. In his report to the Chapter Delalle speaks of the many duties of Chauvin: bursar of the house and college, and in charge of the Indian parishioners and most



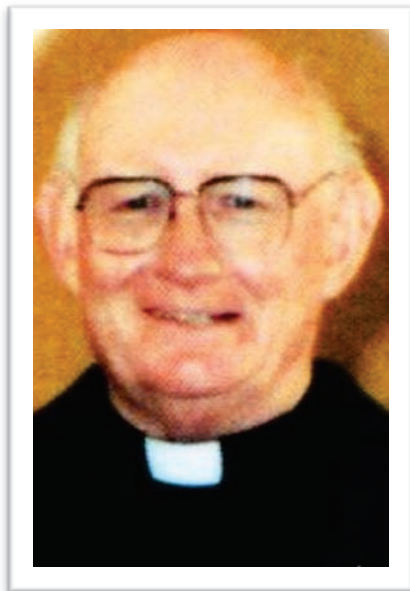
of the white parishioners. In January 1905 Chauvin took over St Mary's in succession to Fr Barret, thus giving up St Anthony's. Chauvin then asked for a horse so that he could visit his parish and became a familiar sight riding his horse around the city. In May 1906 he was appointed local Superior in place of Fr Barret until July 1911 when he was transferred to Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban. He was succeeded at St Mary's by Fr Armand Langouet. His stay at the Cathedral was of short duration, for in 1913 he took over the care of Pinetown and New Germany and from January 1915 to October 1941 Chauvin was at Bellair. Finally, aged 78, on 18 December 1941, Auguste Chauvin, passed to eternal life, after having had a full, successful and faithful ministry in the vineyard of the Lord.



HOLY NAME SANATORIUM IN LOOP STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG IN 1909.
FR CHAUVIN'S HORSE.



CLANCY, Finbarr Gerard



Barry, as he was popularly known, was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 24 September 1924. His parents were Henry and Mary (born McIlvenny). He attended the Christian Brothers Primary Schools at Armagh from 1929 to 1937, and then went to St Malachy's College, Belfast, until 1942. At the age of 18 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Ardagh, Co. Limerick on 14 September 1942, making his first profession the following year. He then went for studies to Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin, and from there to the Scholasticate at Piltown in September 1945, where he made his final vows on 15 September 1946. He was ordained to the priesthood at Piltown on 29 June 1949. That year he received his obedience for Natal, where he arrived in September 1949. He spent a year learning the Zulu language, as well as to drive a car. From 1950–55 he was assistant priest in Stanger (KwaDukuza), and the next four years were spent in Newcastle (1955–59). After this he was appointed parish priest at Inchanga (1959–1966), followed by appointments as parish priest at Elandskop (1966–80), Estcourt (1980–1994), Margate in the Diocese of Umzimkulu (1994–2000) and

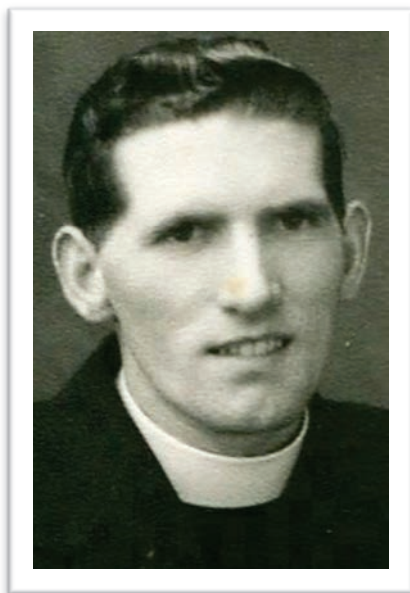
finally at Mooi River, where he remained until his retirement due to ill health in 2003.

The following testament is taken from the Natal Oblate Province newsletter of September 2005: "He [Barry] is remembered as a dedicated missionary to the Zulu people and a caring and loving soul who was much appreciated by the people of all races he served. The principle focus of his missionary spirituality was to be a missionary to the poor and only with reluctance would he accept other ministries. He was responsible for building a number of churches in the rural areas...He occupied a number of leadership positions in the church including being a diocesan councillor for a number of years, and Oblate Provincial councillor for six years. He was also Superior of the Pietermaritzburg District of the Oblates from 1977–1986. He served as bursar of the Oblate Scholasticate at Cedara and the students of that time talk about his kindness and listening ear! He was even acting Novice master for six weeks! ... All this is evidence of the great contribution made in many different areas by someone who was seen as a man of faith, a spiritual leader and a happy, friendly and balanced person."

Towards the end of his stay at Mooi River, in 2003, Barry's health began to fail, and he requested to return to his home Province in Ireland for possible treatment. In May 2005 he went back to Ireland suffering from cancer and stayed with a niece in Coleraine, Co. Derry. On the 20 July 2005, at the Robinson Memorial Hospice at Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, he handed himself over peacefully to the Lord and Master and Friend whom he had served so faithfully and lovingly during his priestly life. He was then 81 years of age. He was buried in Portstewart, Co. Antrim.



CONNALLY, Sean Joseph



Sean Joseph Connally was born on 30 December 1931 at Cregaslin, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon in the diocese of Elphin. His father was John and his mother Mary (born Keveney). He attended secondary college at St Joseph Lay School and Summerhill from 1945 to 1948, then went to the Oblate Juniorate College at Belcamp Hall, Raheny, Dublin until 1950. On 28 September 1950 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick and made his first vows there on 29 September 1951, after which he went to the Scholasticate at Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. It was there that he made his final profession on 29 September 1954, and was ordained a priest on 16 March 1957. Later that year he received his obedience for the Natal Province.

Fr Connally spent much of his missionary life working for the upliftment of black people in South Africa. In September 1963 he was at Seven Oaks when he contracted rheumatic fever. He went to Ireland to recuperate, and then returned to Natal to take up his missionary work again. He was sent to the Bluff where he remained till June 1966, when he was transferred to Hammarsdale Mission as parish priest. He

was the founder of the new parish of Mpumalanga (Hammarsdale) where he designed and built a church incorporating many aspects of Zulu art.

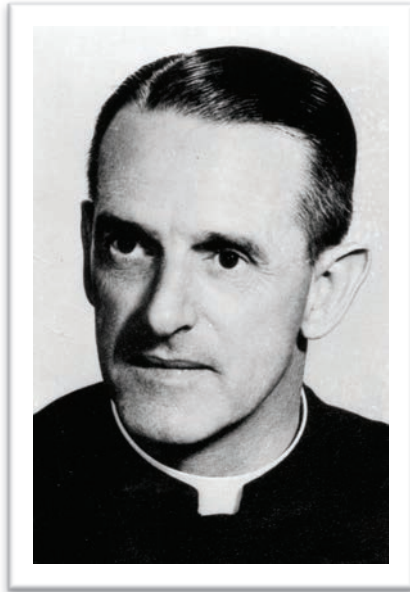
In January 1977 he was sent to take charge of Estcourt where he remained till September 1978 when he was appointed Director of Esigodini Pastoral Centre. There he was involved in lay leadership training till 1985, when he was appointed parish priest of Port Shepstone. There, too, Sean put his artistic talents to work as he re-designed the interior of the church. He was dearly loved by all the parishioners for his devotion and dedication.

In January 2006 he was admitted to Port Shepstone hospital for an operation on his foot. Whilst recovering in hospital, he had a heart attack and died on 5 January 2006. In a tribute to him, his parishioners wrote: "We knew little that morning that God was to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, and in death we did the same. It broke our hearts to lose you; you did not go alone for part of us went with you the day God called you home."

His Requiem Mass took place at Port Shepstone in a packed church. At the same time a Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Joseph's Cedara, where the clergy and people awaited the arrival of the procession from Port Shepstone. Sean's remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara. He was 75 years of age at the time of his death.



COATES, Raymond



Ray was born on the 7 December 1909 at Uitenhage, Eastern Cape Province. He attended St Joseph's Marist College, Uitenhage where he matriculated. He worked for some years in Natal before deciding to join the Oblate Congregation. In 1937 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston together with Brian Devitt from the Transvaal and Cyril Hayward from Natal. He pronounced his first vows on the 15 August 1938 at 29 years of age. The three were sent to France to pursue their clerical studies at the Oblate Scholasticate at N.D.de Lumières, Vaucluse, France, where they met up with a fellow South African, Wilfred Vogt, who had preceded them by two years. Whilst there they made their final profession on 15 August 1941. The three were ordained to the priesthood on the 23 May 1943, Ray being 34 years old at the time. This was at the height of World War II, and France was under German occupation. Towards the end of their scholastic career, the whole community at Lumières was interned by the German occupying forces. They spent several months in a concentration camp and were eventually freed by the advancing Allied forces. Soon after

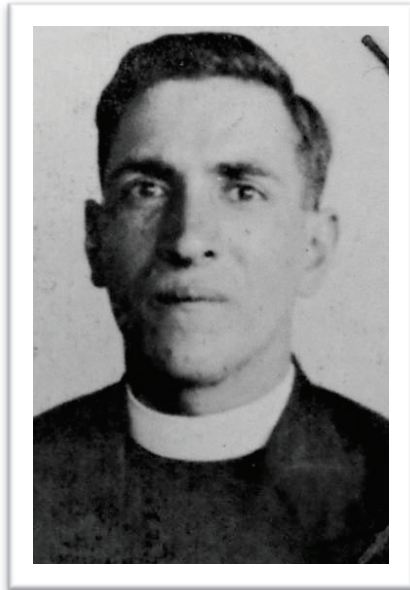
this the four South Africans returned home on the 17 October 1944. Ray's first appointment was to Oakford in November 1944, presumably to help in the parish. From January 1945 to January 1946 he was at Inchanga learning isiZulu and from there he was sent to Howick where he remained from January 1946 to April 1947. In May and June 1947 he was at Newlands, probably to replace the incumbent priest. From there he was appointed parish priest of St Michael's, Red Hill in July of 1947 where he served for 9 years. During his stay there he was responsible for the building of the new St Michael's. In 1949 he was appointed Vicarial Bursar, a post which he held for 10 years. In 1956 he was sent to take charge of St Mary's parish, Pietermaritzburg, where he remained for the next three years and in July 1959 was appointed Provincial of the Natal Province. He filled this position for two terms, from 1959–1965. His next appointment, in 1965, was as parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima in Durban North.

In every parish where he served, Ray was loved and respected. He was a dapper little man, always wearing his black hat and a black suit. One evening in November 1969 he took a visitor to the cinema, but before the main feature began Ray experienced chest pains. He immediately returned to the priest's house, where he asked Fr Diarmuid Corcoran OMI to anoint him. After the anointing, Fr Corcoran went to telephone for an ambulance, but whilst he was doing this, Ray rendered his soul to the Lord whom he had loved and served so faithfully in his life. He died on the 20 Nov 1969 at Durban, aged 60.



WE REMEMBER THEM

CODOGNES, Jacques



Jacques (Codo as he was well known among his confreres) was born at Perpignan, in the parish of St Jacques, in southern France on 30 July 1909, of Jean and Marie Codognes, who were originally from Catalonia in Spain. Their home language was Catalan. His father owned a shoemaking workshop and a shoe shop in Perpignan. Jacques was the first-born in the family, and the eldest of six children: four boys and two girls. He often served holy Mass and, at an early age, desired to become a priest. It appears that his father had a bad temper and at first refused to allow Jacques to enter the priesthood. Those who knew Jacques personally say that he was a replica of his father in terms of temperament and temper. Jacques would not give up on his vocation however and entered the Oblate Novitiate at Notre Dame de Bon Secours in 1928 at the age of 19, and made his first vows on the 16 July 1929. He did his priestly studies at Lumieres, and made his final vows in 1932. He was ordained priest on the 1 July 1934. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in South Africa in November 1935 to begin the missionary life for which he had longed for so many years.

After spending some time learning the Zulu language he was sent to Stanger (KwaDukuza) as assistant priest in August 1936, and then became priest-in-charge until 1940.

It was during this time that the writer of this article came to know Codo. He (the writer) was then a schoolboy, and he recalls that the young people took to Codo almost immediately. His vibrant character appealed to the young people, who enjoyed riding pillion on his motorcycle. In 1940 Jacques was transferred to Elandskop where he remained till 1947. This was at the height of World War II, during which time 'blackouts' were compulsory everywhere. One night Jacques was returning to his mission from Pietermaritzburg when he was stopped by police. He was wearing a back-pack, out of which stuck his motorcycle pump. The police thought this was a machine gun and wanted to arrest Codo for subversive activities, until they realized their mistake! No doubt Codo was far more careful from then on when travelling on his motorbike. In March 1949 he was assigned to Newcastle, where he ministered to the Dominican Sisters' high school at Lennoxton and served several outstations as well. In August of the following year, however, he moved to Mhlumayo where he remained till 1956, after which he was assigned to Bergville from 1957–1960 and then to Lamontville township in Durban from October 1960–1966. From there, in July 1967, he was sent to Corpus Christi, Upper Tongaat, for the next three years until August 1979 when he was appointed to take over the mission and shrine at Ntshongweni where he did



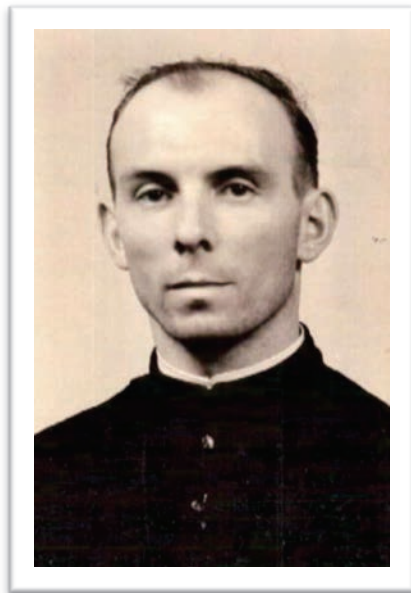
sterling work in building up the mission, shrine and high school. At the same time he served as the spiritual director of the Institute of Mary Immaculate, the small congregation of Sisters founded by his predecessor, Fr Henry Wagner.

After 27 years of hard and dedicated missionary work at Ntshongweni, Fr Codognes finally retired in 1997 to Sabon House in Durban. Against all expectations, he fitted in beautifully to the community life of the house, and began the library which today has well over a hundred books. After a long and full life of priestly dedication, on the 19 January 2001, at the age of 92, Codo finally gave himself over to his Lord whom he had known and served so faithfully during his life.

To end this short biography, we must add the anomaly that took place at Codo's death. His dear sister Jeannette and her husband, René Carbonell, came from France to attend Jacques' funeral. It so happened that, whilst the body was still in the mortuary or funeral home, instructions were given to one of the attendants there to take the body of a Mr Jacobus and send it to the crematorium. The man concerned mistook Jacobus for Jacques, with the result that Codo was mistakenly cremated, being the first Oblate priest ever to be cremated (at least in South Africa). The curator of the Funeral Parlour was in a terrible quandary. He came to apologize to Fr Provincial and expected a severe tongue lashing. But to his surprise, when the news was gently broken to Codo's sister Jeannette and her husband, she replied, "Well, Codo must be having a great laugh in heaven!" So the funeral service proceeded with the usual sized coffin containing a little box of ashes! The Requiem Mass took place at his beloved Ntshongweni, after which his remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



COUEDOR, Albert Joseph Marie François (Francis)



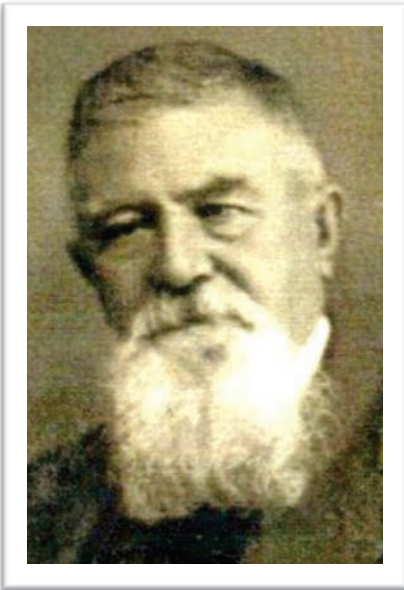
Albert was born on the 30 December 1914 at Carentoir, Brittany, France. His parents were François Marie Clément Joseph Couedor and Françoise Marie Joseph Mathurine (born Grimaud). After his primary and secondary schooling (part of which was at Pontmain Juniorate), he entered the Oblate novitiate at Berder in 1932, making his first vows on the 15 August 1933 at the age of 19. From there he went to the Oblate Scholasticate at La Brosse, Sion, where he pronounced his final vows on the 21 May 1939. He was ordained to the priesthood at La Brosse on the 6 July 1941, at the height of World War II. His first assignment was as a preacher on the Oblate Mission Band at Angers from 1941–1946. He then sailed for South Africa and arrived in Durban the same year. He was immediately posted to Maphumulo Mission as assistant to Fr Jules L'Hôte OMI under whose tutelage he became fluent in the Zulu language. In 1948 he was assigned to Mbava Mission as parish priest, and he remained there till 1954. Albert was a missionary in the style of the early French Fathers who came to Natal. He was hardy and tough, and his first three assignments schooled him in that role. From Mbava, he returned to Maphumulo, this time as parish priest (1955–1962).

From there he was posted to Machibisa as priest in charge where he ministered from 1962–1969. His next appointment was at KwaMadlala, again as parish priest, from 1969–1975, after which he was sent to Kranskop, another lonely and tough mission, from 1975–1997. That year he took over at Elandskop where he was also chaplain to the Holy Family Sisters and school (1997–1999). By this time he was ready for retirement and he finished off his days at Sabon House in Durban (1999–2000). Towards the end he suffered a stroke and then contracted double pneumonia. He was sent to Nazareth House for special nursing care, and on the 5 May 2000 he quietly gave himself up to his Lord and Saviour whom he had served so lovingly and faithfully all his priestly life.

Albert had a warm and cheerful temperament. He easily made friends and almost always had a smile on his lips. At his death, Fr Allan Moss, Provincial of Natal, wrote: "Many priests remember him for all his kindnesses, wisdom, charity and prayer." Archbishop Denis Hurley, who always held a high opinion of Albert, preached at the funeral Mass. Albert was 86 years of age when he died.



COUPÉ, Felix



Felix was born in Paris in 1870. As a young man he decided to become a priest, and started his studies at the local diocesan seminary of Laval. Whilst in minor orders, he joined the Oblate Congregation in 1895, and did his novitiate in Belgium in the Province of Namur. He pronounced his first vows the following year and his final vows in 1897 and in the same year was ordained to the priesthood. In December of that year he came out to Natal and was stationed at the Bluff from 1898 to 1909. He seemed to have been somewhat of a teaser, because Bishop Jolivet wrote in his diary on the 19 March 1899 that on the occasion of the feast celebrating the Bishop's Golden Jubilee of Oblation at the Bluff, Fr Le Texier was recounting how he was terrified during the night by what he thought was a python in his room. The 'python' (or boa, as Le Texier thought) was simply a trick played on him by Fr Coupé and Brother Boudon! From the Bluff Coupé used to travel to visit and say Mass for the Africans, many of whom were employed on the sugar plantations on the south coast. In 1905 he was given full responsibility for the Illovo district where he founded St Henry's mission. The mission

church was officially opened in July 1908. At the General Chapter of 1904, Bishop Henry Delalle wrote: "At Durban, at one of the oldest Black missions of Natal, viz. Bluff, dedicated to St Francis Xavier, Fr Coupé gives totally of himself. His Catholics have almost doubled in number, his school had to be enlarged and improved. He is a hunter, woodworker [carpenter], blacksmith, musician, and above all a good priest, and God blesses his work." He remained at the Bluff till 1911, when he was transferred to Emoyeni (Zululand). In 1921 he went to St Joachim's, Umsinsini, on the south coast of Natal. After six years there he was sent to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg. There he was put in charge of the mission at Ortman Road from 1930–35. In 1938 he was at Montebello and then finally returned to Durban where, on the 6 July 1940, he went to his eternal rest after a long and devoted life of missionary work among the Zulus of Natal. He was 70 years of age at the time of his death.



COUGHLAN, Noel



Noel was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1915. In 1934 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Cahermoyle where he made his first vows in 1935. Three years later he pronounced his final profession and was ordained to the priesthood on 23 June 1940 at Daingean, Ireland where he had done his priestly studies. He arrived in South Africa in 1941.

In his earlier years Noel served as a missionary among the Zulu people in the northern areas of Natal, mainly Dundee. After that he was in Lesotho where he taught English at the University of Lesotho. In 1951 he returned to Durban. Gifted in the dramatic arts, in 1952 Noel founded the Durban Catholic Players Guild and, during the National Marian Congress held in Durban to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of the Oblates in South Africa in May 1852, he organized and directed the first Passion Play based on the famous Oberammergau drama. It was an outstanding success, and the Players Guild has continued to produce the Play every five years since then. Noel continued to direct and organize the Passion Play for many years until he handed over the reins to the younger generation. He was also the official photographer during the Marian Congress, and made a movie

of the Masses held on the Durban Race Course, and of the tremendously successful procession of thousands of people and fifteen floats depicting the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.

In 1966 Noel was appointed National Director of the Bishops' Lenten Appeal (which later was extended to include the Advent Appeal) to which he fully gave his talents and time for 36 years, till 2002. On 4 February 1991 he was awarded Civic Honours by the City of Durban "...in recognition of the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination, and his outstanding contribution to the spiritual and cultural life of Durban, particularly the role he played in bringing to the City the world famous Passion Play of Oberammergau and establishing the Durban Catholic Players Guild." Noel was also instrumental in establishing the Theological Winter School and was its national director from 1969 to 1973. On the 23 June 2000 he celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He retired to Nazareth House in Durban where in 2005 he celebrated his 90th birthday. Three years later, at the age of 93, Noel closed a life of distinguished service to the church community in South Africa.

He died peacefully on the 19 January 2009.



CRÉTINON, Jean, Alois (Louis), Antoine



Aloysius was born in Lyon in 1851. After joining the Oblate Congregation in 1876 he made his first vows in 1877 and his final profession on 17 February 1878 – No.975. He received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban in the early part of 1880 as a scholastic together with several others. He was ordained deacon on the 13 March 1880 and priest on the 22 May in St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg at the hands of Bishop Jolivet. In his Journal Bishop Jolivet writes that on the 10 October 1881, on his way to visit the missions in Lesotho, he spent the night at Baroleng with Fr Crétinon. In 1882 Crétinon was working in Roma, Basutoland (Lesotho) but from 1883 until 1886, Aloysius was in Beaconsfield, Griqualand West, and Jolivet once again mentions him there in his Journal on the 17 February 1886. Shortly after that Crétinon was stationed at Jagersfontein, a diamond-mining town in the Orange Free State, and on 22 July 1892 he came to meet Jolivet at Jagersfontein Road, from where he drove him to his mission station, 35 miles further on. The Bishop wrote in his Journal on the 1 August 1892, "... I was very pleased with the reception I received from

Fr Crétinon, the Sisters and the Catholics." On the 28 January 1897 the Bishop mentions that Fr Crétinon was still at Jagersfontein and he was still there in 1899 and 1904. In 1907 he was in Bloemfontein till 1911. Whilst in that area he was responsible for the original church of St Augustine's at Beaconsfield, the sister's convent in Jagersfontein, as well as the 'new' St Francis Xavier School in Kimberley. He was assisted financially by his family and the Propagation of the Faith in Lyon. His family also gave a substantial donation to Nazareth House in Kimberley. Unfortunately Bishop Matthew Gaughren thought that Crétinon was undermining his own authority by opening up a new parish, and he insisted that this great missionary be sent back to Natal. He returned to Pietermaritzburg in 1911. In 1921 he was sent to Umzinto on the Natal south coast where he worked until his death. He died in Pietermaritzburg on the 26 November 1928, aged 77.

(Most of the above information was supplied by Fr Ludger Ademmer OMI of Central Province who added: "Fr Crétinon was one of the most dedicated missionaries the Kimberley Vicariate has ever known – a true Oblate.")



D'ARCY FOLLIS, William



William D'Arcy Follis (often referred to as Fr Follis in Bishop Jolivet's Journal) was born at Thomastown in the diocese of Ossory, Ireland, on 3 December 1844. It would seem from a letter written on 27 February 1878 by Bishop Jolivet to Fr Fabre, Superior General of the Oblate Congregation, that William arrived in Natal as a lay person. Jolivet wrote that he and his council (of advisers) had decided to admit Mr Follis to the novitiate on the 16 February but, continued the Bishop, "...the vicariate is so much in need of Mr Follis' services at St Charles' School in Maritzburg, that they begged the Superior General to allow Follis to do his novitiate while continuing his teaching career in the school." Jolivet assured Fr Fabre that Follis did not in any way neglect his religious obligations in the meantime. It would seem that permission was granted, and Follis continued to pursue his clerical studies, for Jolivet wrote in his diary that he gave the tonsure to Brother Follis on the 17 January 1880 and that he made his final profession on 2 May 1881. Bishop Jolivet then wrote that on the 12 March 1881, he had ordained Follis and Vernhet deacons and, on the 16 April, he

ordained Stephan Hammer and William Follis to the priesthood. The Bishop's Journal is silent about the whereabouts of Fr Follis until 1884.

In the meantime, Follis must have shown his abilities, because on the 7 February 1884, the Bishop wrote that he and his council had decided to send Fr Follis to found the mission of Estcourt. Here he lost no time in building a church, school, and cemetery. He was still there in July 1886, together with Bro. Maguire. However, at this time, many people (parishioners included) had left Estcourt in search of a better life in the gold fields or at Kimberley; so on the 1 January 1887 the Bishop removed him from Estcourt in order to come and help out at St Charles' School in the capital. This meant that there was no resident priest at Estcourt. Nevertheless, Follis must have laid a good foundation in that town because it was there, at Estcourt, that Bishop Jolivet established the first of the Catholic hospitals to be run by the Augustinian Sisters. Follis remained at St Charles' School till the 21 January 1893 when a Rev. Daniel Murphy came to replace him. Follis was then sent to Mt Frere but he was

back at Estcourt in 1894 according to Jolivet's Journal which also records that he spent a short time in Ladysmith in March/April 1895. In July 1895 Follis was due to join the other Oblates on their annual retreat in Pietermaritzburg but had to absent himself twice, firstly to attend to a Mr Smith who was dying, and then again to minister to Mother Thérèse of Estcourt who was extremely ill, but who managed to live on until November when she died and was buried at



Estcourt. Fr Follis assisted Bishop Jolivet at her funeral. On the 8 November 1895 Follis accompanied Jolivet to Ladysmith to examine the site which had recently been acquired for the future convent and hospital of the Augustinian Sisters. During the Zulu and Boer Wars Follis served as an army chaplain with the rank of Major (or captain) in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

In October 1898 it seems that Fr Follis' health was giving cause for concern but Bishop Jolivet wrote on the 27 October that he had gone to Estcourt where he found Fr Follis in better health and in 1900 Fr Le Texier wrote (undated) that: "...in Estcourt Fr Follis, in his military captain's uniform, was rejuvenated by ten years. He gave himself heart and soul to his task of caring for the soldiers, and was never as happy as he was now." (*Missions 1900*, p.47). According to Bishop Delalle's report to the 1904 General Chapter of the Oblate Congregation, Follis was looking after the few Catholics at Estcourt, and was also caring for the spiritual welfare of the Augustinian Sisters, and was enjoying his 'retirement' (*Missions 1905*, p.429). In 1908 Fr Follis suffered a stroke which left him paralysed and unable to speak. He eventually died on the 6 October 1908, aged 64, after a long and fruitful ministry at Estcourt. He was much loved by the Sisters and faithful of Estcourt for his devotion towards them, and for his affability.



THE FIRST CHURCH IN ESTCOURT.



DAUB, Henry (Heinrich)



Heinrich (Henry) was born on 26 December 1901, in Mayen, Germany. He studied at the Oblate Juniorate of St Charles then entered the Novitiate at Engelport where he made his first Oblation on the Feast of the Assumption in 1922 at the age of 21. He pursued his priestly studies at the Oblate Scholasticate of Huenfeld, where he pronounced his final vows on 15 August 1925, and was ordained priest on 15 August 1928, aged 27. He worked for a short while at Essen-Borbeck, Germany, but he developed tuberculosis, so was given an obedience for South Africa, in the hope that a drier climate would cure his affliction. He arrived in South Africa on 16 December 1931 and was placed at Mafeking from 1931 to 1936, then at Rustenburg from 1936 to 1940. After this he was transferred to Natal where he went to Inchanga to learn the Zulu language, and where he stayed till 1943. For the next three years he worked at Stanger (KwaDukuza), and then from 1946 to 1950 took charge of St Michael's, Redhill. From there he went to St Paul's at Greyville, Durban, and then was sent to take charge of Howick and district, then at Cato Manor, Genazzano, Tongaat, St Mary's

Pietermaritzburg, and finally at Merebank. In 1980 he retired to Maris Stella School, Durban, as chaplain to the Holy Family Sisters and pupils. Finally he was placed at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, as one of the spiritual directors. Whilst there his health deteriorated and he underwent an operation at Addington hospital in Durban, which left him with a colostomy. Henry never regained his strength and he was transferred to Mariannahill hospital where he was well cared for by the Sisters of the Precious Blood until his death at 9 p.m. on Our Lady's birthday, 8 September 1984, aged 83. The Oblate Provincial newsletter stated ... "Henry had always been a hard working priest. Even in his last illness it was his desire to come out of hospital and be of some help in a parish. He was loyal to the church and faithful to his Oblate Congregation, and dedicated to the people he served." He was laid to rest in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



DE GERSIGNY, Noël



Noël was born in 1898, made his first vows in 1922, final in 1925, and was ordained in 1927, aged 29. During World War I he had served as a pilot in the British Air Force and had a narrow escape when, on one occasion, his plane crashed on landing. Fortunately Noel survived the accident.

After ordination he succeeded Fr Murray as the second parish priest of St Anne's parish, Sydenham. An article in the St Anne's Church Golden Jubilee brochure describes how "...Fathers Murray and de Gersigny after him, enjoyed Sunday lunch with the Yorks, O'Connors and us (Stoffbergs) in turn. I remember how Father de Gersigny used to come to St Anne's on a Saturday afternoon (Confessions) and sleep on a stretcher in a little alcove behind the altar, offer Holy Mass on Sundays and Mondays in the mornings, and return to the Cathedral thereafter."

In 1929 Fr Noël was appointed to succeed Fr Maingot at St Anthony's parish in Durban. At the time St Anthony's was situated in a small church in Victoria Street. Fr Maingot, de Gersigny's predecessor, had raised "...money for the purchase of a large piece of land opposite

Greyville Race Course in Centenary Road for a new church and a convent school" (*Proclaiming the Good News: Archdiocese of Durban* p.61). However he died before he could realize his wish. When Fr Noël de Gersigny succeeded him as parish priest "... he sold the buildings in Victoria Street and built the present church and presbytery in 1935. The church with its impressive frontage was proclaimed a National Monument in 1995 to mark its diamond jubilee" (*ibid*). The church is designed in the Spanish style of architecture and was said to have been largely financed by the de Gersigny family.

Noël died suddenly at St Anthony's on the 16 June 1944, the feast of the Sacred Heart. He had not felt well in the morning and could not get through his Mass, having to leave the altar after the Gospel. Later on he felt better and drove to the Bluff to see Fr Jenn who was his confessor. He also called at the Sanatorium but did not stay, saying he would come back in the evening if he did not feel better. At 1 p.m. he went to his room for a rest and when the domestic brought his tea at 2.45 p.m. he was dying. The Bishop and Fr Boyce rushed to St Anthony's but Noël had passed away by the time they arrived. The post-mortem revealed that his death was due to pneumonia. At the time Fr Noël was in charge of the finances of the Vicariate. He was only 46 years old when he died. He was a devoted Oblate and priest and totally dedicated to his vocation and to the priesthood.



DE LACY, John Mary

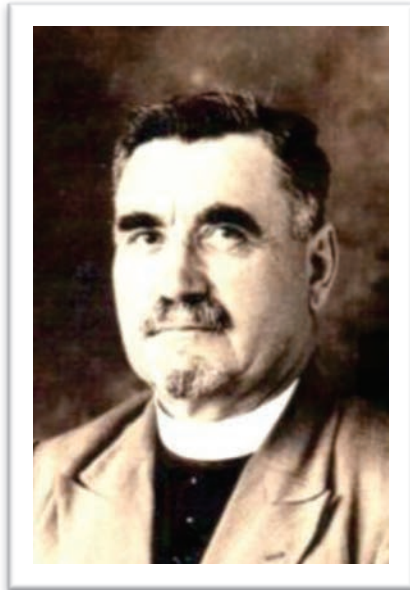


John Mary De Lacy was born in Cashel, Ireland, in 1846. He joined the Oblates in 1870, making his final vows in 1871, Oblation number 794. He was still a scholastic brother (deacon) when he accompanied Bishop Jolivet to South Africa in January 1875 but was ordained four months later in Pietermaritzburg by Jolivet on 22 May 1875. Soon after this Fr Barret and Fr De Lacy began a boys' school in Pietermaritzburg which in 1877 was named St Charles after Bishop Jolivet's name saint. He taught there for a while and then took charge of the school in February 1876. On the 18 November 1880, he was sent to Pretoria to take charge of the nascent church in that territory, and remained there for several years. During this time, on the 15 December 1880, Bishop Jolivet wrote that he had made a new will leaving everything the church possessed in Pretoria to the care of Fr De Lacy and it was most probably De Lacy who attended to the Bishop's sister when she fell ill and died of dysentery in Pretoria on the 15 January 1881. This was during the first Boer War. It seems that his stay in Pretoria during this war affected his health, and on the 28 April 1890 he went overseas to

recuperate for a while. Then on the 28 February 1893 he accompanied Jolivet to Europe and went with him to Rome, where they had a Papal audience. By 1895 De Lacy was stationed in Johannesburg, and when the Apostolic Administrator, Fr A Schoch OMI died suddenly in 1898, De Lacy was appointed acting Administrator in the Transvaal. Apparently he sold and bought land and raised mortgages. Unfortunately the economic and political uncertainty in the Transvaal in the years leading up to the second Anglo-Boer War caused his schemes to collapse, and left the Vicariate on the brink of bankruptcy. Bishop William Miller OMI, who took over the administration when he was appointed Bishop, was unable to remedy the situation and this probably led to the latter's resignation in 1912. Finally De Lacy was transferred to Natal, and died in Estcourt on the 26 February 1918 at the age of 72.



DELAGNES, Lucien Benjamin



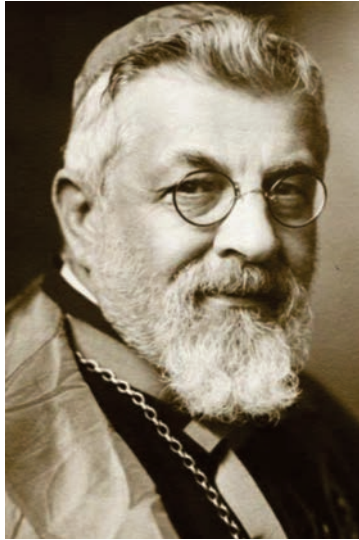
Lucien Delagnes was born in 1877. At 19 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1896, and made his first vows the following year. His final profession as an Oblate was in 1898, and he was ordained in 1901 at the age of 24. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban in 1901.

He resided at the Cathedral and worked among the Zulu people. In 1904 he wished to build a church for the Zulu speaking congregation and the Vicarial Council minutes of 7 January 1905 recorded that the mission of Greyville, (the newly opened parish of St Joseph's, Greyville) was in the charge of Fr Le Texier, and it was desirable that he should reside there, with Delagnes, who would take care of the Zulu faithful, and in 1908 a report to the Oblate General Chapter stated that, in regard to the African apostolate, Delagnes had built a lovely chapel at Greyville for the African congregation. (This would be St Paul's church, which, unfortunately, was destroyed when that site became an industrial area.) Either in or just before 1908, Delagnes must have been transferred to the south coast of Natal, for the same report states that

he was at St Joachim's mission (Umsinsini) on a site donated by a very good Catholic, a Mr Farrell. (This must be the father of Mr Pat Farrell who was a prominent sugar farmer inland from Hibberdene in the 1900's.) The report states that Delagnes had made great progress. At the outbreak of the First World War 1914–18, he was called up by the French government for military service. After the war he returned to Natal. It seems that he remained on the south coast until 1921, when he was transferred to Dundee in northern Natal. There he did sterling missionary work in the town and its surrounds and remained there until his death on the 20 October 1937 at the age of 60. So ended the life of this zealous and hard-working missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.



DELALLE, Bishop Henry



Henry Delalle was born in 1869. He made his first profession as an Oblate in 1889, and his final vows the following year. He did his theological studies in Rome and achieved a doctorate and was ordained to the priesthood in 1894 aged 25. On the 4 July 1896 Bishop Jolivet wrote in his Journal: "I received a letter from Rev. Father Delalle who announces with joy his imminent arrival in Natal." He actually arrived in October, and was at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg on the 14 October where Bishop Jolivet met up with him on his return from one of his many visits to his Vicariate. Delalle was then 26 years of age. Being an academic, he was appointed to take overall charge of St Charles' Grammar School in Pietermaritzburg whilst Mr Scallan remained head teacher. He was required to teach Latin and Theology and, as a result, when newcomers to Natal arrived to begin their missionary apostolate, but were not yet ordained, they continued their studies of theology under Fr Delalle. These included Frs F.M. Weddick and Stephen McCabe (diocesan priests who offered their services to Bishop Jolivet). Delalle also served as Jolivet's secretary for many years.

When Bishop Jolivet died on the 15 September 1903, an unfortunate state of affairs developed. Apparently there were two camps that had sprung up, both among the laity and the clergy, each with its 'candidate' as a successor to Jolivet. The one group, being mainly French-speaking, promoted Fr Louis Mathieu; the other, of English speaking and mainly Irish descent, supported Fr William Murray. This caused a great deal of dissension, and even the printing of acrimonious items in the daily newspaper. However, the Holy See appointed Henry Delalle as Jolivet's successor on 19 December 1903. He was then 34 years of age. He was ordained Bishop on the 2 June 1904, but this did not quell the unfortunate division in the local church and led to friction between Delalle and Murray. The latter had been vicarial bursar at the time of Jolivet's death; he was relieved of this task and sent to Umtata, apparently for health reasons and at his request. Delalle then appointed Fr Auguste Chauvin as his vicarial bursar.

Later the ill-feelings were resolved and Murray returned to work in Natal where he did valuable work in Estcourt. When Delalle took over as Jolivet's successor he was rather young and the vast majority of his clergy were much older than he and more experienced in missionary and pastoral work. The vicariate was struggling financially, as Jolivet had left it with some large debts which Delalle had to deal with. Being of a rather shy nature, Delalle also had to face much criticism from both laity and clergy, but with patience and kindness he was able to



overcome these difficulties, and eventually endeared himself to both groups. He was looked upon as a fatherly figure.

In 1903 Swaziland had been added to the Natal Vicariate. Bishop Delalle found it almost impossible to send any missionaries there and in 1913 there was talk of handing over Swaziland to a religious congregation. The Order of the Servants of Mary (Servites – OSM) from Italy offered their services. From the outset the Oblates welcomed the Servites and assisted them as best they could. “Due credit must be given to Bishop Delalle not only for realising his own inability to supply missionaries or even visiting priests, but also for his generous co-operation with the Servites who were enabled to gain a foothold despite the difficulties encountered during the first World War which cut them off from their expected source of assistance in Europe.” (JB)

Delalle could barely speak isiZulu, and yet during his time as Bishop, the Zulu missions expanded and multiplied, in spite of the shortage of clergy and financial straits. One of the great missionary benefits that took place during Delalle's tenure of office was the great increase in the use of catechists in the Zulu missions. These catechists formed the back-bone of the Missionary apostolate. Not only were they self-sacrificing and poorly paid, they often had to replace the priest in the outstations, leading and conducting priestless services, long before Vatican II was even thought of.

In the Transkei, especially in Kokstad, Umtata and Cala, work begun by Bishop Jolivet continued to prosper under Bishop Delalle, who made regular visits to the various centres, which by then included East Griqualand. Of course the Trappists added considerably to the establishment of new mission stations, especially after 1921 when Mariannhill was made into a separate vicariate apostolic which included the Transkei and southern Natal. This division was welcomed by Bishop Delalle. However, World War I (1914–1918) wrought havoc both in the Mariannhill and Natal vicariates. In the latter it was caused by many of Delalle's clergy having to return to France to serve in the army, some of whom were killed, whilst some of those who survived did not return to Natal. In the case of Mariannhill, where the vast majority of clergy were of German origin, the danger of internment was ever present. Bishop Delalle visited Pretoria in 1914 and succeeded in getting the Prime Minister to exempt the Trappists from internment, giving a guarantee that he (Delalle) would take it on himself to report any disloyalty on the part of the German Trappists. Again in 1916, Fr (later Monsignor) Kolbe and Fr James O'Donnell visited Pretoria with the same request, and they were also successful. Later Fr Gerard Wolpert wrote to Delalle thanking and praising him for his kindness towards the Trappists, especially during 1914–1918. He wrote, “You were long suffering and forbearing in all these things to an extent for which Mariannhill has to be thankful for ever.” (JB)

Undoubtedly one of the greatest events that took place during Delalle's tenure of office was the celebration of the centenary of the Oblate foundation held in Durban in 1916, to which Bishops and laity from around the country came to Durban. Over 7,000 people took part in the procession through the streets to Albert Park, and this public profession of faith on the part of people from every background drew many admirers and lookers-on. The *Natal Mercury* came out in praise of “one of the most wonderful sights ever seen in Durban...” The



visiting Bishops “...had thought they would never live to see such a thing in South Africa.”(JB) Delalle himself was overjoyed at the success of this celebration. Similarly, in 1929 a National Eucharistic Congress was held in Durban under the auspices of Bishop Delalle, at the same time commemorating the silver jubilee of his ordination as bishop. Once again that event was a huge success.

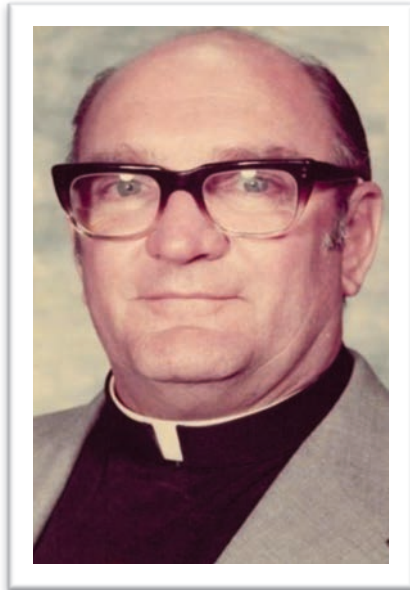
In 1921 rumours were heard that Rome was about to hand over Zululand to another religious congregation and in September of that year the new prefecture of Zululand was created and handed over to the German Benedictines. Although the Oblates, under Bishop Delalle, were hoping to keep at least part of Zululand where they had already established missions at Holy Cross, Mtunzini, Eshowe, Mbongolwane, Nkandla and Nqutu, this was not to be. In 1923 the whole of Zululand was handed over to the Benedictines, and the new Vicariate of Eshowe came into being. Although this caused some friction between the Oblates and Benedictines at first, these disagreements were soon ironed out and the two Vicariates settled down to mutual cooperation.

In March 1936 Delalle sent Fr James O'Donnell to the United States and Canada to raise funds for the vicarial coffers. This venture proved very successful and enabled Delalle to finance the expansion of the Zulu missions and the building of churches.

After a long episcopal ministry and ill-health Bishop Henry Delalle decided to retire on the 4 April 1946. The previous year he had written to the Oblate General Administration asking for a coadjutor, suggesting that Fr Denis Hurley would be the ideal choice. Rome appointed Fr Hurley in 1946 to succeed Delalle, who then retired to St Augustine's Sanatorium where he continued his ministry assisting the sick and dying in the hospital. He died in Durban on 15 Feb 1949 at Durban and was buried in Emmanuel Cathedral in front of Our Lady's altar in the right side-aisle.



DE SYLVA, Robert



Robert was born in Durban on 8 July 1924 of René and Doris de Sylva (born Rouillard). His parents had emigrated from Mauritius to Natal and settled in Darnall on the north coast where Mr de Sylva managed a sugar farm. Robert was the oldest of the children, followed by Maurice, Vivian and Louise. The three boys completed their secondary education at St Charles' College in Pietermaritzburg. Robert was a popular student and was appointed a prefect during his matric year (1942). He also played rugby in the first team that year as a flank in the scrum – a team that won every match it played. He received the Honours blazer from the school. What others did not know was that he had asked his mother to buy him a blazer one size bigger because his closest (and bigger) friend could not afford one, so Robert wanted to share it with him. Besides possessing a lively sense of humour all his life, Robert was greatly loved by his relatives and friends.

In 1943 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston where he made his first vows in 1944. From there he went to the newly opened St Joseph's Scholasticate at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg, to begin his studies for the priesthood under the guidance of the superior, Fr Denis Eugene Hurley. When Prestbury became inadequate for the growing student body, the staff began looking elsewhere for suitable accommodation. It appears that it was Robert who first suggested to the staff that they look into a property at Cleland, which his cousin had told him was up for sale. Some members of the staff visited the property and found it eminently suitable and so the Scholasticate moved to Cleland in 1947. It was in that year that Robert made his final profession. In the second half of 1948 he and Brother Karl Struve were sent to Rome to continue their studies. Robert was ordained in Rome on 3 February 1949.

On his return to South Africa, he joined the Transvaal Province and was involved in teaching the novices in Germiston for a time. From 1955–1957, whilst helping as chaplain to the Parktown Holy Family Convent school, he did a teacher's course and obtained a BA degree, and for the next two years, 1958–1960 he taught at St Benedict's Oblate College in Bedfordview.

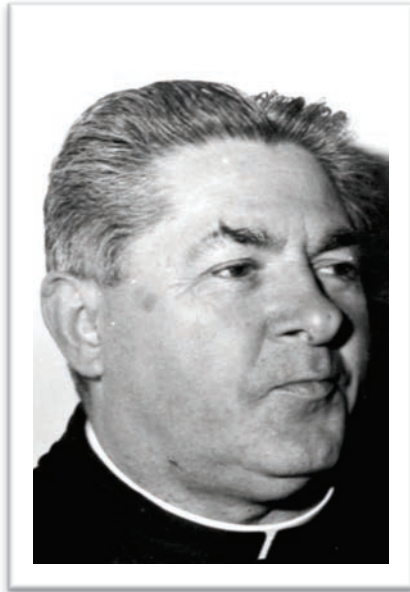
From 1960–1968 he formed part of the Oblate Mission Band which preached several successful parish missions in various cities in South Africa. Then in 1968 he was appointed parish priest of St Francis in Yeoville until 1973 after which, in 1974, he was back at St Benedict's, this time as headmaster, a post which he held successfully till 1981. In 1982 he was acting pastor at St Charles', Victory Park, for part of the year.



It was about that time that Bishop Karlen CMM of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, approached the Oblates for assistance. The Oblate Provinces of Natal and Transvaal decided to respond positively to that request, and began working out a strategy. Robert, or 'Bob' as he was called by his confreres, and 'Roby' by his family, was the first to respond, and gladly went to Bulawayo on his own to begin the Oblate presence in that city. In 1983 he was appointed parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kumalo, Bulawayo, where he remained for the next 16 years, laying a solid foundation for the future Oblates who would join the mission. During that time he was also superior of the mission. When Pope John Paul II visited Bulawayo, Bob was appointed official organiser. In 1999, he celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination but his health had already begun to fail and he was becoming more and more forgetful. It was time to hand over to the younger generation and he returned to his home Province of Natal, where he retired to Sabon House, Durban. There he endeared himself to his fellow Oblates with his gentle sense of humour and his regularity in his religious life. Even when his health deteriorated as a result of Alzheimer's, which sometimes made him ill-tempered, Bob never lost his gentle manner when relating to his confreres, friends, and strangers. Finally, in 2006, he was sent to Nazareth House for special care, and on the 19 September of that year he peacefully returned to his Maker and Lord whom he had served so faithfully in his life. He was then 82 years of age. After a Requiem Mass in Durban and one at St Joseph's, Cedara, his remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara on the 29 September 2006. His sister-in-law wrote of him: *"When he became ill with Alzheimer's, he never lost his traits of endurance, courage, courtesy, patience and his gentle smile that warmed our hearts to the very end. He was a great man and a good Christian. He left all of us such an example."*



DUFAIT, Francis Xavier Marie



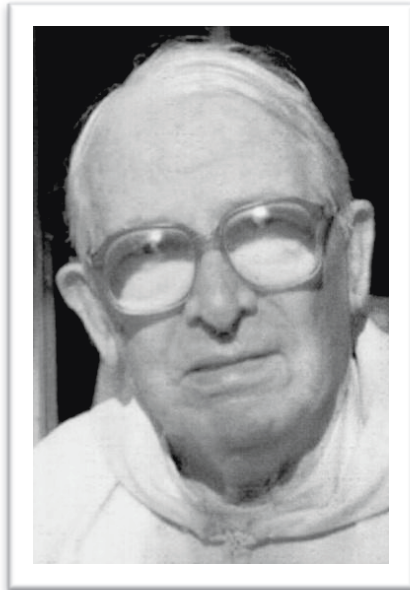
Francis was born on 12 July 1912 at Mont-Dol (St Malo) in Brittany, France. After completing his primary and secondary schooling at N.D. de Pont Main, Mayenne, and Jersey, Channel Islands, he entered the Oblate novitiate on the 15 September 1929 and made his first vows on the 15 August 1930 at Berder (Morbihan), Brittany. He then did military service for a year, after which he continued his priestly studies at La Brosse-Montceaux where he made his final vows on the 11 October 1934. He was ordained priest at La Brosse on 5 July 1936 and from October 1937 to January 1938 he was at Dinant, Belgium. He then received his obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban at the beginning of 1938, and was posted to Congella, Provincial House, from February to April 1938. From there he spent a few months at the following places: Verulam, Newcastle, Dannhauser and Mayville. The outbreak of the Second World War resulted in him being conscripted to the French army for military service in France from 11 November 1939 to September 1941. On his return to Natal he was appointed to Maria Ratschitz (now in the Diocese of Dundee) from September 1941 to

April 1945. From here he was sent to Weenen from April 1945 to July 1947, then back again to Maria Ratschitz for a year. In July 1948 he was assigned to the Provincial House, Durban, where for more than 16 years he did invaluable work as chaplain to King Edward Hospital and Central Prison. In March 1967 he was sent to St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, where he remained till 1978 and from there in 1979 he was posted to Osindisweni Hospital, Oakford as chaplain to the Dominican Sisters and the sick. Unfortunately, in January 1990, he was admitted to Addington hospital where he was diagnosed as having cancer. He was then transferred to Nazareth house in February, and on 1 July 1990 he died peacefully at the age of 78. After a Requiem Mass his remains were buried at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.

Fr John Ngubane, Provincial in Natal at the time, wrote: "With his passing, the people of our part of Africa have lost a great missionary and father. He was a great Oblate Missionary for the poor and marginalised...He baptised thousands and thousands of dying babies during his long chaplaincy at King Edward VIII Hospital. Father Francis was well-known for his childlike simplicity. He was always in a happy mood and did all he could to make other people happy...He joked unto the very end of his life, in spite of all the pain he felt. He was a brave man...He had very patiently waited for death to come in order to unite him fully with the Lord he had served so faithfully. When the appointed time came, he just peacefully slipped away into the hands of the Lord. May he rest in peace."



DUFFY, Francis



Francis was born on 11 September 1919 in County Donegal, Ireland. At the age of 22 he decided to join the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and entered the Novitiate in Cahermoye in September 1941 and made his first vows the following year. From there he went to Piltown to pursue his clerical studies, and made his final profession as an Oblate on 28 September 1945. His ordination to the priesthood followed on 29 June 1947, also in Piltown. His first obedience was to Natal, and he arrived in Durban on 15 September 1948, four days after his 29th birthday. At the beginning of 1949 he was posted to Inchanga in order to learn the Zulu language. The following year, on 6 January 1950, he was assigned to serve as secretary to Archbishop Hurley. Then two years later, on 2 February 1952, he was appointed parish priest at the Bluff, where he remained for the next 7 years. From here on 20 January 1959 he was sent to Estcourt for a few months, and then to Kranskop on 1 November 1959. Kranskop was then very much in its early stages as a separate mission, and also rather remote from other missions but this did not deter Frank in his missionary zeal. His next appointment, on

26 February 1962 was as parish priest of the Edwaleni and Emolweni missions, situated in the Valley of a Thousand Hills and a year later on 1 March 1963 he was sent to take charge of Queensburgh, which at the time included Malvern, St Catherine's in Escombe, and St Patrick's in Bellair. From here, on 1 November 1972, he was posted to Tongaat, and after four years there, he was sent to Hillcrest as its parish priest on 6 June 1976. His next and last appointment was as parish priest of St Michael's, Redhill, on 17 September 1984.

Wherever Frank served, he did not spare himself in the service of the faithful. In spite of his fiery temperament, which now and again showed itself in a sudden burst of temper, Frank was loved by the people he served. He was kind and compassionate. When he was at Hillcrest the lady who cared for him and cooked his meals fell ill with cancer. While she was in King Edward Hospital, Frank would cook her lunch and take it to her in hospital almost on a daily basis – a journey of more than 20 kilometres. Even as a young man, Frank's eyesight was rather weak and he wore thick spectacles. But this handicap did not prevent him from attending to his duties as a

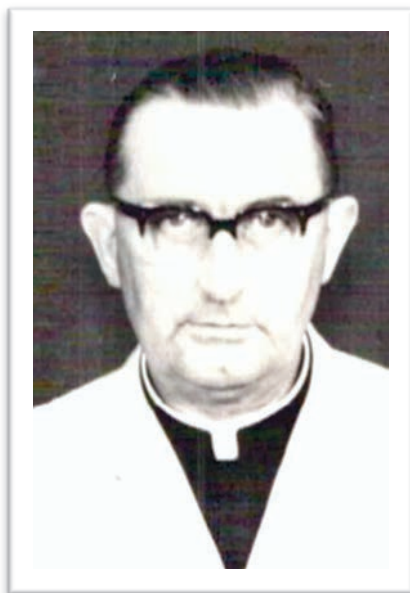
priest. Finally on 6 January 2005, he retired to Sabon House in Durban and whilst there, celebrated his 90th birthday in 2009. He had been at Sabon House for just over five years when on 9 June 2010, he was admitted to Nazareth House frail care, where he was lovingly cared for by the Sisters and staff. On 23 March 2011 he quietly and peacefully slipped away into the hands of his Master and Lord whom he had served faithfully to the end of his life. He



was then 92 years of age. His funeral took place at St Michael's, Redhill. The church was filled to overflowing with his friends and ex-parishioners. From there his remains were taken to Cedara and buried in the Oblate cemetery. His Irish confreres did not forget him. A Memorial Mass was celebrated in Inchicore, Dublin on 2 April 2012, followed by another Memorial Mass offered by his family in Co. Donegal on 9 April 2011.



EVERS, Philippe Marcel



Philippe was born at Le Havre, France, on the 5 April 1914 of Georges Paul Evers and Suzanne Angèle Mauger. As a youngster he attended St Joseph's Institute at Le Havre, and then decided to join the Oblate Congregation. He entered the Novitiate at Berder, Morbihan, in 1932, made his first vows on the 1 November 1933, and then went to begin his priestly studies at the Oblate Scholasticate of N.D. de Sion, La Brosse, Montceaux, where he made his final vows on 16 May 1938. He was ordained on the 29 June 1939 by Cardinal Rodrigue Villeneuve OMI of Quebec. After his ordination he got caught up in World War II. On the 22 May 1940 he was taken prisoner at Neufchatal, near Boulogne Sur-Mer, and began a long march to the prisoner-of-war camp in Germany which lasted over two months, suffering hardship along the way. During his time in the POW camp, he tried to attend as best he could to the needs of his fellow prisoners and civilians. At the end of hostilities in 1945, he and his fellow prisoners were liberated by the advancing Allied forces. Philippe then received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 9 October 1946. He was assigned to

St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, to learn English, after which he received his first appointment as parish priest of Howick from 1947 to 1956, then on to Bellair (St Patrick's) from 1956 to 1964. During that time he was responsible for the building of the new church and priest's house. In 1964 he was sent to take over the parish in Stanger where he remained for six years. At the beginning of 1970 he was posted to St Anthony's in Durban for a year, after which he became parish priest of St Francis Xavier, Bluff, in September 1971. Whilst there he was diagnosed with cancer for which he was operated upon at Addington Hospital in 1974, but never fully recovered. He was transferred to St Mary's Hospital, Mariannhill, where he was well cared for by the Sisters of the Precious Blood and Fr Urs Fischer CMM for eleven months. Now and again a priest would go to celebrate holy Mass in his sick room, and Philippe would concelebrate from his bed. Although he suffered very much, his courage, patience and willing acceptance of his cross was an inspiration to all who visited him. He was never heard to complain of his discomfort or suffering. "Not only had he to suffer all kinds of complications due to cancer, but in the end he also developed shingles and chicken pox which eventually reduced him to a shred of humanity. And so from his human nothingness Philippe went to the 'everything' of Christ's presence and possession." (*Natal OMI Newsletter*). On the night of 18 February 1976 he became unconscious, and on the morning of the 19th at 7.30 a.m. he passed peacefully away at the age of 62.



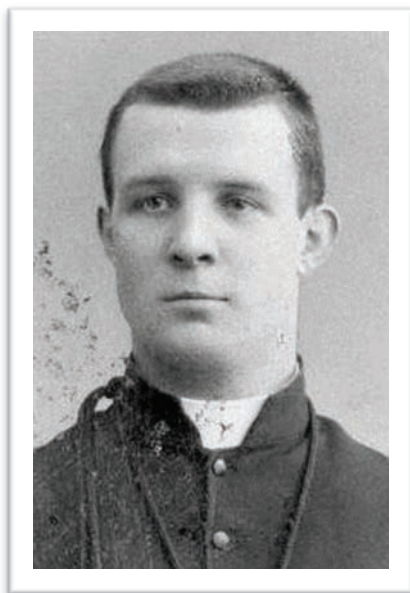
Philippe was a gentleman in his behaviour and relations with other people. He was kind and gentle, and well-loved and respected by all who got to know him. Shortly before his last illness he was at Emmanuel Cathedral, and at breakfast he recounted a strange dream he had had during the night. He was at the railway station in Durban with his suitcase in his hands, apparently about to go somewhere. A train arrived and a beautiful lady alighted from the train, and as she passed Philippe, she said to him, "Follow me." Philippe replied, "What about my suitcase?" The lady answered, "Where I am taking you, you will not need it!" At table that morning was Fr Wilfred Vogt, who after hearing the dream, said to Philippe, "That was Our Lady. She is coming to fetch you. You will die soon." This was recounted by Fr Vogt himself to the writer.

FITZGERALD, Joseph

(See Necrology – Part 2)



FOLEY, Maurice



Maurice was born in Port Elizabeth in 1880, the only child of his father's second marriage. His mother died while he was still small and his father died a few years later leaving the boy an orphan. Meanwhile, his half-sister, Mother Gabriel Foley, the product of his father's first marriage, had been appointed first Prioress General of Oakford in May 1890. On hearing of her father's death in 1891, she asked that the young Maurice, now aged 11, be sent to Oakford for his schooling under the auspices of the Dominican Sisters. At the time there was no accommodation for boys but a room was found for him with Fr Mathieu until the building of St Aloysius' school for boys in 1892 solved the problem.

At age 15 he expressed a wish to be a priest to the sister in charge of the boys. She wrote to family in Bavaria and they generously provided the financial backing for his clerical education. At twenty years of age he joined the Oblate Congregation and entered the Novitiate, making his first vows in 1901 and his final oblation on 11 September 1902 in Belmont, Ireland. In the minutes of the Pietermaritzburg House Council on 31 March 1904 we read "...His Lordship announced that he

would try to obtain Rev. Fr Foley for the College, and, should he succeed, he would send him here at once to take entire charge of the College at once as principal." This was while Foley was still engaged in his scholastic studies at Liège, Belgium. In 1905 Foley received his first obedience for Natal and was ordained to the priesthood in 1906. On his arrival in Natal he was posted to St Charles' College, Pietermaritzburg, not as principal, but as a teacher, to assist Fr Hanon who had been put in charge of the school. On the 26 January 1910, in accordance with the Act of Visitation of Rev. Fr Scharsch, a new *econome* (bursar) was to be appointed, and the bishop chose Foley to fill the post; however, in February of the following year (1911), Fr Langouet was appointed *econome* and Foley was assigned to help with the boys' playground. It seemed his health was failing and in September of the same year he was granted sick leave. He remained in Pietermaritzburg until the end of 1912, after which, in February 1913, he was sent to the Bluff where he ministered for the next two years. He again took ill in February 1915, and died peacefully in Durban on 10 March 1915, aged only 35.



FREOUX, Isidore



Isidore was born on 7 April 1923 at Caden, Brittany, France. After studying at the Juniorate in Pontmain, he went to the Oblate Novitiate in 1941 and made his first profession on 8 September 1942. From there he went to La Brosse-Montceaux, Solignac, for his scholastic studies and made his final vows there on 7 March 1942. He was ordained to the priesthood in Pontmain on the 17 February 1949. His first assignment was to the island of Jersey for 6 months, presumably to learn English. He then received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 17 November 1950. He was posted to Ladysmith for a month to further his knowledge of English. In February 1951 he went to Newcastle as assistant priest for two months, after which he was posted to Besters from May 1951 to February 1952. His next move was to Inchanga from June 1952 to March of the following year in order to learn isiZulu, and during that time he served Mbava mission in the Valley of a Thousand Hills in a temporary capacity until March 1953. He did a short stint as a locum at Corpus Christi, Upper Tongaat in April of that year, followed by a year each at Elandskop (1953) and

Newcastle (1954–55). He was then appointed pastor at Howick from May 1955 to February 1960. After this he spent two months at St Francis Xavier at the Bluff, then to Bergville as pastor for four years (1960–64) and to Mooi River for three years (1964–67). This was followed by two short spells in Pinetown (February to June 1967) and St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, as assistant (March to November 1968), and then he returned to Howick as pastor from November 1968 to June 1975. His next move was as an assistant and treasurer at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara from June 1975 to January 1977 after which he was transferred to Greytown as parish priest, and remained there for twenty years (February 1977 to November 1997). By now he was 74 years of age and not in good health. Practically all his life he had suffered from respiratory ailments (asthma and occasional bronchitis), so he retired from active pastoral ministry and went to Sabon House in Durban in December 1997 and stayed there until his death in 2005.

In an article in the Natal Oblate newsletter, the Provincial wrote: "All his priestly life he worked during the rough apartheid years and in all those years except for 16 months, he worked in the rural areas of the Archdiocese of Durban with the poorest of the poor. He brought them the presence of the risen Lord in the sacraments of hope and salvation and a helping hand with their day-to-day needs." Isidore had an enterprising nature. While he was at Estcourt, he managed to get a flying licence, which he used for a few years until it became too expensive to continue. In the



years he was at Greytown, he bought an old abandoned Audi from a scrap dealer, and on his own he re-built the car and engine, which he was then able to use for the duration of his stay in Greytown. He was a self-taught motor mechanic, and loved explaining the intricacies of a motor car engine to anyone who had the time to listen! Isidore had a pleasant temperament and enjoyed a good joke. In his last years at Sabon House he had spent the time making rosaries for his fellow missionaries to distribute to the people. Finally, his health gave in and he died peacefully on 27 June 2005. He was buried at Cedara.



FRÉOUX, Pierre



Pierre Fréoux, uncle of Fr Isidore, was born at Caden-Morbihan, Brittany, France, on 16 May 1905, of Jean Louis Fréoux and Marie-Anne Le Borgne. After attending the Oblate Juniorate in Jersey, he entered the Novitiate in Coigny, France in 1924, and made his first vows on 15 October 1925. From there he went to the Oblate Scholasticate in Liège, Belgium, where he made his final vows on 1 November 1929 and was ordained to the priesthood there on the 12 July 1931. He received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 19 September 1932. He was sent to Oakford and remained there from October 1932 to July 1939 as assistant priest. During this time he served the mission at Ekukhanyeni and built the priest's house. Then he was made parish priest of Montebello (1939–1946), followed by Esigodini (1946-47), Howick (1947-1948), St Paul's, Greyville (1948 June to December), Machibisa (July 1949 – September 1950). His next posting was to Esigodini where he remained for twenty years (September 1950–December 1970). Whilst at Esigodini he was put in charge of the Catechist's School, and during that time he trained many good

Catechists for the various missions in Natal. From January 1971 to July 1975 he went back to Ekukhanyeni as pastor and finally, in July 1975, he was posted to Montebello as chaplain to the Mother House of the Dominican Sisters and remained there until his death in 1996. Whilst at Montebello he celebrated his 90th birthday on the 16 May 1995 and, on the 22nd he celebrated 70 years of religious profession.

In an article for *UmAfrika*, the Provincial stated: "He [Fr Fréoux] is well known for his generosity, hospitality, his tremendous knowledge of the Zulu parishes in Kwa Zulu Natal, his openness to all that is happening in the Church and society, his cheerfulness and zeal for the Kingdom of God. He is the doyen of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the Africa Region." For the Oblate newsletter, the Provincial wrote: "...a much loved priest and pastor, Father Pierre Fréoux. He served the Church in Natal with great devotion. To many generations of Catholics he was a household name and a man many respected. All that time he spent in Zulu parishes of Natal and he gave himself in the formation of the laity, especially at the Catechist's school at Esigodini...He gave his life to the Lord at a young age and faithfully lived this commitment every day of his life until the end ...He followed in the great tradition of our Oblate French missionaries who began the Church in KwaZulu-Natal. He was a man deeply committed to our Oblate family with a deep love for Mary our Mother and Patroness." A fitting tribute to a great missionary. He died on 19 June 1996, aged 91. The Requiem Mass took place at Montebello, after which his remains were transported to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery.



GABRIEL, Leo



Leo was born on 11 April 1910 in Durban. An article written by Fr Neil Frank OMI, tells us that "... He was the fourth of seven children. He came from a family of deep faith, and the family was one of the pioneer Indian Catholic families in Natal." According to Fr Neil, Leo's vocation and that of his cousin, Claude Lawrence, was influenced by Fr Maingot OMI, parish priest of St Anthony's in Durban, who taught them Latin at the early age of 10. Both boys were sent to St Martin's minor seminary in Jaffna, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) at 12 years of age! "After completing their novitiate in Sri Lanka in 1928 when they made their first vows, both Leo and Claude went to Rome to do their Scholasticate. There they made their final vows in 1931. Leo contracted tuberculosis of the bone in one of his legs and was advised by doctors to return to the warmer climate of Natal." (*ibid*) However the leg deteriorated to the extent that it was found necessary to amputate it below the knee. The Augustinian Sisters who nursed him spoke of the great pain which he endured without complaint. And so it was that for the rest of his life Leo limped with his artificial leg, but his cheerfulness never waned.

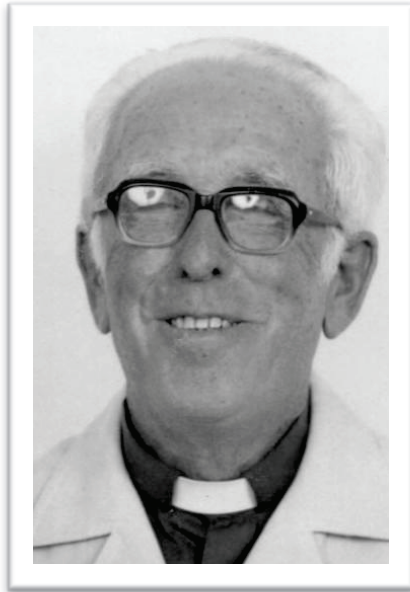
Both Leo and Claude were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Henry Delalle OMI in Emmanuel Cathedral on 1 May 1934. They were the first Indian priests in South Africa. Fr Claude Lawrence decided to return to Sri Lanka and remained there for the rest of his life, but Fr Leo chose to stay in Natal in spite of the iniquitous laws which segregated the peoples of this land, and he worked among the Indian population until his death. He was a hard-working and dedicated priest, of cheerful nature, who did not allow discomfort and suffering to get him down. His first assignment as parish priest was to St Anthony's in Pietermaritzburg where he worked for 24 years. He was responsible for the founding and building of the Marian Centre, Our Lady of Health Church and two homes for the poor in Raisethorpe, as well as the Marian School. In 1959 Leo was transferred to St Anthony's parish in Durban. Whilst there, he established St Paul's parish centre in Reservoir Hills and then the Church, which was officially opened in June 1967. He then became the first parish priest of Reservoir Hills.

In 1974 Leo's health began to deteriorate. He was hospitalised in January 1975 and had a series of operations.



On the 16th January he suffered a heart attack and died that night, aged 64. The Requiem Mass took place in Emmanuel Cathedral on the 21 January 1975 at which over 50 priests concelebrated. At Leo's request, his remains were buried in the same grave as Fr Maingot who, apparently, had baptized the entire Gabriel family. For 41 years Fr Leo ministered to the faithful with untiring zeal, cheerfulness and charity.

GANNON, John Joseph



John was born on the 28 July 1910 at Roscommon in Ireland. As a youngster he studied at the Oblate Juniorate of Belcamp, Dublin. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle in 1930 at 21 years of age and made his first vows the following year on the 29 September, after which he went to Daingean, Offaly, to begin his priestly studies. There he pronounced his final vows on the 29 January 1934, and was ordained to the priesthood on 31 May 1936. He received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 31 October 1937. His first assignment was as an assistant at Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban from 1937 to 1942 when he was appointed parish priest of St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg. Four years later, in 1946, he returned to the Cathedral as parish priest until 1952. He then took over as pastor of the new parish of Holy Trinity on the Berea, Durban, whilst residing at Maris Stella. During this time he was responsible for the building of Holy Trinity church and presbytery in Musgrave Road. In 1961 he was appointed parish priest of St Michael's parish in Red Hill for a year and the following year, in 1962, took up his duties as pastor of Sacred Heart,

Woodlands/Montclair for the next eight years. In 1970 he returned to St Michael's, Red Hill for a year, followed by a few months at Holy Trinity in 1971. Then in September of that year he was sent as an assistant to the Assumption parish, Umbilo, for a short time, after which he was appointed pastor of St Catherine's, Queensburgh until 1975. In April 1975 he went to Ireland on home leave, returning in August. After this he was assigned to Nazareth House in 1983 as chaplain and remained there until his death.

In the Provincial Newsletter of 1996 the following statement appeared ... "For nearly 60 years, Fr John served the Church in Durban with great devotion. To many generations of Catholics, he was a household name, a member of the family. In his quiet, unassuming way, he endeared himself to countless people, a truly devoted pastor, with a great sense of humour. He was indeed a gentle person and a gentleman. Fr John celebrated 60 years of priesthood on 31 May together with Fr Mackinnon at Nazareth House. Three days later, on the 3rd June, he was born to eternal life. As he lived, so he died – he passed away quietly at 7.30 am."

He was then 86 years of age. His Requiem Mass took place at the Church of the Assumption, Umbilo, after which his remains were transported to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery. John was shy by nature, quiet and unassuming, but always dedicated to his ministry and vocation, and always had a ready smile to welcome visitors or parishioners.



GENEVÉE, Eugene



Eugene was born on 9 December 1905 at Landivy, Mayenne, France. After completing his secondary schooling, he entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1925 at Laval, making his first vows the following year. He then went to Liège for his scholastic studies and made his final vows there on 21 May 1931 and was ordained on 12 July 1931. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban in October 1932. He was immediately sent to Inchanga, presumably to learn isiZulu, after which he was appointed to St Paul's Church, Greyville in May 1933. Two years later, in 1935, he was posted to Newcastle and Dundee until 1937 when he was sent to Msinga, near Ladysmith. Eugene was a rather shy person, and did not mix easily. He did not enjoy good health. He remained at Msinga for the rest of his life. In 1958/9 he developed a cancer and was hospitalised for an extended period of time at St Augustine's hospital in Durban where the Augustinian Sisters took good care of him. He bore his sufferings quietly and patiently, until his death on 24 August 1959, at the age of 54.



GOUDOT, Brother Paul Marie Joseph



Paul was born on the 2 December 1914 at Raville sur Sânon, France, of Paul Goudot and Louise Marchal. At 20 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Berder and made his first vows on 8 May 1935. After receiving his obedience for Natal, he arrived in Durban on 12 June 1939 and was sent to Basutoland (Lesotho) to learn carpentry. On his return to Natal he was posted to Maphumulo for two years where he exercised his trade of carpentry until 1941 when he went to Malvern and Clermont for four months. On the 24 June 1941 he made his final vows. His next assignment was to Besters Mission in northern Natal where he helped with the maintenance of the farm until, in December 1941, he went to Cato Manor to assist in the building operations there for a few months and then returned to Besters for about eight months. Then in December 1942 he was sent to do carpentry work at St Philomena's Orphanage in Malvern, Durban.

When St Joseph's Scholasticate opened its doors at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg, Paul was sent there to work on the property as gardener and general factotum until 1943 when he was sent to Mbava

mission for two months to do carpentry work. He then returned to Prestbury for another two months and in December 1943 was sent to Esigodini, again for the purposes of carpentry. In 1944 Paul was placed at Emmanuel Cathedral, and there he branched out into a new venture. He started off by running the Cathedral repository outside the church, and this developed a talent which had remained hidden all those years. He opened the Durban Catholic Bookshop which grew from strength to strength, until it became a flourishing business known beyond the boundaries of Natal. This became his full-time occupation and provided an invaluable service to the Church in general and to priests and religious in particular. Whilst being fully occupied managing this enterprise, he also took an interest in stamp collecting, managing to build up a valuable collection of stamps. At the same time he began another hobby which was collecting stamps from various people throughout the country in aid of St Joseph's Scholasticate library. Paul would then sell the stamps to other collectors, and the money he received he would send to St Joseph's to acquire new books for its library. In this way Paul helped the Scholasticate (and today the Theological Institute as well) to establish an admirable library containing thousands of books on almost every conceivable subject. Eventually Paul's health began to cause concern and he was obliged to hand over the management of the Bookshop to someone else, while he retired to Nazareth House where he was well cared for by the Sisters in the last month of his life. On 12 July 1977, at the



age of 63, Paul went to his eternal reward at 10.15 a.m. The Requiem Mass was attended by 42 of his Oblate priest-brothers and several diocesan priests, Sisters, and more than a hundred lay people. His remains were taken to Cedara where he was buried in the Oblate cemetery.



GOURLAY, Pierre



Pierre Gourlay was born in Quimper, Brittany, France, in 1863. After entering the Oblate Novitiate in 1883, he made his first vows the following year. It would seem that he went to do his priestly studies in Ireland because he made his final vows on 15 August 1886 at Belcamp. He received his first obedience for Natal, arriving on 18 September 1888 as a deacon. He was accompanied by several others, including scholastics Charles Serriere, Andrew Tresch and August Chauvin, and the Oblate Visitor, Fr Louis Soullier (later to become Superior General of the Congregation). Four days later, on 22 September 1888 Gourlay and Serriere were ordained by Bishop Jolivet to the priesthood at Mariannhill, together with three Trappist monks. As Gourlay could already speak English, he and Bro. Chauvin, immediately after ordination, were sent to learn Tamil. In 1888 he was ministering in Pietermaritzburg and teaching Latin and French at St Charles' school. In 1889 he was appointed to the Indian community in Durban, assisted by a Holy Family Sister who took charge of the school. At the same time he was attending to the Zulu-speaking people of Durban. After a short

period in charge of the Indian school in Durban he was sent to the south coast on the 20 September 1890 to take over from the Pavels at St Michael's mission. The Pavels had been looking after the property there but were now pulling out.

On 21 January 1894 Gourlay accompanied the bishop and other clergy for the official blessing and opening of the new church built by Fr Baudry at the Bluff in Durban. Two years later on the 16 February 1896 Jolivet mentions that Gourlay went up to Estcourt to recuperate from his recent illness. However, on 4 December 1896, Gourlay accompanied the Bishop and Fr Le Texier to Umzinto on the south coast to prepare the new mission there. It seems that Gourlay was back in Durban shortly afterwards, as he was appointed chaplain to the Holy Family Sisters there, but at the beginning of February 1900 he was relieved of that duty.

At the beginning of 1901 he went to France on long leave, and returned to Natal on the 3 June. From here he went for a short spell to help at Emoyeni in Zululand, returning to Durban on the 25 June with the Bishop. The following month he was sent to Umzinto to replace Fr Delnatte who was leaving to go and teach at Marist Brothers in Uitenhage. The last we hear of Fr Gourlay in Jolivet's Journal was when he accompanied Bishop Jolivet on the 2 June 1902 to go to Port Shepstone where they were cordially received by a Mr Rouillard. From this we can conclude that Gourlay's main area of ministry was from Illovo to Port Shepstone.



In 1904 Bishop Delalle's report to the General Chapter stated that Gourlay was still at Port Shepstone, a struggling mission, but, adds the Bishop, "...happily the Father has all the energy and the zeal necessary. Breton and French, he does not recoil before sacrifice or work." From 1905 to 1910, Gourlay was in charge of the Kokstad and Umtata missions, but in 1910 he was transferred to Dundee until 1913, when he took charge of St Anthony's parish in Pietermaritzburg. His command of the Tamil language was a great advantage in his work among the Indian Catholics of Natal. He remained at St Anthony's until his death on 18 June 1924 aged 61. Gourlay was a dedicated missionary right to the end and left a legacy of hard work and zeal.



GUMEDE, Brother Leo



Leo(n) Gumede was the first Zulu Oblate. He was born in 1873 at Isipingo. According to an article in his dossier written by Fr Michael Foley OMI, his father was John Gumede and his mother Nozinkabi Kwela. Leo received the habit at Holy Cross mission (Entabeni) on 7 December 1901 and made his first vows in 1902. Because his novitiate had been done without the direction of an Oblate priest, and in a house that had not been properly constituted as such, there was a canonical problem with his novitiate, so a request for an *indult* convalidating his novitiate was requested from the Holy See. The *indult* was granted on 19 November 1920, although Leo had made his final vows on 25 December 1919. According to the records Leo was stationed at Holy Cross, Entabeni in Zululand from 1901 to 1921, followed by Greyville in 1927, Shallcross in 1930, Montebello in 1933, Shallcross again in 1935 and 1938, and in 1942 he was at Inchanga. Bishop Henry Delalle wrote: "... This brother has been very faithful and has never given any serious cause for concern."

In *Missions, Tome LVII (1923)*, someone writes of Bro. Gumede: "...

With us was Bro. Leon Gumede, our first Zulu lay brother who just made his retreat in Durban. He is a charming brother, devout, virtuous and very attached to the Congregation...We have often had occasion to appreciate his qualities and to wish that others like him would follow in his footsteps. That would be the solution for the difficult problem of lay brothers for Natal."

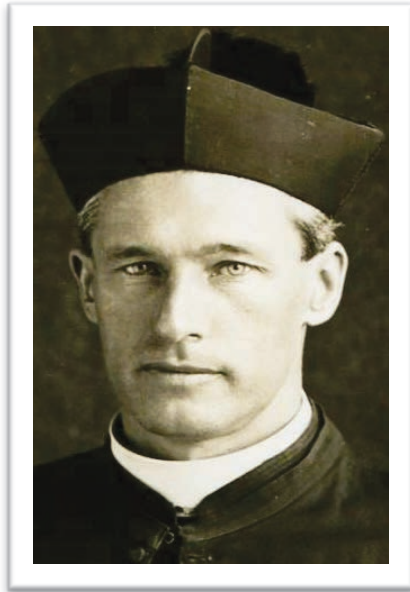
Leo died at Inchanga on the 29 November 1942 at the age of 69. On Tuesday 1 December 1942, Fr Howard Denis St George wrote in the *Codex Historicus* of Inchanga "...Today Brother Leo Gumede OMI was laid to rest next to Father Hanon. May they both rest in peace. His Lordship the Bishop presided and Very Rev. Fr Kerautret, Provincial, said a few words in Zulu in the church. Also present were V. Rev. Fr Tual, Superior of the District (Maritzburg), Frs Gabriel and Senechal and Bro. Nicholas from Maritzburg, Father Ochs of Red Hill, Fr W. Nolan OMI of Transvaal, Bros. Boudon and Poirier of Durban, Fr Paquotte of Mbava, Fr Wagner of Shongweni, and the present Inchanga community which consists of Fr H. Daub OMI of the Kimberley Vicariate, Bro. Joseph Kubone, Postulant Cyril Nguza and the writer Fr St George. Bro. Leo died here at Inchanga on Sunday evening Nov 29th at 9.15. Thus passes a faithful lay-brother whose regularity to the very end was an edification to all. Without attempting to give an account of the old brother's life, one item in his last days comes at once to mind. Bro. Leo always made a point of going to his weekly confession every Saturday morning. During the last month while he was confined to



his room he still kept strictly to this practice. At the very end he must have found it difficult to remember the day of the week and prior to his last confession he asked quietly what day of the week it was. 'Today is Friday, Brother' he was told. He was patently enquiring through anxiety about missing his Saturday confession." "Leo was a faithful Oblate who worked for forty years side by side with his brother Oblate priests in Natal and Zululand, and who was held in high esteem by his colleagues." (Joy Brain)



HANON, Albert



Albert was born at Nancy, France, in 1878. At the age of 19 he decided to join the Oblate Congregation and made his first vows in 1897. It would seem that he went to Canada for his scholastic studies since he made his final profession in Ottawa on 29 June 1898 and was ordained to the priesthood there in 1902. The following year he received his obedience for Natal and arrived towards the end of 1903. According to *Missions 1903* Hanon was sent to Pietermaritzburg to be on the staff of St Charles' College as a teacher, singing-master and vice-principal. In his report to the General Chapter of 1904, Bishop Delalle wrote that Fr Hanon gave himself to his work with zeal and devotion (*Missions 1905*). In the minutes of the Pietermaritzburg House Council we found the following remarks ... "It was resolved that Father Hanon be appointed Vice Principal of St Charles' College. He will take all the surveillance, give the permissions to go into town, look after the discipline of the school. He will take all lessons in French and Latin for the 'Elementary' and High school classes, also singing classes on Mondays and Thursdays afternoon, and catechism classes for the 3rd

Division. He will take charge of the school requisites, to give them to the boys and keep account of them. He will also have supervision of the Cadet corps...It was resolved that Father Hanon be given powers for the holy ministry." One wonders what was left for the other staff members to do! In March of the same year (1904) the minutes of the said Council stated that the Bishop was going to try to obtain Fr Foley (Maurice) to act as Principal of the College "... but, should he not succeed, Father Hanon will discharge all the duties of the principal during Fr Chauvin's absence. He will then have full and sole control over the college. The Superior of the house does not directly intervene in school matters."

In 1905 it was decided that Hanon should receive lessons in playing the organ in the church. The following year, in 1906, he was put in charge of the military hospital in Pietermaritzburg and then in 1907 another duty was placed on his shoulders when it was decided that he be put in charge of the discipline in the college in place of Fr Foley.

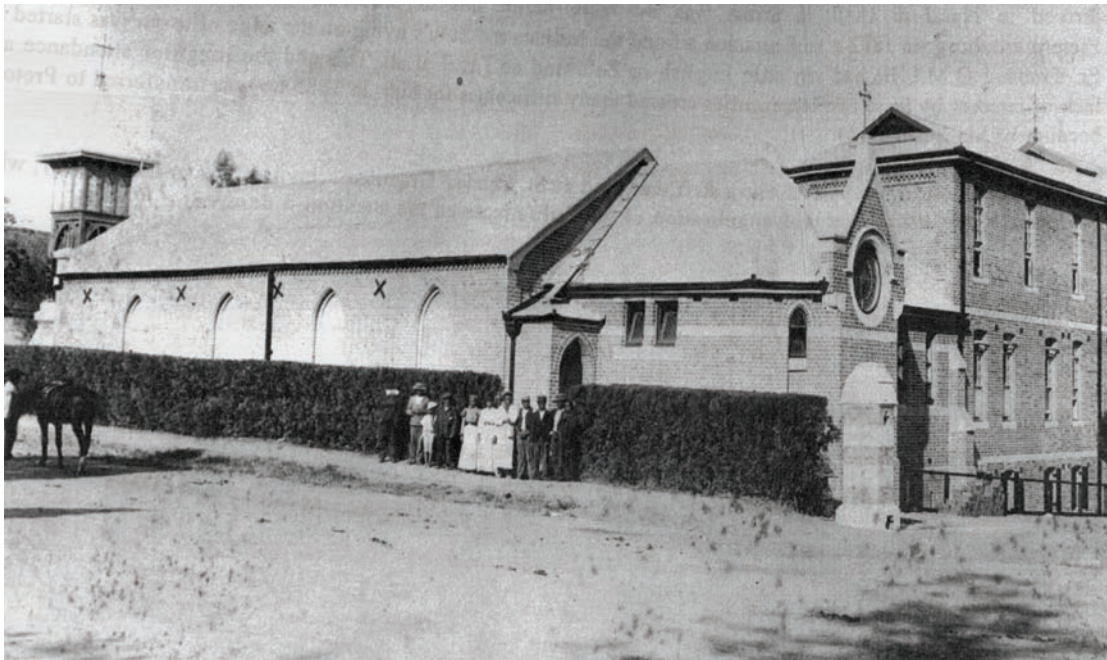
Albert Hanon was working among the Zulu people in the Oakford area when he was called up for military service at the outbreak of the 1914–18 war. On his return to Natal after the war, he worked among the Zulus in the Pietermaritzburg area, especially in the Ortmann Road area. He and Fr Jenn did great work in Maryvale, and Hanon was also put in charge of the Holy Name chapel attached to the Sanatorium which served the Zulu speaking



parishioners in the city centre. By 1922 there was a large congregation and mission school there, and two catechists assisted Hanon in his apostolate. He also worked for some time in the Zululand missions which were still under the Oblates and the Natal Vicariate before the arrival of the Benedictines in 1921.

Fr Hanon is best known as the 'founder' of the Oblate mission of Inchanga. This mission was begun by the Trappists but they later handed it over to the Oblates. It flourished under Hanon's care and became an Oblate centre of mission activity. "In 1928 the Oblates opened a novitiate for the training of brothers at St Theresa's mission at Inchanga under the care of Fr Albert Hanon, and a number of Zulu and Indian brothers were trained there." (JB)

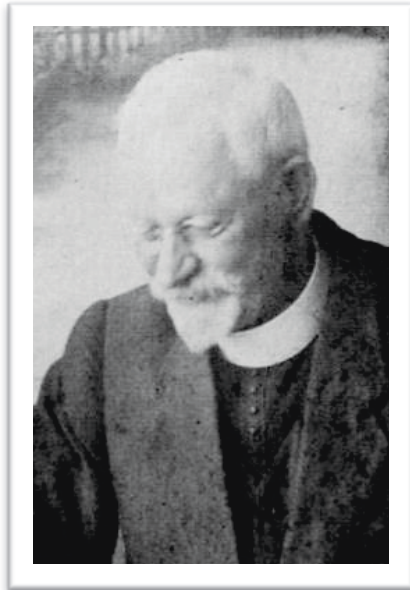
Hanon died on the 21 April 1932, aged 54, and was buried at Inchanga. His grave is still visited by the locals who revere him.



HOLY NAME CHAPEL AND SANATORIUM, LOOP STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG IN 1909



HECHT, Victor



Victor Hecht was born on 1 March 1868 at Roufflach, in the Diocese of Strasbourg. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in St Gerlach in 1887, and made his first vows on the 15 August the following year, and his final vows on 14 August 1889 at St Gerlach, his oblation number being 1430. He was ordained to the priesthood on the 29 June 1893 at Fréjus. He was one of the early Oblate priests to work in South Africa, arriving with Fr Porte (destined for Basutoland) and Bishop Anthony Gaughren OMI, Vicar Apostolic of the Orange Free State (which included Kimberley). On arrival he was appointed to Taung (in the present Diocese of Kimberley). In 1899 he was transferred to Bloemfontein where he worked till 1904. Whilst there he served as military chaplain during the Anglo-Boer War, attending with zeal to the sick in the camps and hospitals. As a result he contracted an illness which lingered for some months. For this work he received the gratitude of the authorities concerned who conferred on him the Medal of Companionship of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, after which he was sent to Europe to recuperate.

In 1911 he was at Mafikeng, and then in 1921 he served for a few years in the Harrismith area. Around that time he requested to join the Natal Vicariate and came to work in Newcastle and Dundee in 1927, and remained there until 1942. During this time he celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination. The Newcastle Dominican Sisters and pupils of the Academy put on a concert in his honour in the presence of a great crowd. At the end of the concert the Revd Mr Mountford (Protestant) made a speech and expressed the feelings of all the people of the town towards Fr Hecht who had served for so many years in their midst. In 1948 he was transferred to Durban and placed as assistant priest at St Joseph's, Greyville. On the 22 June 1949, aged 81, he finally gave himself over to his Lord and Redeemer whom he had served so lovingly during his life.

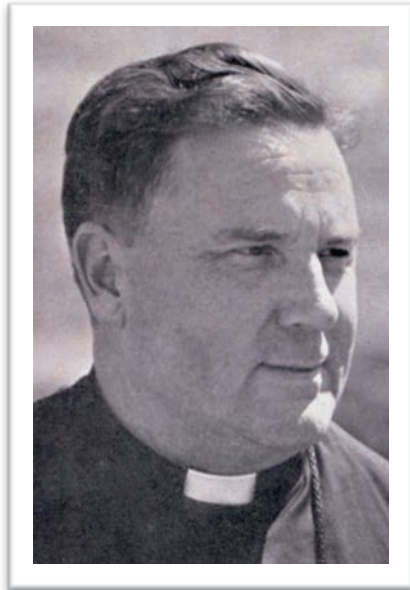


HELIAS, Hervé

Hervé was born on 22 September 1909 in Combrit in the Diocese of Quimper, France, of Sébaste and Marie (born Lebis). At 19 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Coigny on 14 August 1928, and made his first vows in Berder on 15 August 1929. He was sent to Rome to pursue his priestly studies and made his final profession at Cineto Romano on 9 August 1934 and was ordained there on 30 June 1935. The following year he received his obedience for Natal, and was sent to Newcastle. Unfortunately, whilst there, he was struck down by a fatal illness and died on 2 September 1938 at the very young age of 29.



HENNESSEY, Charles Eugene



Charles (Chuck) was born on 11 February 1911 at Lowell, Mass. USA. His primary and secondary education took place at Holy Angels Juniorate, and Canisius College respectively, both in Buffalo, NY, after which he went to the Oblate Novitiate in Tewksbury, Mass. where he made his first profession on 8 September 1930. From there he began his scholastic studies at Newburgh, NY and the Major Seminary, Washington, DC. He made his final vows on 8 September 1933, and was ordained to the priesthood on 9 June 1936 at the National Shrine, Washington. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban on 30 October 1936. He was assigned to Maphumulo mission to learn isiZulu and remained there until 1939. After a short spell at Newcastle he was sent to Dannhauser in northern Natal (1939–1940), then back to Newcastle (1941–42), Mielietuin (outside Estcourt) (1942–44) then to Congella, Durban for four years (1944–48) where he was chaplain to King Edward VIII hospital. During that time he also served the Point Prison (1944–46) and Central Gaol (1944–48). After a few months at Estcourt in 1948 he was appointed parish priest of

Bellair (1950–56), and then Queensburgh (1957–63). From there he went to Emmanuel Cathedral as an assistant for three years (1963–1966) after which he was appointed parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Westville in 1966 where he remained till his sudden death in 1977. In all those years since his arrival in South Africa he returned to the States on home leave five times. Charles was of a cheerful nature and popular with his parishioners. He was dedicated to them and to the sick. He died in his sleep on 24 December 1977. He was the second American to die in Natal 20 years after Fr John Ochs OMI. His body was laid to rest at Cedara.



HOLLAND, Brian Patrick



Patrick was born in Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Mozambique on 1 May 1916. He did his primary schooling at St Anne's, Umzinto, then at St Thomas', Newcastle, where he met up with Denis Hurley and Joseph Surgeson. All three would one day become priests in the Oblate Congregation. Pat completed his secondary schooling at St Henry's College, Durban. When he decided to join the Oblates, there was no Novitiate in South Africa, so Pat was sent to Berder, Brittany, in France in April 1934, where he made his first vows on 21 April 1935. From there he went to Rome for his priestly studies, where he again met up with Brother Denis Hurley who had preceded him by two years. They became life-long friends. Pat obtained a Licentiate in Philosophy and Theology. He made his final profession in Rome on the 25 April 1938 but was forced to leave Rome when World War II broke out, and Pat was sent to Piltown Scholasticate in Ireland to complete his theological studies. He was ordained on the 12 June 1941 in Ireland. He then had to await a passage on board a ship sailing to South Africa. Finally in December 1942 Pat left Liverpool harbour on a ship that formed part of

a convoy with 42 others. This was at the height of World War II, and the Nazi U-boat activities in the Atlantic Ocean were causing havoc among Allied shipping. The convoy in which Fr Holland was travelling lost 14 ships in three nights, and to avoid further losses the convoy was ordered to scatter, each ship endeavouring on its own to reach its destination. After a voyage of 100 days, dodging U-boats and going around Cape Horn, the ship finally arrived in Cape Town.

On his arrival in Durban in March 1943, he was posted to the nascent St Joseph's Scholasticate at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg, on the 15 April 1943 as lecturer in philosophy. He remained attached to the Scholasticate staff for the next 17 years or so, during which time he was partly responsible for establishing the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate in Natal. During the National Marian Congress held in Durban in 1952, Pat was put in charge of the Publicity Committee and the very successful Missionary Exhibition held in the Durban City Hall. He was also much involved in the Kolbe Association, and he was the editor of the *Caritas* and *Mission Herald* magazines, which kept the members of the MAMI and others in touch with Oblate and missionary activities in the Diocese, but which, unfortunately, ceased to exist shortly afterwards.

In December 1960, due to ill-health, he was released from his obligations to St Joseph's, and, after a very short break, he was posted to Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban as assistant

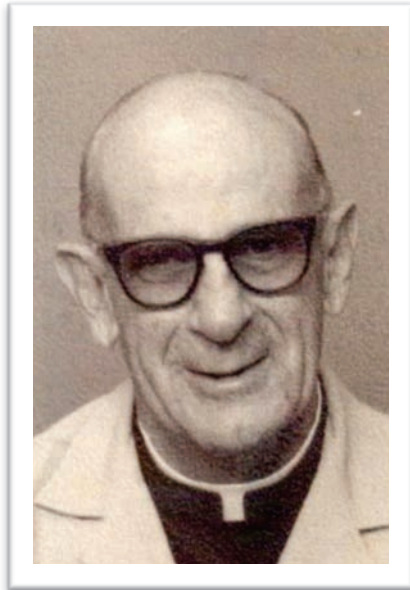


priest. There he became very well known for his activities and his influence in the ecumenical field, and developed a close friendship with the Rev. Dr Andre de Villiers, one-time Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in South Africa, and a host of other ministers of other denominations. After suffering from an acute attack of pancreatitis Fr Pat Holland died at St Augustine's Hospital on the 4 October 1964 at the relatively young age of 48. His Requiem Mass at the Cathedral was attended by a packed church of mourners who had come to pay their last respects to this well-known, dedicated and well-loved Oblate priest. In the absence of Archbishop Hurley who was attending Vatican Council II in Rome, the Oblate Provincial, Fr Raymond Coates, was the main celebrant, and most of the clergy in the Archdiocese attended the Requiem Mass. After the final prayers, Revd Andre de Villiers spoke movingly of Fr Pat's friendship and his ecumenical spirit. This was probably the first time that a clergyman of another church had taken part in a solemn Catholic service and given the opportunity to speak in the church. He said: ... "The contribution he [Fr Pat] made to better understanding amongst the various denominations in Durban is of incalculable value." The *Natal Mercury*, and the *Daily News* in Durban, the *Natal Witness* in Pietermaritzburg, and several other papers had articles in praise of Fr Pat. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St John Vianney Seminary chapel in Pretoria, as well as Holy Trinity church, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, at which V. Rev. Fr George O'Callaghan OMI preached movingly of Pat, saying... "One of the most notable characteristics of this great priest and churchman was that he was so versatile. Another great characteristic was that in all circumstances he was able to grasp the full significance of what was happening at the time. He was always conscious of the value, the meaning, of his priesthood which, to him, was the greatest thing in his life. He saw in every situation the opportunity to spread Christ, to make him known and understood."

Pat was rather short of stature, but full of energy. He had a keen intelligence and a lively spirit which endeared him to everyone. He was always ready to be of assistance to those in need. His charity knew no bounds. He also had a lively sense of humour. Fr Pat's remains were interred at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara where he had given so much of himself in the training of future Oblate priests.



HOURQUEBIE, Yves



Yves was born on the 18 February 1910 at La Mercy on the north coast of Natal. He attended school at St Charles' College in Pietermaritzburg under the direction of the Marist Brothers. Besides being a very diligent scholar he excelled in sport and played in the first teams of both rugby and cricket. In his final year he was elected a prefect. After matriculating he joined Barclay's Bank in Church Street, Pietermaritzburg. In 1932 he decided to join the Oblate Congregation and was sent to Berder, Brittany, France, for his novitiate at the end of which he made his first oblation on 8 September 1933. He then went to La Brosse-Montceaux to further his studies for the priesthood. There he made his final vows on 29 September 1936, and was ordained priest by Bishop Henry Delalle on 3 July 1938. When he returned to Natal in August 1939, his first assignment was to Ladysmith as an assistant (1940–41). In 1941 he was transferred to Rookdale, Bergville as the first resident priest-in-charge. While there he built a three-roomed cottage which still stands today as the priest's house. After four years at Bergville, Yves was asked to go to Newcastle (1945), and then to

Montebello (1946), followed by Maria Ratschitz as priest-in-charge and farmer (1947–49). That year he was made parish priest of Ladysmith where he remained till 1951. He then went to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, in 1951 as assistant to Fr Mackinnon and hospital chaplain to Grey's Hospital until 1963. Whilst at St Mary's he underwent surgery for a hip replacement due to an arthritic condition which afflicted two of his brothers as well. The first operation was not a success, and a few months later he had to be operated on again in 1954, and this left him with one leg shorter than the other and a severe limp for the rest of his life. In 1963 he was transferred to the Assumption parish in Durban as assistant and chaplain to King Edward Hospital. Two years later (1965) he was appointed to St Peter's parish, Point, as assistant and chaplain to Addington Hospital where he served for 33 years, and "...endeared himself not only to patients but also to the staff, to Catholics and non-Catholics. He was tireless in the care of the patients and visited the fourteen floors in the hospital every day." (*OMI Newsletter*).

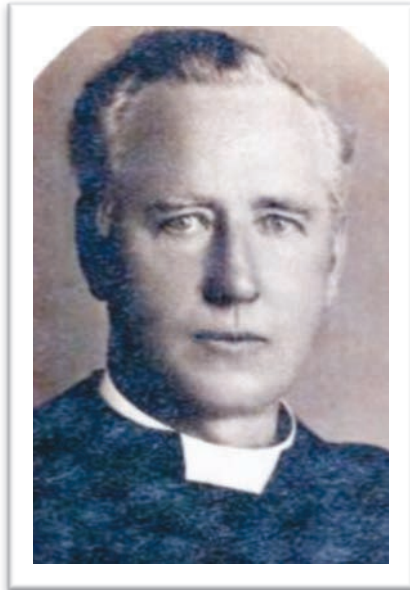


In 1991 Yves received a citation at Addington Hospital from the regional Chairperson of the South African Nursing Association. A cheese and wine party was held in the hospital to honour him. Matron Brenda Servatus paid him tribute in a speech, in which she said: ... "His cheerful smile and sense of humour have brightened the lives of countless hundreds of bedfast patients, irrespective of race, colour or creed. Still at the age of 82 years he walks

from the fifteenth floor down to every ward, every day, only allowing himself the luxury of the lift to the top...Father Hourquebie is a very special kind of man who has been endowed with that special gift of being able to communicate with all and sundry, and he also possesses the stamina of an ox! Asked when he would retire, he replied, 'When God retires me'. That says it all." Eventually Yves did retire, first to Sabon House and then to Nazareth House where he celebrated Mass daily for the residents. He celebrated his 90th birthday in 2000. He always seemed to exude kindness and cheerfulness. "He suddenly contracted pneumonia and from then on it was all downhill. The 'Comforter of the Sick' was rewarded with a peaceful death on Our Lady's birthday, 8 September 2001, aged 91, a fitting end to his life as he was never without his rosary, and often seen reciting it daily. ... The Anglican chaplain [to Addington] arranged a special memorial service for him at the hospital" (*OMI Newsletter*). The Provincial ended his article with the following words: "The Oblates lost a loving brother, the Church a good priest. May he rest in peace." Yves' remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



HOWLETT, Francis

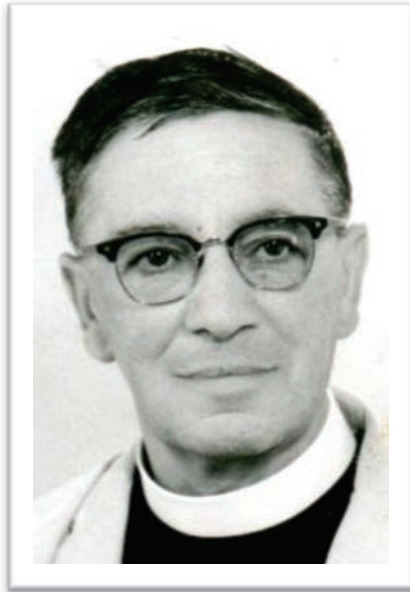


Francis Howlett, according to Jolivet's Journal, was born at Newrass, Ireland, on the 12 April 1855. He came to Natal as a missionary at the age of 26 while still in temporary vows, and made his final profession as an Oblate on the 11 March 1881 in the presence of Bishop Jolivet. After his ordination to the priesthood on 16 April 1881, he was sent to Kokstad ... "The next step was the establishment of a centre at Kokstad. St Patrick's chapel had been erected there by the soldiers of the Cape Mounted Rifles who were garrisoned at the town between 1882 and 1884, but there was no priest until Father Francis Howlett was sent to the town shortly after his ordination and found that, at this time, the mission was larger and more promising than the Umtata station, with 200 Catholics. Father Howlett was an outstanding missionary and spent most of his priestly life at Kokstad and at Umtata, earning high praise from his superiors and the affection of his parishioners. Jolivet, who was always quick to give praise where he felt it was due, wrote: 'If I had six or seven missionaries like Father Howlett, a good religious and a zealous missionary, I would be happy.'" (JB II)

On the occasion of his silver jubilee of ordination to the priesthood, the predecessor of the *Southern Cross*, 'The Catholic Magazine', Vol XXII of 1912 had an article on Fr Howlett which began with the following words ... "Who, in the Transkei, does not know the Rev. Father Howlett? He has lived long enough in Kokstad, he has travelled enough through the whole of Pondoland, Tembuland and East Griqualand, to be well-known. Everybody knows him, and everybody loves him, for 'to know him is to love him.' Father Howlett celebrated his silver jubilee the 14th inst. He celebrated it; this is not correct; he was made to celebrate it whether he liked it or not. Had he had to do it himself, nothing would have been done, for such is his retiring disposition." Then followed a glowing tribute to this exemplary priest and missionary. Howlett died in Kokstad on the 29 August 1919 at the age of 64.



HUGO, Charles



Charles was born in Louvigny (Moselle), France on 9 June 1900. After completing his schooling at Strasbourg and St Charles, Holland, he decided to become an Oblate missionary. He went to the Novitiate at Thy-le-Chateau, Belgium, and made his first vows on 30 September 1920 after which he began his clerical studies at Liège where he made his final vows on 30 September 1923 and was ordained on 12 July 1925. The St Anne's Church Golden Jubilee brochure tells us that ...“His health was so poor that doctors, who treated him in France, held out little hope that he would enjoy more than a few years of life and suggested he spend them in South Africa – land of sunshine. Eventually the 'few' years turned out to be 49 years of service as a parish priest!” So it was that Charles received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban on 12 December 1926. After a short stay at Emmanuel Cathedral he was sent to Newcastle, including Dundee, then to Estcourt.

From there he was appointed to take charge of the Mayville area (an extensive area for a 'sick' man). The Augustinian Sisters had continued the pioneering work done by the Holy Family Sisters in taking care of St Theresa's school and orphanage in this area, and they also looked after Fr Charles, who, the Jubilee brochure tells us “...became parish priest of a vast twin parish, stretching from the banks of the Umgeni River in the north (Springfield Flats and Clare Estate) to second River (Cato Manor) and included Sydenham, Overport and Mayville. So Father went about building up his parish, setting out on foot every day except Sundays, visiting the Catholic families, White, Coloured, Indian and African, for this area had developed a multi-racial character by then.”

From then on Hugo became an icon and a legend in the area. He refused to learn to drive a car and so never possessed a motor vehicle. All his pastoral work was done on foot, except when a few volunteers offered to take him by car to his destinations and back. There were very few, if any, families and individuals that he did not know by name. His parishioners respected and venerated him. He was known for his outstanding devotion to the Church, his devout manner in celebrating Mass and the Sacraments, and the strictness with which he expected the parishioners to behave, both in the faith and in public. He instilled a strong liturgical devotion in his parishioners. All the many and various societies he established in the parish were very well supported. Long before Vatican II, Hugo had already firmly encouraged participation of the laity in the liturgy of the Church. Above all many Sisters (15) and Priests (4) were indebted to Fr Hugo for their vocations. Hugo was also



responsible for beginning a fund towards the purchase of a site and the building of a new church in Sydenham which would become St Anne's parish church in Randles Road.

Just as Mother Mary of the Augustinian Sisters was honoured by the Durban City Council by naming Mary Road after her, so Hugo Road was established in honour of Charles Hugo OMI.

Charles finally succumbed to ill-health and the many years of difficult and dedicated service to the Church. He died peacefully in his sleep on 23 August 1969, aged 69. Thousands attended his funeral at the Cathedral “...many of whom had travelled by car, rail and plane from all over the Republic, to pay tribute to our dear local shepherd – Father Charles Hugo OMI, parish priest of St Theresa's and St Anne's, 1929–1969.” (*ibid*). His remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



HURLEY, Archbishop Denis Eugene



Denis Hurley was born on the 9 November 1915 of Denis and Teresa May Hurley (born O'Sullivan). His parents originally were from Skibbereen, Cork, Ireland. In South Africa his father served as a lighthouse keeper in the Cape Province and Natal. The most famous among these was Robben Island, Cape Town, which many years later would house political prisoners under the apartheid regime. No wonder that later Archbishop Denis Hurley's biographer would name him 'Guardian of the Light'. Hurley began his primary education at Lennoxton, Newcastle, under the direction of the Dominican Sisters. Together with him were Brian Patrick Holland and Joseph Surgeson. All three would separate for their secondary education, but would meet again as priests in the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Denis went on to St Charles' College, Pietermaritzburg, for his secondary education. He proved himself to be an excellent sportsman, especially at cricket and athletics. He matriculated in 1931. He then decided to join the Oblate Congregation, and was sent to Ireland for his novitiate at Cahermoyle. At the end of his novitiate year

(1933) he pronounced his first vows and was sent to Rome to pursue his clerical studies at the Angelicum and Gregorian Universities. Whilst in Rome, Denis Hurley made his final profession in 1936 and was ordained priest in 1939 at the height of World War II.

He returned to South Africa in 1940, and began his ministry at Emmanuel Cathedral, which would always remain very dear to him, and to where he would return very much later in his life. In 1944 the Oblates decided to open a Scholasticate at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg, and Hurley was appointed Superior to replace Fr Gabriel Viallard who had to resign because of ill-health. He was also made a member of the Oblate Vicarial Council. His stay at Prestbury lasted two years where he endeared himself to his students and staff. Part of the curriculum was the game of soccer every Sunday afternoon and on special feast days. Fr Hurley enjoyed this weekly game of soccer with the students, and was not averse to a bit of rough and tumble, and even to some rough handling on the part of the students. While at Prestbury, he also took an active part in the activities of the city of Pietermaritzburg. Together with Fr Holland they became members of the Pietermaritzburg 'Parliament' (Debating Society), where Hurley was the 'Member for Howick'. On one occasion some young scholars from Voortrekker High School took part in a debate, and one young lady began her speech in Afrikaans. One of the members of 'Parliament' objected, and demanded that she speak in English. Fr Hurley immediately stood up and defended the



young lady's right to speak in her mother tongue. However the student continued her speech in English, just to show the 'honourable member' that she was quite capable of speaking in English. But she never forgot that intervention on the part of Fr Hurley, and many, many years later she wrote to Archbishop Hurley, reminding him of that incident, and both she and her husband, who was a Dominee in the Dutch Reformed Church, became firm friends of the Archbishop. At the end of 1946, Bishop Henry Delalle resigned, and Denis Hurley was appointed to replace him. He was ordained bishop on the 19 March 1947 at the age of 31, becoming then the youngest bishop in the world. And when the Hierarchy was established in 1951, Hurley became the youngest Archbishop in the world.

Whilst studying in Rome, Hurley was deeply impressed by the Church's social teaching which left him with an indelible mark, and which would later move him to become one of the most stalwart opponents of the apartheid system in South Africa, and one of the leaders in the liberation movement, together with men like Desmond Tutu, Beyers Naude and Nelson Mandela. It took some time, however, before he could convince his brother bishops of the evils of apartheid. Being mostly from foreign countries of origin, the bishops tended to be more cautious in their approach to the existing political situation under the Nationalist Government. Nevertheless, when Hurley was appointed president of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference he was influential in getting the SACBC to issue its first direct statement condemning apartheid as an intrinsically evil policy. This was in 1957.

Three things marked Hurley's outlook on life: 1) The Church's statements on Justice and Social matters; 2) Cardinal Cardijn's vision and method of 'See, Judge, Act' and the 'Young Christian Workers', and 3) Vatican Council II. The Council made the greatest impact on Hurley's life. He had been appointed as a member of the Central Preparatory Commission, and there he also came into contact with bishops from abroad, especially Germany, France and Austria, who left a deep impression on him. He found himself on the same wavelength as them. There were several Catholic authors who also made a mark on Hurley's thinking: Durrwell, Maritain, Clifford Howell, Teilhard de Chardon, among others. After the Council Hurley lost no time in promoting the thinking of the Council on his Archdiocese. Meetings of clergy and laity became a common occurrence in his Archdiocese. The Community of St Egidio also made an impact on Hurley's life and outlook.

In 1992, after a long and very fruitful apostolate that lasted almost 50 years as shepherd and leader, Hurley handed in his resignation which was finally accepted by Rome, and Bishop Wilfrid Napier OFM was appointed to replace him. Can anyone forget the wonderful turn-out of faithful at Westridge Stadium at the launch of RENEW in 1989, and again in 1992 at the moving celebration and ceremony at which Archbishop Denis Hurley

handed over the reins to Archbishop Wilfrid Napier. But that was not to be the end of Hurley's apostolate. He requested to be appointed to his beloved Emmanuel Cathedral as parish priest where he continued to do wonderful work, both spiritually and socially. Finally, after an attack of shingles left him somewhat incapacitated (his right hand became semi-paralysed) Hurley decided to retire to the Oblate Retirement Home at Sabon House in



Congella. There he became one of the members of the community and devoted himself to the writing of his memoirs.

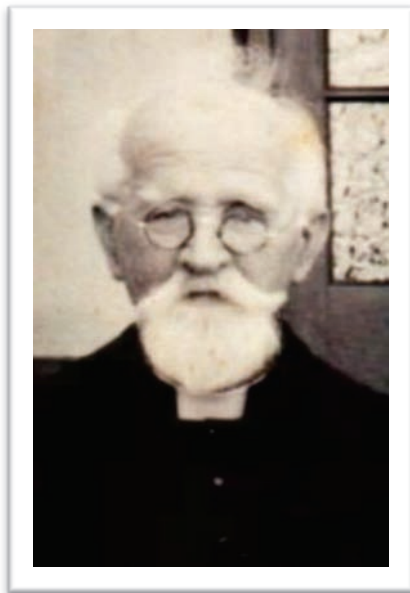
On the 13 February 2004 he attended the Mass celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Fatima Convent School in Durban North. On his way back he remarked how beautiful God's creation was (the street was lined with Flamboyant trees in full flower). He then gave a gasp and grasped his seat belt as if to loosen it. He died peacefully in the car. His body lay in state in Emmanuel Cathedral for a full day and night. The funeral was held at King's Park Stadium attended by a huge number of faithful, bishops, priests, ministers of other Faiths and some members of his family and friends from overseas. He was laid to rest in the Emmanuel Cathedral aisle next to his predecessor, Bishop Henry Delalle, in front of Our Lady's chapel – Our Lady whom he loved and revered so much in his life.



EMMANUEL CATHEDRAL, DURBAN c.1910



JENN, Auguste (Augustin)



Augustin Jenn was born on 4 April 1870 at Bourbach-le-Bas, Alsace-Lorraine, France. After completing his novitiate year he made his first vows at St Gerlach's, Valkenburg on 15 August 1893, and his final profession the following year (1894), receiving the Oblate No.1718. He was sent to Rome for his theological studies and was ordained there in 1898. He then received his first obedience for Natal, arriving in October 1899. He was sent to Oakford where he remained till 1901. From there he went to Pietermaritzburg in 1902 where he did real pioneering work over a huge territory, which included Howick, Seven Oaks, Schroeders and Greytown, all of which he apparently founded as outstations of Pietermaritzburg. He also served the Edendale area and was the first to make use of a catechist to help in the apostolate. In March 1902, when Fr Mayr was transferred from Pietermaritzburg, where he had built up a strong African Catholic population, Fr Jenn was appointed to replace him at Maryvale, Pietermaritzburg. He continued in the footsteps of Mayr in his work among the Africans. Together with Fr Mathieu, he had become an accomplished isiZulu speaker. Later he

was joined by Fr Albert Hanon, and together they made steady progress in the Zulu apostolate, so that in 1922 a new church was necessary at Maryvale.

Meanwhile, from 1910 onwards, a priest in the Mariannhill Vicariate by the name of Fr Wanger had written a new catechism in isiZulu with the permission of Bishop Delalle and the Prior of Mariannhill, Fr Wolpert. This catechism caused a bitter controversy which was to last many years, mainly due to some of Wanger's terminology. About this time a dire need also arose for an isiZulu prayer book. So an advisory committee was set up consisting of two Oblates, Frs Mathieu and Jenn, and two Mariannhillers as well, Fr Wanger and Prior Wolpert. This showed that Fr Jenn was considered one of the best isiZulu speakers in Natal. During his stay in Pietermaritzburg, he was also prison chaplain, assisting 42 condemned prisoners to the scaffold, having first instructed and baptised them. Jenn also demonstrated his missionary spirit during a very severe epidemic of smallpox. He was continually attending to the spiritual needs of the victims, ministering to the sick and dying.

During his fourteen years in Pietermaritzburg he recorded some 2,000 baptisms!

In 1916 he was appointed to the Bluff as parish priest and was responsible for the building of the new church (the third) and presbytery, which would replace the church built by Fr Baudry and Bro. Boudon in January 1894. At the same time Jenn also attended to the needs of the people of Clairwood and Fynnlands. In 1933 he was once more sent to Oakford,



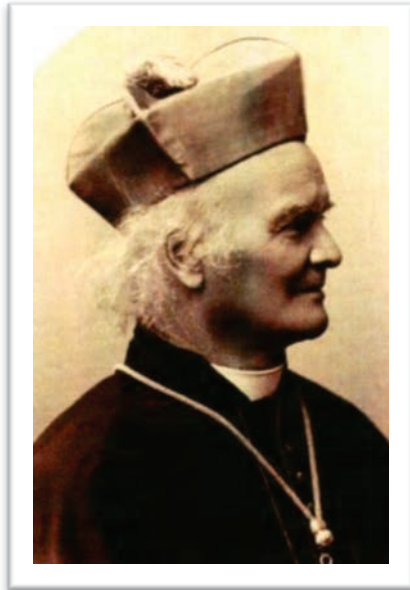
from where he helped establish the missions of Ekukhanyeni (Inanda) and Phoenix. While there he had a fall from his horse as a result of which he lost an eye and broke a leg, and from this time was unable to continue his active ministry. However, in 1938 he returned to the Bluff as assistant, and there he once again renewed his friendship with the people he had served so lovingly a few years before. In 1949 he retired permanently, but continued to reside at the Bluff until 1954 when he moved to St Augustine's hospital, serving as best he could to the sick and dying. Fr Jenn died there on the 26 November 1956 at the age of 86, having served his Master and Lord faithfully and lovingly all his life.



INTERIOR OF SECOND ST MARY'S CHURCH, LONGMARKET STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG.
OPENED IN NOVEMBER 1890.



JOLIVET, Bishop Charles



Charles Jolivet was born at Pont-l'Abbé in Brittany, France, on 9 January 1826. At 18 years of age he decided to become a priest, so he entered the local seminary at Quimper. After his ordination to the subdiaconate he joined the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1848. He was subsequently ordained to the priesthood by the Founder of the Oblate Congregation, Bishop Eugene de Mazenod, on the 13 May 1849 at Nancy, aged 23. He was then sent to England, and after a few months at Everingham he was posted to Liverpool, to serve as an assistant at Holy Cross parish which was served by the Oblates. From 1850 to 1867 he worked among the poor Irish immigrants in Liverpool. It was there that he was instrumental in building the beautiful church of Holy Cross, 'a Cathedral in miniature', the altar, reredos and sanctuary of which was duplicated in the Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban much later. In 1867 he was elected Assistant General of the Oblate Congregation. Five years later, when Bishop Allard resigned as Vicar Apostolic of Natal, Jolivet was chosen to replace him. He was appointed titular Bishop of Bellini on the

15 September 1874, and was ordained to the bishopric by Cardinal Guibert OMI, Archbishop of Paris, on the 30 November 1874. He was then 48 years of age. On the 25 January 1875 Jolivet sailed from Southampton for South Africa. He was accompanied by Fr Michael Weber, Scholastic Bro. John-Mary de Lacy, Missionary Brother Julian Poirier, Frs Andrew Walsh, and Jules Barthélemy, and Missionary Brother Christopher Tuite. The first three were setting out for the first time to the mission fields of South Africa. On the 4 March 1875 the travellers arrived at Port Natal (Durban).

His arrival in the capital, Pietermaritzburg, was a triumphant affair. He celebrated his first Mass there on St Patrick's Day, after which followed Holy Week and Easter. On the 22 May, the Bishop ordained John de Lacy to the priesthood, and soon afterwards left on the first of his 21 extended tours of visits of his immense Vicariate. He set out for Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Basutoland (Lesotho) – a visit which lasted just over three months. The only means of transport were the post-cart, ox-wagon, or simply a horse. It took just over three weeks to travel from Pietermaritzburg to Bloemfontein or to Pretoria. The passengers would stay overnight at some farm or hotel along the way, or simply out in the open, as Jolivet had to do on more than one occasion. Heavy rains, slippery roads and swollen rivers always presented difficulties to travellers.



One of the first people to visit and welcome Jolivet on his arrival in Pietermaritzburg was Bishop Colenso of the Church of England. The following day Jolivet returned the courtesy call. The two often met on their travels to and from Durban. When Jolivet was in Pretoria in October 1877 he received a visit from two Anglican Bishops, Webb and Jones (who later became Archbishop of Cape Town). Then in May 1899, when Jolivet celebrated his triple jubilee of profession, ordination to the priesthood and to the bishopric, among those who came to congratulate him were two Anglican Bishops, Baynes of Natal, and Wale Hicks of Bloemfontein. Whenever possible Jolivet would always return the courtesy of a visit.

One acquaintance, if not friendship, which was unusual at the time, was that of Jolivet and President Brand of the Free State. Whenever Jolivet visited Kimberley and Bloemfontein he never failed to visit Brand, who in turn would invite Jolivet to dinner at the Governor's house. On the 16 January 1881 at the solemn opening of the new church in Bloemfontein, President Brand and his whole family attended the High Mass. They did the same on 21 February 1886 when Jolivet administered Confirmation in Bloemfontein. On 7 July 1886 Jolivet wrote in his Journal regarding Brand "... Visit by President Brand who with Lady Brand showed me all their apartments in the Presidential Palace. This excellent man spoke well in our favour in the Raad which finally voted £50 towards the Catholic Church." What an extraordinary ecumenical gesture!

Jolivet had a natural gift for administration, and a talent for architecture. Early in his ministry he was complimented by no less than the eminent English architect, E. Welby Pugin, who said to him that he should have been an architect. Above all, Jolivet was a missionary at heart. During his time as Vicar Apostolic the Vicariate expanded by leaps and bounds, parishes were founded, and churches built. He would not give up on the fateful St Michael's Mission. On three occasions he tried to re-establish the mission, and almost failed. Divine Providence, it seems, wanted that Mission to flourish at the hands of the Trappists, whom Bishop Jolivet providentially welcomed into his Vicariate.

Bishop Jolivet always showed a personal and warm relationship with each and every priest, sister and brother working in his Vicariate. No matter where he was at a particular time, if he received a message that a sister was gravely ill or dying, he would immediately go to be at her side to comfort and pray for her, and if need be, would anoint her himself. If the sister were to die, Jolivet would preside over the funeral rites. Of course the same applied if the sick person happened to be one of his priests.

Finally on the 15 September 1903 this great missionary bishop died, and was buried in the newly constructed, yet incomplete Emmanuel Cathedral which was overflowing with people, Catholics and Protestants alike, who had come to pay their last respects to this well-known and well-loved shepherd of his people. He was then 77 years of age.

In June 1947, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Pretoria, Revd Fr O'Brien CSSR, Vicar Provincial of the Redemptorists, preached the sermon in which he stated, "...Fortunately for the Church at this period [1875] there arrived in Natal, a few months after the discovery of gold, a great missionary, a great pioneer, a great prospector for



souls, none other than the famous and ever illustrious Bishop Charles Jolivet, Oblate of Mary Immaculate. Small of stature, this great man has grown to gigantic proportions with the progress of the years. Without hesitation we can confidently assert that he is one of the biggest figures in South African Catholic history."



**BISHOP JOLIVET'S TRIPLE JUBILEE 13 MAY 1899 CELEBRATED HIS OBLATION (10 MARCH 1849);
ORDINATION (13 MAY 1849) AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS A BISHOP.**



*Seated: Fr O. Monginoux, Fr John De Lacy, Abbot Amandus Scholzig (Mariannhill),
Bishop H. McSherry (E.Cape), Bishop C. Jolivet, Bp Gaughren (OFS),
Bishop W. Miller (Transvaal), Fr Justin Barret.*

KELLY, Christopher Stephen

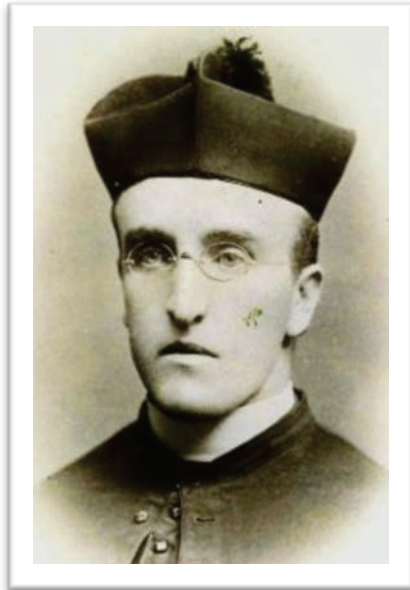


Christopher Kelly was born on 25 December 1906 at Ballysawley, Co. Sligo, Ireland. As a youngster he attended St Kerin's College in Glencree, Co. Wicklow, after which he decided to become an Oblate. He entered the Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick, pronounced his first vows in September 1935, and then went to Daingean to begin his priestly studies. While there he made his final vows in September 1938, and was ordained priest on the 12 June 1941 at Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. After ordination he worked for four or five years in St Anne's parish, Birmingham, England. He then received his obedience for Natal, arriving on 27 October 1946. He was sent to Newcastle for a year (1946–47), and then to Johannesburg and Pretoria from February to July 1947. His next appointment was to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg for four years from 1947–1951 during which time he also served as chaplain to St Charles' College. From there he was assigned to St Anthony's, Pietermaritzburg for ten months and then to Sacred Heart, Montclair for the next ten years (1952–62). The following year he returned to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg (1963–64), followed by two

years at St John's, Chatsworth (1964–66), Umhlanga Rocks (1966–71), St Anthony's, Durban (1971), and then Nazareth House, Durban in 1977. His last assignment was as parish priest at Montclair/Woodlands where he had served almost twenty years previously. Here he was responsible for the building of the new church, one of the first in the Archdiocese in a modern architectural style. Chris was a heavily built man, and he suffered all his life from severe asthma, which eventually weakened his physical stamina. That did not prevent him from being dedicated to the people he served wherever he was assigned. In 1985, while on his way to Kimberley on holiday, he fell ill and died of kidney failure on 4 April, aged 79. His body was brought back to Durban for the Requiem Mass, after which his remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



KELLY, Edward



Edward Kelly was born in 1855, in Liverpool, England. He made his first vows as an Oblate in 1877 in Kilburn, and his final vows on the 15 August 1878. He was ordained in Dublin in June 1883, and received his obedience for Natal. Bishop Jolivet mentions his arrival in Durban on the 12 August 1883. On 22 July 1889, Jolivet wrote in his Journal that Fr Kelly had preached the annual retreat of the Oblates as well as to the sisters in Durban. That in itself was quite remarkable for a young priest ordained only six years. It showed that Kelly was already making a mark on the life of the Church in the Vicariate. Although he spent most of his priestly life in Pietermaritzburg, occasionally he would help out in Durban. His main area of activity was at St Charles' school in the capital, acting as principal in 1893. On 27 June 1894, Bishop Jolivet in his Journal gave us the first indication that Fr Kelly was not well when he wrote that Kelly had gone to spend his holidays in Durban on account of his health. In September of the same year the bishop wrote that Fr Kelly's health gave him serious worries, and a few days later, on the 21st, he stated that Fr Kelly was going from bad to worse, and that

Dr Allen suspected cancer of the stomach. On the 2 October the Bishop anointed him. Three days later Fr Murray came from Durban to visit him, and Fr Kelly recognized him. Then on the 6 October 1894, Bishop Jolivet wrote "... Fr Kelly died at a quarter to seven while I was saying Mass for him in the chapel near his room. A quiet and edifying death." Fr Kelly was then only 39 years old. The next day Fr Murray sang a Requiem Mass in St Mary's, in the presence of the bishop and a packed church. The funeral took place that afternoon. The bishop wrote: "... Never has Maritzburg seen such a funeral. The whole town was there." The next day, 8 October, the bishop wrote: "... In town everyone was talking about raising a monument to Fr Kelly: the Protestants and the Jews as much as the Catholics." The following day the Mayor and two other men visited the bishop and spoke of raising a memorial to Fr Kelly. The mayor took it on himself to receive the donations.

A year later, on 5 October 1895, Bishop Jolivet wrote that he had blessed and laid the foundation stone of the memorial chapel in memory of Fr Kelly. This memorial chapel was in the Catholic cemetery in Commercial Road in Pietermaritzburg but was later demolished as it had become unsafe.



KELLY, Vincent John



Vincent Kelly was born in Grahamstown on 9 September 1876 of Thomas and Mary Kelly (born Quirk). Shortly afterwards the family moved to Natal, and Vincent was sent to St Charles' Grammar School in Pietermaritzburg for his schooling. Apparently even at an early age he showed himself to be a man of action and a good sportsman, as well as a leader. When he decided to become a missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate he was sent to Ireland to do his Novitiate. He took the habit on the 14 August 1899 at Belmont and made his first vows on the 15 August 1900, followed by his final vows the following year. He went to Liège in Belgium for his priestly studies on the 1 September 1902, and was ordained there in July 1905 after which he returned to Natal and, on the 13 December of that year, he was sent to Cala in the Transkei. Although he spent only eight months there, it was enough to fire him with a zeal that would never be extinguished. He returned to Durban on the 12 August 1910, and remained there for the next seven years, till 20 November 1917 when he was sent to Pietermaritzburg for the next three years. On the 13 June 1920 he returned to the Transkei to minister

at Kokstad. An article which appeared in the *Southern Cross* as an obituary shortly after his death (probably in July 1937) had this to say "... The Vicariate of Natal included in those days the whole of the Transkei, Pondoland, East Griqualand, etc. – a vast area with not more than four or five resident priests. The rest had to be done by the travelling priest, and it is in that capacity that Fr Kelly displayed a zeal which knew neither bound nor fear. Travelling 60 miles in a Cape cart to say Mass at some isolated farm or trading station, crossing swollen rivers summer and winter, being drenched in continued rain, and sometimes rising from a sick bed to answer the call of a dying person 30 miles away – these are a few of the brave things which Fr Kelly did again and again." He remained in the Transkei for the next five years, after which he returned to Pietermaritzburg, and spent the last twelve years of his life as chaplain to the Marist Brothers and pupils at St Charles' College, his old *Alma Mater* (by then it had moved from the city centre to the Scottsville suburb), as well as to the brothers at St Joseph's Hermitage, the training centre of the Marist Brothers (which in 1943 would become St Joseph's Oblate Scholasticate at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg). The article in the *Southern Cross* (quoted above) concludes "... In these two institutions he [Vincent Kelly] has left a name which can never be forgotten. His loyalty to the Marist Brothers and to the boys of St Charles' was proverbial. The ill-advised person who ventured to speak lightly of either in his presence did not make the same mistake twice. He loved the boys and they loved him in return. To listen to



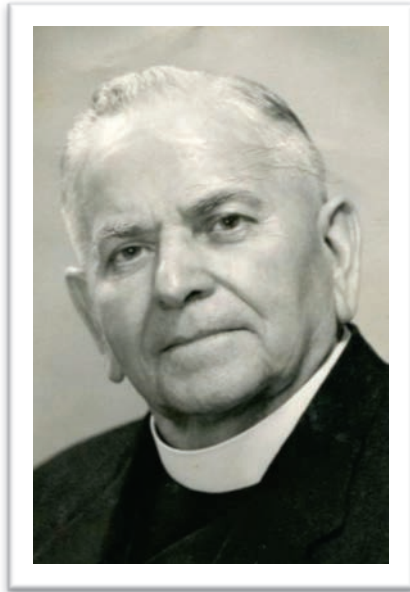
their little troubles and cheer them in their difficulties was to him a labour of love...As father confessor he will live in the memory of many a grateful penitent. Fr Kelly's punctuality was another of his striking qualities...[His] punctuality was not a matter of minutes but of seconds. It was fatal to depend upon an extra minute or two, for one was sure to be late. Essentially a man of action, he died as he had lived, working at high pressure to the last. A short illness, and then the end. May the Good Master whom he served so zealously grant him the reward of those who like St Paul, 'have fought the good fight.'"

Vincent Kelly died at St Charles' College on 6 July 1937. The next morning the Requiem Mass took place at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, celebrated by Fr Joseph Kerautret, Provincial, in the absence of Bishop Delalle. Also present were many priests and laity. In the afternoon the funeral rites took place presided over by Dr Leo Sormany, Vicar General. One of the priests attending the funeral was Fr Terence Kelly OMI of Johannesburg (later to become Provincial of the Transvaal Province) who was a nephew of Vincent Kelly. Others taking part in the Mass and funeral service were a large number of clergy including Mariannhill Fathers and Brothers, the Marist Brothers, Sisters of the Holy Family, Augustinian Sisters from the Sanatorium, pupils of St Charles' College, Marist Old Boys, and the Revd J.W. McGahey (Methodist Church) and Revd H. Skelton (St Peter's Anglican Church).

Vincent's remains were buried at the Commercial Road cemetery in the city.



KERAUTRET, Joseph



Joseph Kerautret was born on 17 April 1890 at Tremeven, Brittany, France. As a youngster he attended the Juniorate of Waeregham, Flanders, Belgium, after which he entered the Oblate Novitiate where he made his first vows on 15 August 1912 at Thy-le-Chateau. His studies for the priesthood were interrupted by his military service in World War I, during which he served in the trenches for four years. He was decorated by the British Government for rescuing a family during a gas attack. After the war he returned to Liège, Belgium, to continue his formation, and made his final profession on 7 September 1920. He was ordained priest three months later on 5 December 1920 at Liège. He received his obedience for Natal, arriving in October 1921, and began his ministry at Emmanuel Cathedral where he worked for a year and then was sent to Montebello in December 1922. From there he went to Oakford in April 1923 for five years, after which he was assigned to St Paul's, Greyville in April 1928. In 1932 he founded the mission and school at Cato Manor (Emkhumbane) – a place which would be in the heart of the racial struggle for justice in the years to come. In 1935 Joseph was appointed the first Oblate Vicar of Missions (Provincial

Superior) in Natal. Up to then the post had been filled by the local Oblate Bishop. His term as Provincial lasted till 1948, an extraordinarily long stretch, because the normal term of office is six years. Joe had a rather difficult time since this was the first time a religious superior had been appointed independent of the local Ordinary (bishop). Besides taking on this heavy responsibility, Joe continued to look after the mission he had founded in Cato Manor. Another difficulty that Joe had to face as Provincial superior was the fact that some of the French missionaries had wanted to divide the Vicariate in two and they had favoured a certain individual as the preferred candidate to lead the 'new Vicariate', a motion which Fr Kerautret opposed most vehemently. However, Archbishop Hurley summed up Joe's personality in the following words "... He worked indefatigably and produced results, but never boasted about his achievements. He was charitable and just in his dealings with priests of different nationality who worked under him. South Africans, Americans and Irishmen admired and respected him. The only ones who opposed him were from his own country...He quickly learned the language [isiZulu] and proved himself to be an energetic missionary. His work was solid and methodical... He founded and built up his present mission with its Catholic population of 3,700 souls and its schools harbouring nearly 2,000 pupils."

From the late 1940's onwards, Cato Manor was notorious for its slum dwellings and poor living conditions. Consisting mainly of shacks and slums, this township was the birthplace and home



of many 'freedom fighters' and leaders of the struggle against the oppression of apartheid.

Around 1948/9 Fr Kerautret visited the Scholasticate at Cleland, and in the course of conversation he described the hardships the people were facing in Cato Manor. He became quite agitated as he spoke and said: "If I were not a Catholic priest, I would be a communist today!" That is how he felt for his people's sufferings. On the positive side, his love for and zeal towards the Zulu people was outstanding, and they in return loved and revered him. One of his major accomplishments was the foundation and expansion of the Catholic African Union (CAU), an organisation which co-ordinated the activities of parochial and diocesan Catholic associations. Joe became the national spiritual director of the National Council of the CAU. He was also partly responsible for the formation of the Catholic African Teachers Federation. In addition, he was the spiritual director of the very active and excellent missionary association, St Paul's Catholic Missionary Society, which later inherited the nickname of 'The Tickey Society' (a 'tickey' being the South African nickname for the three pence coin) because the members were asked to contribute that amount every time they met and encouraged others to do the same. Fr Joe was also the spiritual director of the Legion of Mary in Durban, and a strong promoter of the Sacred Heart Society which became quite an influential spiritual agent among the African Catholic women. Undoubtedly one of the most influential works of social upliftment of the African people at the time was the Catholic African Savings Union, a Catholic savings bank, and Kerautret was an outstanding promoter of this apostolate, which taught people (especially those in the rural areas who did not have the facilities of the urban population in regard to savings accounts in the local Banks) to put aside their small earnings in the Savings Bank in order to reap the benefit later. Finally, another form of apostolate in which Fr Kerautret held a leading role, was the CAWU (Catholic Africa Women's Union) – a movement which produced some outstanding women leaders such as Mrs Gumede and Mrs Makhaye. He was also an active promoter of the Sacred Heart Society for both men and women, and the St Anne's Society for women.

When the Cato Manor unrest finally exploded into armed conflict in the 1960s "... Fr Kerautret's home was packed with 300 'refugees' – [local people who were fleeing from the rioters] . At the gate a screaming mob armed with sticks and cans of petrol sought to burn the mission down. Fr Kerautret walked towards them and said, 'No! Burn me first!' The mob eventually dispersed and Fr Kerautret spent the night patrolling his grounds. 'If I had gone away, it would have been the end of the school,' he said. In 1961 a gang of thieves forced their way into the Mission and stole R136. The ageing priest, now 71, was roughly handled by the thieves, who bound and gagged him. He never fully recovered and the same year left for Montebello Mission, where he remained until his death." (An article in the *Daily News*, Tuesday, July 29, 1969).



Yes, Joe finally decided to hand over to the younger and more energetic generation. He retired to Montebello and took on the chaplaincy of the Dominican Sisters. On the 28 July 1969 Joseph Kerautret finally breathed his last, and handed himself over to his Creator and Saviour whom he had loved and served with every fibre of his being for many long years. He died peacefully at the age of 79. He requested to be buried there in the cemetery of the Dominican Convent at Montebello.

KHUMALO, Bishop Dominic J. Chwane



Dominic Khumalo was born on 15 February 1918 at Maphumulo. He grew up under the spiritual influence of his parish priest, Fr Jules L'Hôte OMI whose inspiration eventually led Dominic to the Oblate priesthood. In 1934 he was sent to Roma, Basutoland (Lesotho), to complete his schooling at the Minor Seminary. There Dominic and Jerome Mavundla learned to play the trumpet in the Seminary band. Both of them were very musical. Jerome learned to play several instruments, and both had good singing voices. They also excelled in sporting activities. After matriculating, he and Jerome, in 1940, began their novitiate year at Inchanga, overlooking the Valley of a Thousand Hills. They made their first vows there on 17 February 1941. After this they returned to Basutoland to begin their priestly studies. Both of them made their final profession on 17 February 1944, and were ordained together to the priesthood by Bishop Henry Delalle OMI in Emmanuel Cathedral on 2 July 1946, the first African Oblates to be ordained in KwaZulu Natal, 94 years after the arrival of the Oblates in South Africa! This was to be the last ordination by Bishop Delalle who

died shortly afterwards. After ordination Dominic and Jerome were sent to do a teacher's training course at St Francis College at Mariannhill, after which both were assigned to Inchanga Primary and High Schools. Jerome became the principal of the High School, and Dominic of the Primary School. At the same time, for 12 years, Dominic took charge of the boarding establishment, as a result of which many future Oblates passed through his hands, including Archbishop Buti Thlagale OMI of Johannesburg. Over and above their teaching and principal duties, both these priests did apostolic and missionary work over weekends, going by motorcycle or on horseback to the outstations in the Valley, and establishing new mission stations which eventually became important Mass centres.

In December 1961 Dominic left Inchanga, and school life, to begin full time pastoral ministry. Between 1964–70 he and Fr Jerome Mavundla were mainly involved in preaching missions, particularly in the Zulu language, in Natal and beyond.

Later Dominic was appointed to take charge of the Catechist School at Esigodini, in succession to Fr Pierre Freoux and was also parish priest of Esigodini. In 1974 he was the first ever to be appointed Episcopal Vicar in the Archdiocese of Durban, taking charge of the Vulindlela Deanery and, in 1978, he was appointed the first Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese, and was ordained in Kingsmead Stadium, Durban, on 4 May 1978. It was



estimated that the crowd at the ordination numbered over 10,000 people from all over the country, including Cardinal McCann and most, if not all, the bishops in South Africa. Dominic had insisted that he wished to continue living in an Oblate community, and so the 'Bishop's House' was built on to St Mary's presbytery in Pietermaritzburg, and Dominic took up residence there, and this became the centre of his episcopal ministry from then on.

Dominic Khumalo became a dearly loved, respected and revered bishop and pastor. His outstanding qualities were humility and charity towards everyone he met, irrespective of rank or colour. Dominic devoted himself to the service of the people of God wherever and whoever they might be. He was adamant in his efforts to promote the changes in the Church's life brought about by Vatican II. Unfortunately Dominic's health began to deteriorate and eventually he retired to Sabon House in Durban. Later, when he needed personal care, he was moved to Nazareth House, where the good sisters and their helpers gave him loving attention. He died peacefully on the 27 April 2006. The Requiem Mass took place under a huge tent in the grounds of St Joan of Arc, Pietermaritzburg, in order to accommodate the many hundreds of people who came from every corner of the Archdiocese and beyond. His remains were buried in the cemetery at Cedara where he lies among his Oblate brothers. He was 88 years of age.



KUBONE, Brother Joseph Paul



Joseph Kubone was born at Incalu in the Mariannhill Diocese in 1904. His parents were Alphons Kubone and Nomsombuluko (born Mbanjwa). He was baptised in St Paul's Church, Greyville on the 1 November 1912. His Confirmation certificate, signed by Fr Joseph Kerautret OMI, shows that he was in Durban in 1934. Before entering the novitiate, he had led a wild and stormy youth but must have then experienced an inner conversion which led him to request to be an Oblate Brother.

Joseph entered the Novitiate at Inchanga, Fr Jean (John) Tual being the Novice Master, and he made his first vows in 1937 and his final vows in 1943. According to Fr Ngubane, Joseph was an extraordinarily strong man. At times he did not know his own strength! On one occasion he was trying to tame a horse which kept tugging at the bit in its mouth while Joseph was trying to restrain it; he pulled so hard at the bit that he pulled the horse's tongue out of its mouth! On another occasion he was arguing with a man who was taunting him. Joseph picked the man up and threw him on the ground, and then began throttling him. Fr Tual

arrived on the scene and intervened. Joseph immediately let go of the man and stood back in obedience to his Superior. Fr Ngubane noted: "Brother Joseph was always a very obedient religious!" Joseph also showed courage when one day, while the community was at prayer in the chapel, all were aroused by a loud stamping of the foot. A snake had entered the chapel and had dared to disturb Bro. Joseph at his prayer. He got up and started stamping on the snake until it was lifeless. He then picked it up and threw it out the window, after which he continued his prayer!

His Novice Master described him as having "...a strong and healthy constitution. Cool, matter-of-fact, phlegmatic type. Not easily excited but capable of acting with vigour if aroused. Blunt and to the point in handling those under his charge... A strong sensible character. Not very imaginative. Unbounded good-will. Seems naturally to have a strain of obstinacy in his make-up but docile and submissive under reprimand....Withal has a certain rock bottom good sense." But his spiritual qualities outshone all others. Again the Novice Master's notes continue "...Deep faith, pious, fond of long prayers, thinks and shows remarkable understanding of spiritual truths. Humble, detached, mortified and regular, docile, submissive and open. Too serious to be a good mixer in ordinary company. Prefers to be alone with a book of meditations...Firmly attached to his vocation. His regularity and love of meditating on the religious life have given him an understanding of his



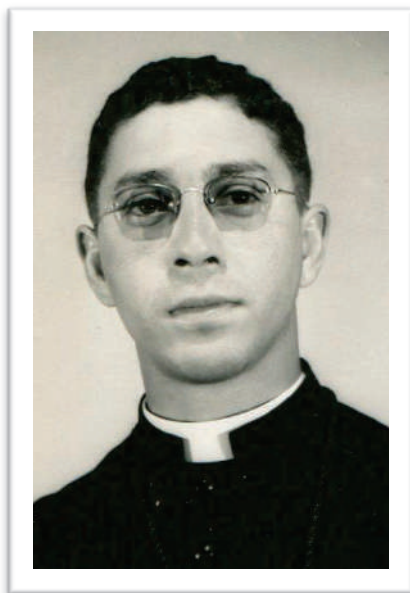
obligations hardly to be expected in one of such limited intellectual attainments. Desires only to fulfil his obligations and to sanctify himself in whatever place and occupation his superiors think fit. An excellent subject.”

While at Inchanga, Brother Joseph occupied his time as a shoemaker. He opened a little shop and people from all around would bring him their shoes and boots to be mended or repaired. But later he decided to run the 'farm' at Inchanga, planting vegetables and other edible crops, such as maize. Joseph became an 'institution' at Inchanga. All the priests of the Vicariate knew him and respected him. He was always polite and showed reverence towards everyone. He was a man of prayer, dedicated to the community exercises. Fr Ngubane summed him up as a 'saint'. “He came to serve the Lord, and he did that very well!” He offered up all his sufferings and difficulties to the Lord.

He died wearing his Oblate habit and cross. It was after supper. He went to the lounge and he died there on the 7 October 1980, aged 78, after 43 years as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate. He was buried in the Inchanga cemetery. Nearly every priest in the Archdiocese was present to pay their last respects to this dear Brother.



LANGLOIS, Charles Edouard



Charles was born on 16 November 1928 of Joseph and Ellen Elizabeth Langlois (born Isaacs), and was baptized in St Patrick's Church in Bellair, Durban on the 16 December by Fr Auguste Chauvin OMI. He attended Umbilo Road High School where he met Albert Danker, and a firm and long friendship developed. Charles persuaded Albert to join him at St Theresa's to enjoy the wonderful liturgical celebrations conducted by Fr Charles Hugo. At 22 years of age he decided to enter the Oblate Congregation. Together with Cyril Carey and Albert Danker, he began his Novitiate year in 1950 at Germiston under Fr Tom Kelly OMI as Novice Master. The three made their first vows on 27 February 1951, after which they began their studies for the priesthood at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cleland, Pietermaritzburg. They made their final vows together on 27 February 1954, and were ordained in Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban on 10 December 1955. Charles' first assignment was as a *locum tenens* at Stanger (KwaDukuza) for a month, and then he was sent to Montebello in February 1957 for 5 months to learn the Zulu language. From there he was appointed as assistant at Machibisa

from August 1957 to January 1958, and then did another stint as a *locum tenens* at St Joan of Arc, Pietermaritzburg for a few months, from August to December. In January 1960 he was assigned to St Michael's, Redhill, as an assistant, from where he also served Newlands. After four years at Redhill he was appointed priest-in-charge as well as Director of the Preparatory Seminary at Ekukhanyeni, Inanda, from February 1964 to January 1971, when he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Archdiocese, and went to live at Archbishop's House. During this time he also served as Judicial Vicar of the Matrimonial Tribunal, as well as Chairman of the Board of Management of St Theresa's and St Philomena's Homes for children and, in addition, took a special interest in St Augustine's School as chaplain. He was also an active member for the Justice and Reconciliation Commission and was vigorous in his defence of the rights of his Community.

Unfortunately Charles' health was starting to deteriorate. He underwent a by-pass operation at St Augustine's hospital from which he never really fully recovered.

Loved and respected by all his confreres in the manner in which he fulfilled his duties as Vicar General and Chancellor, the work load had become too heavy for him, and he had to be relieved of the burden. He was then appointed first parish priest of the new and blossoming parish of the Good Shepherd, Phoenix in August 1984, assisted by Brother Stephen Muthen OMI. Although his love for, and dedication towards, his people were greatly appreciated, he



found that he was weakening and was not able to carry the load much longer. His heart was working at only a quarter strength and finally that heart gave in on the 17 Oct 1998. Charles was then 70 years old.

At the Requiem Mass his life-long friend, Fr Albert Danker, preached the homily, and he summed up Charles' person and life as follows: "Charles was in many ways a very private and reserved person and would not take easily to adulation or praise...He had a heavy cross of illness which he bore with patience and dignity which remarkably was not allowed to interfere with his pioneering work at Phoenix or indeed with his other commitments. A man of few and wise words, meticulous in his attention to detail; of simple and deep faith immensely happy in his priesthood devoted to those committed to his care; a faithful son of his namesake – St Charles Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate... Now that he has been called to the Father, I believe he will remain very much in our memories and still be a part of us. His example, his Christian confidence, his pastoral concern, his friendship. All this has somehow seeped into our blood. Because of him many of us are more priestly, more Christian, more human. We remain in prayerful communion with him and we commend him to the Lord."

As Provincial of the Oblates in Natal several years earlier, Fr Danker wrote of Charles Langlois... "He is a reliable man, faithful to the life of prayer and a credit to his Congregation. He has always performed every task given to him with diligence...He has shown a very special interest and generosity towards the oppressed...He is of sensitive and imaginative nature; strong, methodical, energetic and persevering in good will. He is efficient in an unobtrusive way; he is humble under correction and readily aware of his short comings... He can be determined and persevering."

Charles' remains were interred in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



LANGOUËT, Armand



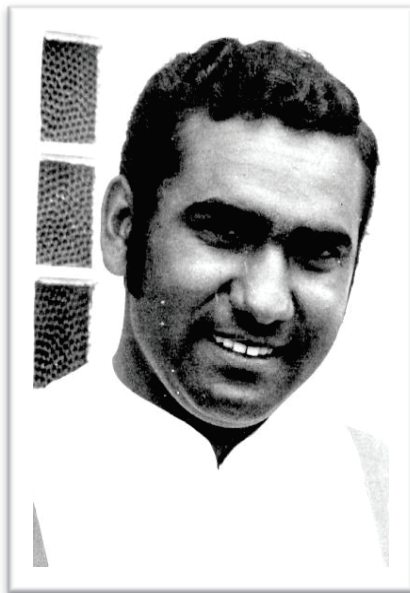
Armand Langouët was born at Rennes, France, in 1868. At 26 years of age he decided to join the Oblate Congregation. He made his first profession in 1895, final vows in 1896, was ordained in 1900 at Liège in Belgium. In 1901 he came to South Africa and was sent to Kimberley where he remained until 1908. The following year he was sent to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, to assist the elderly Fr Barret and, in July 1911, was appointed parish priest in succession to Fr Barret. At the time St Charles' College was going through a difficult period. The Oblates had decided to pull out of the school and make way for the Marist Brothers. The school in fact closed for the year 1913, and reopened the following year under the guidance of the Marist Brothers who enlarged it considerably. As a result the Oblates had to give up their presbytery to serve as quarters for the brothers and the priests had to find alternative accommodation. They moved into two old, shabby cottages along Longmarket (Langalibalele) St. The outbreak of World War I meant that all plans to build a new presbytery had to be laid aside.

Fr Langouët, together with many other French Oblates, was called up for military service in France and was absent for the duration of the War. On his return he took up his duties again at St Mary's. By this time the need for a new priests' residence was imperative, but the financial situation was precarious, and so plans had to once again be laid aside until May 1922 when they were finally submitted to the borough for approval. Langouët immediately set about fund raising, not only for the new priest's house (which still stands today) but also for a new church. By this time the Marist Brothers had moved St Charles' College to its present site in Scottsville and the former school's 'Big Field' was considered the most suitable place for the new church. On the 21 April 1927 the foundation stone was laid and blessed by Bishop Henry Delalle, and on Ascension Day, 24 May 1928, the new St Mary's was officially opened. This must have been Fr Langouët's happiest day. One of the parishioners, the late Mrs Nancy Ogilvie (born St George) recalled Langouët's "wonderfully warm personality and remembered him going about his parochial work on a bicycle." Later Langouët was presented with the parish's first motor car, most probably in the very early 1930's.

On the 27 May 1936 Fr Langouët took suddenly ill and died aged 68. "Bishop Delalle was with him at the end and described him as a 'father and friend to his people.' His sudden death was a great shock to his parishioners. Later, in August 1936, a meeting attended by nearly 200 people decided to erect a memorial plaque in the porch of the church, but it is St Mary's Church itself, which stands as a fitting memorial to this well-loved priest." (J.Duckworth)



LAZARUS, Clement



Clement Anthony Regis was born in Durban on 16 June 1947 of Michael and Christina Lazarus. He attended St Anthony's Catholic school in Durban, and Stanger High School.

He entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston in 1966, making his first vows on the 27 March 1967. That was the year that Professor Christiaan Barnard made world news with the world's first heart transplant operation. Clem did not know that he would one day benefit from that famous operation. After the novitiate year, Clem went to St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara where he pursued his clerical studies and it was there that he made his final vows on the 30 March 1970. He was ordained to the priesthood in Emmanuel Cathedral on the 9 July 1973. His first assignment was to St John's parish in Chatsworth where he served from 1973–74, after which he was appointed parish priest of St Anthony's in Pietermaritzburg, which then included Raisethorpe and Eastwood and he remained there until 1978. He then went to Montebello to study isiZulu from January to June 1979, and then was appointed parish priest of Ntuzuma and

Emachobeni, from August 1979 to 1982. Following this he was made parish priest of Reservoir Hills in Durban, where he remained from June 1982 to November 1997.

In 1986 Clem had reached a dangerous stage in his health. His heart was caving in, and he was only 39 years of age! He had suffered two major heart attacks and the doctors discovered he had leaking heart valves. A specialist told him that his heart was so scarred that he had only three months to live. The only solution was a heart transplant. Clem reluctantly agreed after a lot of prayer and thought. The operation took place on 25 February 1987. It was a success and gave him ten more years of active service in the apostolate. He was back at Reservoir Hills in June. Once again he threw himself into his work, especially that of social justice and care of the poor, particularly among the squatters in the nearby camp of Canaan – refugees from the savage faction fighting sweeping Natal.

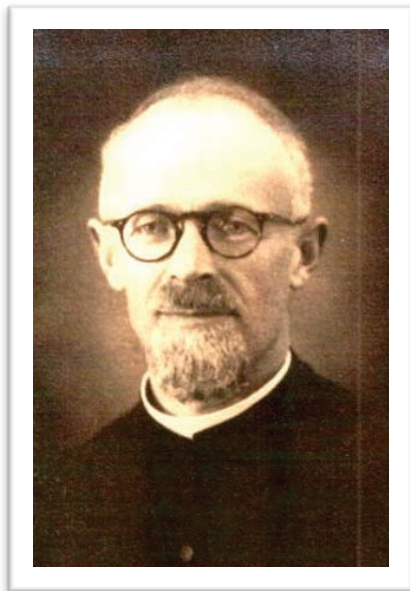
He took up other challenges that came his way and was able to fulfil many other commitments such as Chaplain to the University of Durban Westville since 1984, Chaplain to Justice & Peace Commission in 1988, member of NIC delegation to Lusaka to prepare for negotiations in 1989, which would finally lead to the Nationalist government handing over power to the ANC. He also served as the Catholic Representative on Diakonia Council of Churches, Chairperson of OMI Justice & Peace in KZN since 1995, Oblate Superior of



Inchanga District Community from 1988–1995, and Chairperson of Indian Pastoral Committee. He was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Durban on the 1 December 1995, a duty he performed very well and sympathetically till his untimely death. About this time his heart was beginning to fail once again, and he had to be taken to Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town for a second heart transplant. Unfortunately this new heart lasted a very short time, and whilst there in Cape Town he was called to eternal rest on the 16 November 1997. He was only 50 years of age at the time. After his death, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM wrote, “The news of Fr Clem's passing was for me personally a body blow, for it has meant the loss of a trusted and most supportive co-worker, a most concerned and caring colleague, but above all a dear and loving friend. While the sense of loss is almost overwhelming, nevertheless it is comforting to recall that God, who guided the hands of the heart transplant team, gifted him the bonus of 10 quality years of life and service. May he rest in peace.”



LE BARS, Joseph



Joseph was born in 1905. At 18 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate, made his first profession in 1924 and then went on to pursue his priestly studies. He pronounced his final vows in 1929, and was ordained in 1930. He then received his obedience for Natal, arriving in Durban soon afterwards. Fr Le Bars began his missionary work in Natal at Montebello. There he picked up the Zulu language very quickly and would visit the people in their homes, walking up and down the hills around Montebello. He did not limit himself to the Catholic homes, but also helped the non-Christians by advising them on the best methods of cultivation. Twenty years later the people in that area still remembered him and spoke of him with affection. In 1935 he was assigned to St Joan of Arc in Pietermaritzburg. There again he showed the same zeal and never failing energy that characterised his whole missionary life. In 1939 he was appointed to Esigodini in Edendale where his missionary expertise showed itself even more in the eleven years he spent there. Almost alone at times, he managed to build five or six large schools in the area. Some were on sites that were

impossible to reach by motorcycle. In those cases he would arise early in the morning, walk the distance, work on the buildings, and return in the early evening to the main station. When completed, those schools housed over 1,600 African children. Joe had a very strong sense of justice which at times forced him to speak up emphatically on behalf of the victims of injustice and poverty. He became well-known in the area, especially by officials who acquired a great respect and reverence for him. The school inspectors, all in Government service, became his admirers and close associates. Joe was loved and admired by all his Oblate confreres. His cheerful and ebullient character never waned in enthusiasm.

His death was untimely and sudden. He had been a patient in the Sanatorium, Pietermaritzburg, where he was being treated for suspected pneumonia. When he thought he was well enough, he took it on himself to leave the hospital, though the Augustinian Sisters tried to dissuade him. He rode back to his mission on his motorcycle and, as he was nearing the mission, he collided with a delivery van, was thrown off his bike and struck a huge rock on the side of the road. He died on the scene. It was 9.30 a.m. on 5 September 1950. He was only 45 years of age, at the height of his missionary career. His body was laid out before the altar in St Mary's church, Pietermaritzburg, at about midday on the 6th. From then on till about 11 a.m. on the following day, a constant stream of priests, nuns and laity came to offer their prayers on his behalf. A long vigil of prayer took place, and



his confreres came in their numbers, and from about 1 a.m. on the morning of the 7th, they offered holy Mass every half-hour till 7.30 a.m. The Requiem Mass took place in the presence of a packed church, and was celebrated by the Oblate Provincial, Fr Bernard Boyce. The Vicar General, Fr Francis Hill, in the absence of Bishop Denis Hurley, preached the homily. After the Mass the body was taken in procession to Esigodini, where over 4,000 people had assembled for the Mass and burial. An altar had been erected in the open for the occasion, where another Requiem Mass was offered by Fr Pierre Freoux OMI. Fr John Tual delivered the panegyric. People wept freely. Among the mourners was the Chief Inspector of Schools and four or five of his assistants. Joseph Le Bars was laid to rest in a grave on the property of the mission which he had laboured so hard to establish. The Provincial, Fr Boyce, wept openly as he recited the final prayers at the graveside. Such was the tribute paid to this great and valiant missionary.



LE BRAS, Casimir



Casimir was born in in Brittany, France, on 28 March 1865. He completed his Philosophical and Theological studies at the Seminary in the Diocese of Quimper and was ordained priest in 1889. After his ordination he decided to become an Oblate of Mary Immaculate. He entered the Novitiate in 1889 and made his first vows the following year, and his final profession in 1891. That same year he came to South Africa with the first Augustinian Sisters destined for Estcourt and he accompanied them to Estcourt. The newly arrived Augustinian Sisters could speak very little English. He was still there the following year, because Scholastic Brother James O'Donnell, who had recently arrived from England, was sent to Estcourt to pursue his theological studies under the tutelage of Fr Le Bras.

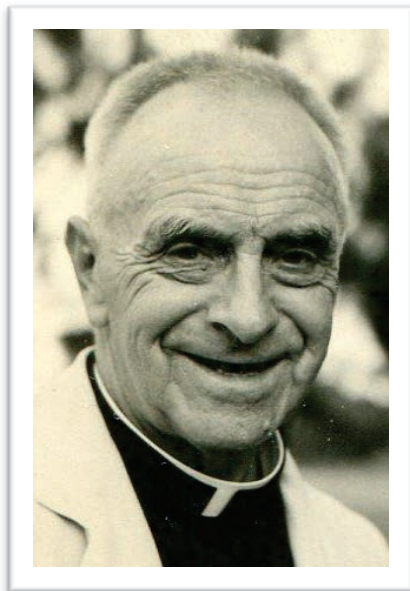
In November 1893 he was sent to Mt Frere in the Transkei, to help the Holy Cross Sisters with the mission they had started the previous year. He made Qumbu his headquarters, but as an itinerant priest he served successfully for many years in that area, especially at Cala where he arrived in October 1896. In January 1894 six Holy Cross Sisters had

opened a school for 'Coloureds' there and during Le Bras' tenure the school was significantly enlarged and by April 1900, according to a letter from him published in *Missions* in that month, they were now admitting Africans, of which there were about 40, to the Coloured school in addition to 24 'European' boarders accommodated separately. The Coloured school was subsidised by the Cape government and Le Bras enjoyed a happy relationship with the local inspector of schools who admired the work of the mission and steadily increased the subsidy. Le Bras travelled extensively throughout the Transkei preaching the Word of God, making converts and establishing Mass centres. Years afterwards people in the various centres where Le Bras had worked, still remembered him and asked about him.

In 1927 he returned to Natal and was stationed at the Sanatorium in Pietermaritzburg. It was there that he died on the 21 February 1948, aged 83. At his burial St Mary's Church was packed to capacity with people, many of whom had come to pay their last respects thinking that the deceased priest was Fr Joseph Le Bars OMI, (see above) who was in charge of Esigodini Parish and was well-known in the Pietermaritzburg area, especially by school inspectors and other officials. Imagine the shock when those officials saw Fr Le Bars himself attending the funeral! So Casimir Le Bras, after a long and very successful and strenuous missionary life, gave himself over to his heavenly Father to receive the reward of his life of dedicated service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



LENER, Maurice



Maurice was born on 13 November 1900 at Hazebrouck, France. As a young man he attended the Diocesan Seminary at Angers and was ordained priest on 22 December 1923. He taught at St Joseph's College, Lille, and at the Major Seminary at Lille, and then decided to become an Oblate of Mary Immaculate. He entered the Novitiate at Berder and made his first profession on 24 October 1930 after which he taught for a few years at the Oblate Juniorate at Pontmain until he made his final vows in 1933. He then received his obedience for Natal. Like most, if not all the French priests who came to work in the missions here, Lener had first to learn English and isiZulu. He ministered in the Newcastle area for just over a year from December 1933 to February 1935. He was then posted to Estcourt as pastor for a year, and then to St Michael's, Redhill from 1936 to 1939. At the outbreak of World War II, Fr Lener, and several other French priests serving in Natal, were recalled by the French Government to serve in the French armed forces. He was parish priest of St Michael's, Redhill, at the time. His call-up was published with a photo of him in the local press. When France

capitulated to the German forces, Fr Lener managed to escape captivity, and joined the Free French Forces. He served as a chaplain to the Free French and American Navies and travelled from west to east on troopships. He was decorated several times for his bravery and service, receiving the Legion of Honour from the French Government (*Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre* with palm); Colonial Medal: Far East with Bar, and the Colonial Medal with Atlantic and Mediterranean bars. All told he served in France, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Vietnam and the Pacific.

At the end of the war he suffered a severe heart attack. After recuperating, he returned to the mission field in Natal, arriving on the 30 July 1946, and was duly installed as Superior of St Joseph's Scholasticate at Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg, the next day. He never completely recovered his health, but this did not stop him from being very active. In August 1947 he was involved in the move of the Scholasticate from Prestbury to Cleland. In those days the recurring theme in the spiritual talks that he gave to the scholastics almost on a daily basis, was the doctrine of the Mystical Body. His handbook was *The Mystical Body* by Mersch.

But his spiritual lectures were very often interspersed with stories of the War in which he had been involved. Lener brought a mature form of leadership to the Scholasticate, not only because he had served in the armed forces during the War, but also because he had had several years of missionary apostolate among the Zulus before his call-up for military



service. Among the scholastics at Cleland were also five or six men who had been in active service in the desert and in Italy. David Adam and Bro. Robert St George had both been prisoners-of-war in Italy and managed to escape and find their way back to the Allied forces. Lener was a missionary at heart. He began a public Mass in the Scholasticate chapel on Sundays and, when the Zulu members of the congregation began to increase, he celebrated a special Mass for them, and began catechism classes for the local children. He taught the scholastics a smattering of the Zulu language so that they would be able to teach catechism to the African children. (In those days catechism was taught by rote i.e. by question and answer.) The Oblates who had passed through his hands at Prestbury and Cleland remember him as a wise, broadminded and understanding Superior. In 1949 he was appointed Provincial Superior of the Oblates in Natal, and Fr Joseph Fitzgerald (later Archbishop of Bloemfontein and Johannesburg) took over as Superior. In the meantime, a new site for the Scholasticate was acquired at Cedara and building began late in 1951. In May 1952 the building was blessed by the Superior General, V. Rev. Fr Leo Deschâtelets OMI, assisted by Fr Lener, Provincial. This ceremony was also the closure of the successful South African Marian Congress which took place in Durban to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of Bishop Allard and the Oblate missionaries to South Africa.

After his term as Provincial, Maurice was sent to Ladysmith as pastor for three years, and then as an assistant at the Cathedral for four years. He spent five years as pastor at Genezzano and Tongaat after which he was assigned to St Peter's, Durban, as Assistant and Port Chaplain. In 1969 he went to Oakford Priory where he spent 23 years as chaplain to the Dominican Sisters. Oakford became home to him, and he requested that at his death he be buried there in the Sisters' cemetery. Maurice tried to keep himself as active as possible, even to having a daily swim in the Convent pool. Towards the end of his life he found it very difficult to walk, but he insisted on celebrating daily Mass in his wheel chair for the retired Sisters. Finally, Maurice peacefully gave himself over to his Lord on the 1 July 1992, at the ripe old age of 92, and was buried in the Oakford cemetery. Those who knew Maurice, remember him as a happy person who enjoyed life immensely. He had a great devotion to Mary and to St Joseph. He was a compassionate confessor, and had a tremendous love for the poor. The Oblate Provincial concluded his review of Maurice's life with these words: "Au revoir, Maurice. Well done good and faithful servant. May you now experience the fullness of joy in God's Kingdom."



LE LOUËT, Corentin



Corentin was born in Quimper (Finistère) in Brittany, France, on 21 October 1870, of Jean-Pierre Le Louët and Marie-Jeanne (born Lebault). After completing his schooling at the apostolic school of Poitiers, he entered the Oblate Novitiate of Saint-Gerlach (Houthem) in Holland on 14 May 1888. He made his first profession as a religious on 15 May 1889 and made his final vows at St Francis Scholasticate in Bleyerheide, Holland, on the 17 May 1891. From there he went on to begin his priestly studies at Liège for the next three years (1891–1893) and then continued his studies at St Joseph Scholasticate in Ottawa, Canada where he was ordained to the priesthood on 8 June 1895 by Bishop Thomas Duhamel, Archbishop of Ottawa. After his ordination, Le Louët remained in Ottawa at the Sacred Heart Juniorate from 1894–1895, then went to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) where he was a lecturer at St Joseph's College in Colombo from 1895–1902. That year (1902) he was sent to Natal, where he ministered in Pietermaritzburg from 1903 to 1905 and then spent a year in Port Shepstone (1905–1906). From there he went to Greyville, Durban from 1906–1911, and then served

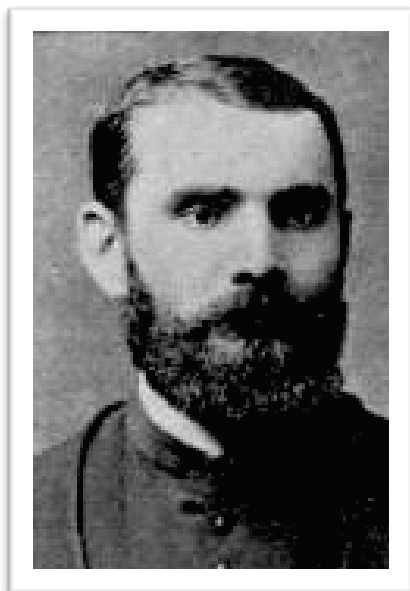
at the Cathedral from 1911–1914. During the 1914–1918 War, he served in the 3rd Canadian brigade and with the 19th Cavalry brigade attached to the New Zealand division. He received the British Military Medal and was cited by order of the general on the 15 October 1917.

After the war he returned to his mission in South Africa and worked in Ladysmith from 1919–1920, and in Cala, Transkei from 1920–1922. That year (1922) he was sent to Ladysmith to replace Fr Saby, whose health was deteriorating. Although Le Louët only began to learn isiZulu at the age of 52, he was untiring in his missionary zeal, as a result of which the mission work among the African population progressed rapidly, and by 1928 there were five active mission stations in the vicinity.

He died on 20 Aug 1935 at Durban, aged 65, leaving behind him an example of a dedicated and hard-working, self-sacrificing missionary priest and Oblate.



LE TEXIER, Jean (John) Louis



John was born on 25 August 1872 at Moréac in the diocese of Vannes in Brittany, France. He did his schooling at the Minor Seminary of St Anne d'Auray. In 1890, at the age of 18, he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Saint-Gerlach. Two years later on the 1 November 1892 he made his final profession as an Oblate at the Scholasticate in Liège. Unfortunately, like other Oblates who had chest problems, John had to leave Liège to go to an area with a drier climate. He spent a few years at the Juniorate of N.D. des Lumières, helping out where he could, and giving a good example of patience and cheerful conduct in his suffering. In 1896 his health had improved sufficiently to allow him to be ordained to the priesthood, after which he had his desire fulfilled to go to the foreign missions. He came to Natal shortly afterwards in the company of Henry Delalle (the future Vicar Apostolic) and three other missionaries.

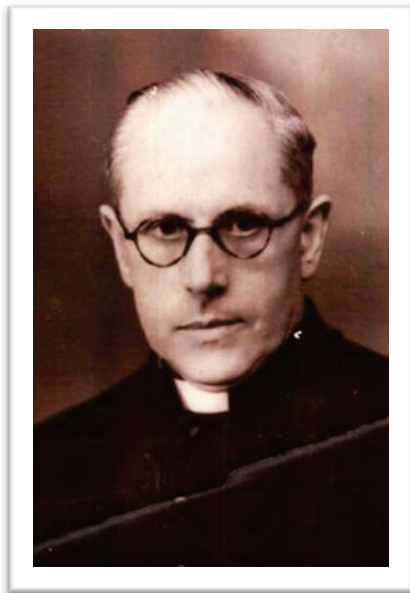
In 1897 he was sent to Umzinto to visit the district with a view to establishing a permanent mission there, and to prepare a house in anticipation of the arrival of the Ker-Maria Sisters. Then in 1900 he

served as military chaplain at Mooi River until 1901 when he was posted to Durban and served as first assistant to Fr Murray who had been appointed Superior of the Durban district. In 1904 he was appointed the first parish priest of the new parish of St Joseph's, Greyville, after it had been transferred from West Street. "By 1905 Le Texier had 800 Catholics in his area, 'English and Mauritians and mostly poor'. The official opening of St Joseph's, Greyville, took place after the bishop's [Jolivet's] death on December 18, 1904." (JBII) In 1907 Le Texier was sent to look after the Dundee area, where he worked very hard to establish the Catholic faith among the Africans, laying a good foundation for his successor, Fr Lucien Delagnes, who made a great impact in Dundee and the surrounding areas.

Le Texier died in Dundee on the 28 December 1917 aged 45. In spite of his poor health, John gave of himself with tremendous and tireless zeal, especially in the service of the poor. Wherever he ministered, he left a deep impression on the faithful. On Christmas Day 1917, Bishop Delalle wrote: "... Fr Le Texier tried to do too much: he worked himself to the bone. He was one of my most zealous missionaries, always ready to do his duty, and not caring enough for his energetic temperament. His is a great loss for the Vicariate and the Congregation." He gave 21 years of his life to the missions of Natal.



LE VOGUER, René



René was born on 23 January 1895 at St Helier, Diocese of Portsmouth, Jersey, Channel Islands, and was baptised in the Parish of St Thomas in St Helier, on 10 February 1895 by Fr Victor Fick OMI. He was confirmed in the same parish on 15 July 1906 at the age of 11. After doing his primary and secondary schooling at Warengham in Flanders, Belgium, he entered the Oblate Congregation and did his novitiate year at Thy-le-Chateau and made his first vows in April 1920, after which he went to Liège in Belgium to pursue his priestly studies. He made his final profession there on 12 March 1923, and was ordained to the priesthood on 8 April 1923. He received his first obedience for Natal, arriving on 19 October 1923 and was assigned to Emmanuel Cathedral from October 1923 to November 1924. From there he did short stints in Pietermaritzburg, Howick, and Taylors from March 1925 to January 1926. He was then sent to Newcastle for four years (March 1926 to March 1930), followed by Greytown (March 1930 to 1935), St Paul's, Greyville (December 1935 to 1944), Bellair (April 1945 to 1949), and then nine years at Inchanga (1950 to 1959). During that time he was

also Novice Master.

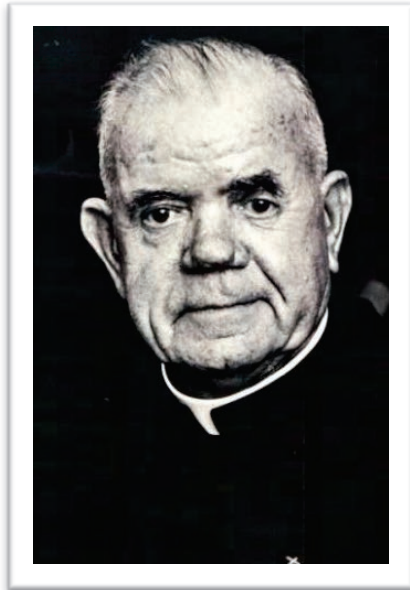
In thinking of René Le Voguer, the word that immediately comes to mind is 'gentleman'. His behaviour and bearing were always impeccable. While he was at Inchanga he was superior of the community which included at least four or five priests who were involved in the primary and high schools, and who attended to their missionary apostolate in the Valley of a Thousand Hills on week-ends; four missionary Brothers, with Brother Joseph Kubone at the head; and occasionally novices who were undergoing a novitiate year. René himself took care of Inchanga parish. So he had a busy and somewhat stressful life at times. But that did not lessen his personal attention to the members of his community and their individual needs. In the Province, he was looked up to with respect and affection by his brother Oblates. On one or two occasions he had to serve as Vice-Provincial while the Provincial was overseas. Eventually all this affected his health and his heart began to weaken. He had suffered from a heart complaint several years previously. His last posting was at Genezzano on the north coast of Natal, a stone's throw from the Indian Ocean. From there he served the parish in the town of Tongaat. Then on the 16 December 1962, he suffered a fatal heart attack. Fr Raymond Coates, the Oblate Provincial of Natal at the time, wrote the following words to René's sister: "...No doubt the heart complaint from which he suffered so seriously some years ago, eventually brought about his sudden death... Yesterday he carried



out his usual priestly duties at his mission, saying two Masses. He returned to Genazzano before lunch, and as it was a rather hot day, he took a quick dip in the sea. He had lunch and did a little desk work, clearing up after the usual Sunday morning work. He then had a rather severe attack and from what we can gather, it was a recurrence of the angina illness he had some years ago. He walked from the presbytery to the nearby guesthouse where a fellow Oblate was staying. He told this priest that he felt very ill and asked him to hear his confession. At the same time the sisters sent for a nearby doctor.” Rene had also brought the Holy Oils with him, and he sat in a chair on the veranda and asked the priest to anoint him. The priest had never anointed anyone before, so Rene replied: “I will tell you as we go along.” He was anointed, and then passed away peacefully. The Provincial concluded his letter by writing: “While we all mourn our sad loss at this moment, we realize that we have all been blessed in having known and worked with a great priest and missionary. Father Rene was a most devoted and zealous man, never counting the cost and always so ready to give himself to the work among his dear African people. Over the years, he was a wonderful example to us all, and he was in truth a true son of Bishop de Mazenod... Despite his age and his infirmities, he was always so cheerful and ever ready to serve... He had set himself a very high ideal of what a priest and Oblate should be, and he never failed to live up to these.” Indeed, a wonderful tribute to a great priest and missionary. Rene was 67 years old at the time of his death. He was buried among his Oblate confreres in the cemetery at Cedara.



L'HENORET, Joseph



Joseph Vincent Marie was born on 21 October 1908 at Treffiat, in the diocese of Quimper, Brittany, France. He did his preliminary education at the Oblate Juniorate in Jersey, and from there he entered the Novitiate at Coigny Berder in 1928. He made his first vows on 15 August 1929, and then began his studies for the priesthood at N.D. de Sion, La Brosse-Montceaux. He made his final profession at N.D. de Lumières on 29 September 1933. He was ordained to the priesthood on 9 July 1935 at La Brosse-Montceaux. His first obedience was for Natal, and he arrived in Durban on the 4 November 1936. He was appointed to the Cathedral where he remained as an assistant for ten years. He soon became a champion of the 'Coloured' community, and together with Fr Charles Hugo at Mayville fought untiringly for the rights of the community. He was the first to introduce 'Coloured' young lads as altar servers. He formed the John Bosco Youth Group of which young Albert Danker was an active member, and who remembered clearly at that time using the 'See, Judge, Act' method of Cardinal Cardijn in this youth group. Joe's next move was to be pastor of the

nearby St Anthony's parish (1946–1959). There he built the parish hall and endeared himself to the Indian Community. One parishioner said, "He has identified himself whole-heartedly with us so that one can say that in outlook he is an Indian himself." So much so that he refused to exercise his vote in the local elections because his parishioners were denied this privilege. In 1960 he was appointed pastor of the newly established Blessed Sacrament parish in Virginia/Glenashley in Durban North. He resided at Redhill, until a presbytery had been built at Virginia. Joe was responsible for the building of the parish church and house there. During that time Joe built up a vibrant parish. After eleven years there, he was moved to St Peter's parish, Point, in 1971 where he was host to many seafarers who also enjoyed the hospitality of the Apostleship of the Sea based at St Peter's. The French Government honoured Joe with the knighthood of the National Order of Merit for his devoted service to the people of South Africa.

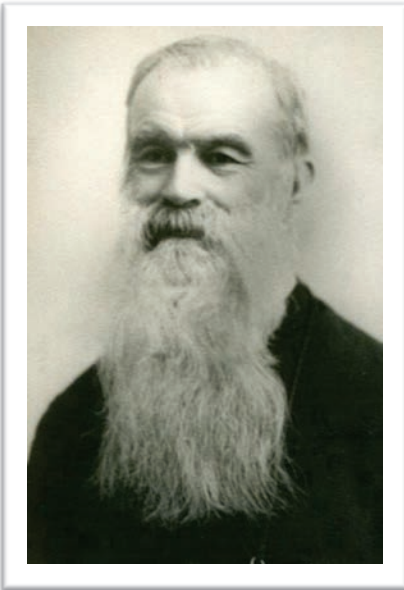
After thirteen years at the Point, Joe retired to the Oblate Community at Glenmore in 1984. His health had begun to deteriorate. In 1988, because of his need for medical attention, Joe was sent to Nazareth House where he spent the remaining years of his life until his death on 20 June 1992, due to multiple organ failure. He was then 84 years of age. At the time of Joe's death, the Archbishop was ordaining a young Oblate priest at Machibisa in Pietermaritzburg.



Fr Joe L'Henoret was another of the great number of valiant French missionaries who left home and country to come and preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ in this corner of Africa, and who accomplished their task with distinction and self-sacrifice. The Church in KwaZulu-Natal owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to these dedicated French missionaries, most of whom remained at their posts till their death.



L'HÖTE, Jules



Jules was born at Bazegney (Vosges) in Lorraine, France, on 16 September 1878. In 1899 at 21 years of age he decided to enter the Oblate Novitiate, and made his first vows in 1900, followed by his final profession the following year. He did his priestly studies at the Oblate Scholasticate of Liège, Belgium. Four years later, on 3 August 1905, he was ordained priest at the age of 27. He received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban in May 1906. During his first few months he was stationed at Durban where he worked for a while with Fr Justin Barret – one of the first Oblates to work among the Zulus. Thus L'Hôte formed a link with the pioneers in Natal, and he himself became a sort of pioneer. He was sent to Montebello where he worked for over 23 years. But L'Hôte's great achievement was the founding and development of the Mission at Maphumulo in the remote Umvoti Valley in 1909. Here he laboured until his retirement in 1956. When he began this mission station there was nothing there besides the people who inhabited the Valley. There were no roads, only some foot paths. To get anywhere one either had to walk or ride on horseback. In order

to build a church and presbytery, the materials had to be brought from Durban as far as the gravel roads allowed. Then the people from Maphumulo would arrive on foot, and carry the bags of cement, bricks, wood and iron, on their heads up and down the hills of the Valley to the mission. Jules himself accompanied them, mainly on horseback. The church was completed in 1915 and was enlarged many years later in 1930. In 1931 a fairly large presbytery was built. During his years at Maphumulo, Jules also built a flourishing primary school and boarding establishment and opened up several outstations in the Valley after obtaining land from the government. He established two churches at outstations, two schools and five chapel-schools. (*Proclaiming the Good News: Archdiocese of Durban.*)

Jules was well-known for his long, flowing white beard. He had celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination on 3 August 1955 while still at the mission. In 1956, at the age of 78, Jules retired from active ministry, worn out after such a long and hard life. He went to Montebello to rest, and a few weeks later he died peacefully at the Mission Hospital on 13 March 1956. His funeral took place at Maphumulo and he was buried on the 15th in a grave adjoining the church building. The Oblate Newsletter had this to say: ... "Apart from the Mission he founded, the name that the Zulu people gave this missionary will always be a tribute to the love and zeal he had for his people, and the great love and respect they had for him – 'Umuntu Wakithi' (One-of-us)."



LINDEMANN, William



William (better known as 'Bill') was born on 3 December 1920 in Johannesburg, the second son of Mr and Mrs W. Lindemann. He was baptized in the Anglican Church. The family moved to Durban and Bill matriculated at Durban High School. Bill joined the South African Army at the outbreak of World War II and served in North Africa and Italy. Later Fr Gerard O'Hara wrote of him: "Towards the end of the war he sustained an injury in which his knee was permanently damaged, so ever after he walked with a limp. One of his stories about those desert days concerned the reward he appreciated greatly when he donated blood to the Transfusion Service. Today this service provides tea or fruit juice for its donors. But in the desert, as Bill put it, it was 'a pint of beer for a pint of blood!'"

After the war he worked as a clerk for a couple of years in a law firm. In 1950 he entered an Anglican Religious Society and became a student for the Anglican ministry in South Africa, and then went to teach Latin in an Anglican Seminary in England. He was eventually called to the ministry by his Rector but, because of some doubts, he declined. He

was asked by the Anglican Bishop of Damaraland (now Ovamboland) in neighbouring South West Africa (Namibia) to help in a mission school. He accepted this invitation and eventually ran the school himself. He returned to South Africa during the latter part of the 1950s and went to university where he gained BA and LLB degrees. He was invited by the Department of Law at the University of Natal to lecture in the Faculty but decided instead to go to work for a legal firm and he also did a stint as a teacher in a high school in Durban. About this time he began to take an interest in Catholicism and had the very good fortune to meet Fr John Gannon who "... took a personal interest in him, instructed him, and still has a very deep affection for him." Apparently Bill's family were opposed to his becoming a Catholic "... but Bill went on his matter-of-fact way and joined us with no frill or bother," wrote Fr O'Hara. Bill entered the Novitiate in 1961 at the age of 41, made his first vows the following year and went to Cedara to begin his clerical studies. While there he made his final vows on 17 February 1964 and, because of his advanced age, he was ordained on the

3 December 1967 before the others in his group. He was then 47 years of age. His first assignment was as an assistant at Emmanuel Cathedral for a year (1968–69), then on to St Louis, Clairwood, as priest-in-charge (1969–71), after which he was sent to the parish of the Blessed Sacrament at Virginia/Glenashley as *locum tenens* for five months, and finally to St Joseph's, Greyville in September 1971 as an assistant. In 1980 he retired to Nazareth



House. He was diagnosed with premature senility after having been an Oblate for 20 years and serving 15 short years as a priest. He lapsed into what seemed a prolonged coma before his death.

He finally handed himself over to his heavenly Lord on the 13 December 1982 at the age of 62.

Bill had a perpetual smile on his lips. He was never known to show anger. He was kind and willing to do any task given him. Some would say that Bill was laid-back, because he was never in a hurry, and did things at his own pace. Fr O'Hara again wrote of him as "... the nearest thing to an Immaculate Oblate of Mary I have ever known!"



LYCETT, Lionel



Lionel was born of Francis and Kate (born Hepburn) on the 6 August 1910 in Woodstock, Cape Town. At 8 years of age (1918) he was taken to Nazareth House in Kimberley where he grew up. In 1927 he became an electrical apprentice. He attended the seminary in Aliwal North, and then decided to become an Oblate and was sent to Ireland to do his Novitiate at Cahermoyle, where he took the habit on the 7 September 1932. He was then 22 years of age. He made his first vows the following year and then began his studies for the priesthood at Daingean where he made his final vows on the 8 September 1936. He was ordained to the priesthood at Carlow on the 13 March 1937. When he returned to South Africa his first appointment was to Taung where he served for two years (1937–38). He then served in the Bishop's Office in Kimberley (1938–39), after which he was appointed to St Mary's Cathedral in Kimberley from 1940–41. From 1941–45 he served as an army chaplain during World War II. The next two years saw him working in St Francis Xavier parish and school in Kimberley, and then from 1947–51 he was back at St Mary's Cathedral. From here he was

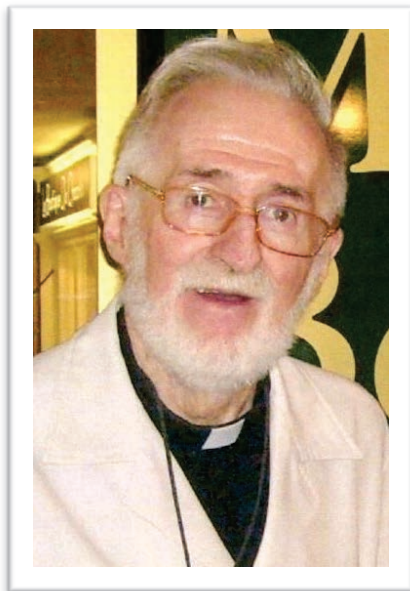
transferred to the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bloemfontein for the next seven years (1951–58). He then took charge of St Joseph's parish in Bloemfontein from 1958–67, after which he again took charge of the Cathedral parish from 1967–75. During this time he also served as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Bloemfontein for 9 years.

Lionel was an able administrator and parish priest, dedicated to his pastoral work. He enjoyed working with groups such as the Legion of Mary, Knights of Da Gama, St Vincent de Paul Society and the Catholic Women's League. He was a good preacher and orator. However, he had a difficult temperament which made him uncomfortable to live with in a community. After so many years in Bloemfontein and Kimberley, especially in authoritative roles, he requested a change of scene and received permission to come to Natal where he became very much involved in and dedicated to the Charismatic Renewal. For the remaining years of his life he served in Natal, mainly in the Durban area, where he finally died on the 29 December 1985, aged 75 years.

After a Requiem Mass in Durban, his body was taken to Bloemfontein where the funeral Mass and burial took place.



MACKENZIE, Duncan



Duncan was born at Sydney on Vaal, North of Kimberley, on 7 August 1928. After completing his education at the Christian Brothers' College in Kimberley, he went to University to study Accountancy. However he did not complete the course and entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston in 1956 and made his first vows on 17 February 1957. He then went to St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara to begin his studies for the priesthood and made his final profession there on 17 February 1960. He was ordained to the priesthood at Emmanuel Cathedral on 8 December 1959, together with Paul Nadal, diocesan priest. From then on Duncan had a long list of assignments. The first was to Maphumulo for two years (1960–62) where he learned the Zulu language and developed an indestructible love for the Zulu people. His next move was to Inchanga for one year (1962–63), then Ekukhanyeni (Inanda) for three years (1963–66). From there he was sent to Chesterville/Cato Manor, during which time he was also chaplain to the central Prison, and to three hospitals, viz. King George V, McCord and King Edward VIII (1966–70). For the next two years he continued

his chaplaincies to the three hospitals on a full-time basis (1970–72), after which he went to Port Shepstone for three years, where he was also chaplain to the Prison and local Hospital (1972–75). From 1975–77 he was back at Chesterville, helping out at Queensburgh, St Philomena's Orphanage, and Assumption parish. In 1977 he was appointed to Bergville where he remained till 1979, then returned to the Assumption parish as assistant and chaplain at King Edward VIII and McCord Hospitals (1979–84). From there he went to Montebello for two years (1984–86), and then back again as chaplain at King Edward VIII and McCord hospitals for a year (1987–88). The following year he was appointed chaplain to the Natal University as well as King Edward VIII hospital (1989–92) and then in 1992 he was assigned to Ntuzuma parish for two years (1992–94), and then to Inchanga for a year (1994–95) after which, in 1995, he was back as chaplain at Natal University and King Edward VIII Hospital till 1996.

In 1998 he was appointed Superior of Sabon House and chaplain at Edgewood College, Mangosuthu Technicon and University Durban-Westville campus. The following year he was assigned to Ntshongweni for the next two years, then on to St Vincent's parish in Pietermaritzburg in 2001. In 2002 he retired to Sabon House.

Duncan had developed a great interest in tracing the origins of families, in particular those of



'Coloured' descent. Practically everyone who came to visit Sabon House was 'intercepted' and interviewed by Duncan as to their origins. As a result he had boxes and boxes filled with the family trees of hundreds of families, a work which he was told would be very valuable to generations to come. If he met a person of mixed heritage, Duncan would immediately tell him/her of their origin and ancestry! Finally, in October 2011, Duncan suffered a stroke. He was rushed to hospital, and then to Nazareth House where he peacefully passed away on the 21 October 2011, aged 83. His brothers at Sabon House had this to say about him: "... Duncan was an inspiration to all of us as a man of prayer. He was always present at the spiritual exercises of the house. Very often he was already at prayer in the chapel before the others arrived. When strolling outside he would be reciting the rosary, which was his constant companion. He had a great love for and devotion to Mary, our Mother, and a great reverence for our Lord in the Eucharist...Duncan was an apostolic man and missionary. In his younger days, time meant nothing to him, sometimes to the frustration of his confreres or parishioners. If he was on the way to an outstation for Mass and met someone on the road, he would stop and have a long conversation, and if that person was not a Catholic, Duncan would think nothing of trying to catechize that person, while parishioners were patiently (or impatiently) waiting for him to arrive for Mass! No one who had a conversation with Duncan would leave without receiving a blessing from him. Duncan had a soft spot for beggars and people in need. No one was turned away without some form of help. His Christlike attitude towards his fellow human beings was admirable."



MACKINNON, Angus



Angus was born in Durban on the 17 December 1911 of a Scottish father and Irish mother. As a youngster he did his schooling at Durban High School, and then decided to enter the Oblate Congregation. He was sent to Ireland for his novitiate at Cahermoyle in 1930, where he pronounced his first vows on the 9 September 1931. He then began his priestly studies at Belmont House in Dublin (1931–33), and from there at St Mary's, Jersey, Channel Isles, for a year (1933–34), followed by St Conleth's, Daingean, Ireland for the next two years (1934–36). Whilst there he made his final vows on 29 October 1934, and was ordained priest on 31 May 1936. After his ordination he went to spend a year at the *Seminaire des Missions* at La Brosse, France (1936–37) where he learned to speak French. He returned to South Africa on 5 August 1937. His first assignments were to St Patrick's, Bellair in 1937 and then St Joseph's Greyville from 1937 to 1940. At the outbreak of World War II he volunteered to serve as military chaplain to the South Africa Forces and saw active service in East Africa, North Africa in the desert campaign, and finally in Italy (1940–1945).

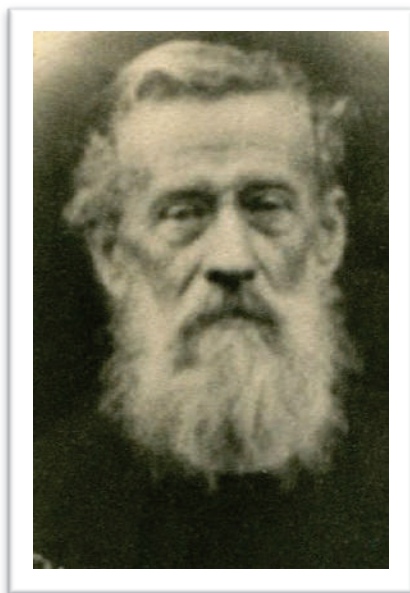
On his return to Natal, he took up his pastoral duties again: St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, (1946–56), St Joseph's, Greyville (1956–64), St Peter's, Point (1964–69) where he was also Director of the Apostleship of the Sea and Port Chaplain. He had to attend International Conferences of the AOS in Lisbon (1967), Rome (1972), Hongkong (1977) and Rome again in 1982. Angus also served for many years as Chaplain to the Knights of Da Gama, especially St Mary's Council No.9, Pietermaritzburg, which he had been instrumental in forming, and St Gabriel's Council No.22, Durban. He also served as Regional Chaplain for a time, and for his services rendered to the Order, he was awarded Merit of the Order in 1986.

Angus was a great raconteur. He spoke with such conviction that those who did not know him well, believed everything he said! He was also a good mimic. In February 1994 he retired to Nazareth House, where his health gradually deteriorated until he passed away peacefully on the 14 June 2000.

Angus had requested that his remains be buried at Stellawood cemetery in Durban in the grave of his father and mother.



MAINGOT, Raoul



Raoul was born in 1863. At the age of 21 he entered the Oblate Novitiate and made his first vows in 1885 and final vows the following year. As a scholastic he was sent to Jaffna in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1887, and in 1889 was ordained priest by Bishop Melian, Bishop of Jaffna, after which he began his ministry. While there he learned to speak Tamil fluently. Although apparently rather frail in health, he had remarkable energy and zeal which he applied untiringly to his missionary apostolate and was responsible for the building of many churches, and "...in Vavoniya he converted a whole village which now forms a flourishing Catholic community" (*The Catholic Guardian*, 7 March 1931). He worked for about fifteen years in the diocese of Jaffna and then decided to join the Trappists, and was given permission to do so from the Oblate General Administration. He went to Algeria, but after a few months realized that his frail health would not be able to stand up to the rigorous demands of Trappist life and he was readmitted into the Oblate Congregation.

Meanwhile, when the Indian indentured labourers had arrived in Durban from 1860, Fr Sabon had received them with open arms. Sabon, who had experienced great difficulty in learning English, quickly learned to speak Tamil and took care of the Indian Catholics. A school was opened for their children while the Indian community in and around Durban continued to worship at St Joseph's church in West St until St Anthony's church was opened in 1892 in Victoria St. Fr Gourlay who had succeeded Sabon, gave himself fully to the care and upliftment of the Indian population. In 1904 Bishop Delalle, while on a visit to France, met Fr Raoul Maingot and successfully persuaded him to come to Natal to take care of the Indian Catholic community after which the work took on a new life. Maingot opened an orphanage for Indian boys. In addition he managed to raise funds to buy 500 acres of land at Shallcross on which he opened an industrial school to teach trades to Indian boys, as well as an agricultural school to train young farmers. Maingot also encouraged the first Indian vocations to the priesthood, Claude Lawrence and Leo Gabriel. Furthermore, Maingot raised money for the purchase of a large



piece of land opposite Greyville Race Course in Centenary Road for a new church and a convent school. He died before the church was built and it was Fr Noel de Gersigny who sold the old buildings in Victoria Street and built the present church.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Maingot was called up to serve in the French Forces. He was then 51 years of age. "On three occasions he was mentioned in dispatches, and at the

close of hostilities was decorated with the *Croix de Guerre* with two clasps and with the *Medaille des Epidemie*.” (Article in a newspaper, presumably the *Southern Cross*). The same article continues, “... the news of the death of Fr Maingot, which occurred with tragic suddenness on the 28th December was received on all sides with deep regret. On Sunday he said Mass and preached as usual at St Anthony's Church where he has worked for the Catholic Indian community for the past 26 years. Subsequently, at breakfast he complained of illness, and was removed to the Sanatorium, where he died a few hours later.”

Maingot died at Durban on 28 December 1930, aged 67. His remains were buried in the West Street cemetery adjoining Emmanuel Cathedral.



MANUEL, Brother Ferdinand



Ferdinand Manuel was born at La Fare, near St Bonnet in the Hautes Alpes, in the diocese of Gap, on 12 July 1831. He joined the Oblates in October 1853, and made his final oblation on 1 November 1854 at N.D. de l'Osier, receiving the Oblation number of 377, which indicates that he was one of the very early Oblates. He was described as pious, regular and completely devoted to the Congregation. His intellectual capacity was not sufficient for him to complete his studies for the priesthood and he became a lay brother. He stayed for two years at Marseilles while the Founder was still alive. De Mazenod then sent Ferdinand to Natal in 1856 where he arrived with Fr Victor Bompert in Durban in December 1856. He served as sacristan and treasurer in Pietermaritzburg until 1881. During that time he endeared himself to the parishioners of St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, by his piety and regularity. He was very attached to Bishop Allard and spent much of his time as Allard's personal attendant. Allard spoke very highly of him as a religious. From 1881 to 1888 Manuel was a member of the Durban community, during which time he spent a year at the Bluff. Whilst in

Durban his main task was to be infirmarian to the ailing Fr Jean-Baptiste Sabon, who had fallen into his dotage and died in January 1885. Ferdinand himself was not well, although he had improved somewhat by 1884. Then on the 8 November 1888 Bishop Jolivet wrote: "...This morning at 5 a.m. the dear little Brother Manuel was found dead in his bed." Judging from these words alone, it would seem that Brother Manuel was rather small of stature, and of a lovable nature. All reports showed him to have been an exemplary religious, humble, charitable, and dedicated to a life of prayer. In the 32 years that he spent in Natal, he never took a holiday, and never returned to France. He gave himself quietly and totally to his vocation.



MANUEL, Leo(n)

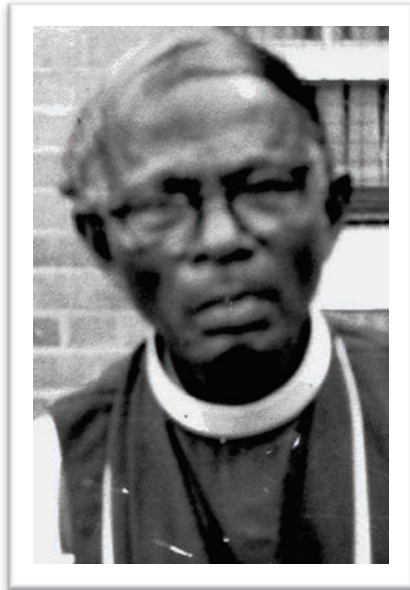


Leo(n) was born at Pont de Chérui, near Grenoble, on 1 February 1877. His parents were Arnoux Manuel and Melanie Boudard. He attended the Juniorate at N.D. de Lumières and then entered the Oblate Novitiate at N.D. de l'Osier in 1893. He made his first vows there the following year, and was then sent to Rome for a year of scholastic studies. But in 1895, after making his final vows, for some unknown reason, he was sent to Ottawa where he completed his studies and was ordained priest in 1899. Then on the 4 September of that year he sailed from Liverpool for Natal where he arrived on the 28 October 1899 together with Fr Augustine Jenn. He was sent to Oakford to join Fr Mathieu, presumably to learn English and isiZulu under the tutelage of Fr Mathieu who was fluent in both languages. In 1901, however, Leo Manuel was appointed chaplain to the Indian community of Pietermaritzburg where St Anthony's school already existed and was run by the Holy Family Sisters. From there, in 1902, he was sent by Bishop Jolivet to replace Fr Mayr at the newly-founded St Joachim's mission near Umsinsini on the south coast of Natal, which was

struggling to survive. Apparently the site was not suitably situated and the mission station was removed to a new site nearer to the Africans. Gradually pupils began to arrive at the school and some progress was made. Fr Manuel remained at St Joachim's, until his death in 1906. (JB) He died in Pietermaritzburg on the 13 November 1906 at the very young age of 29. His religious Superior wrote that he was "... Dedicated to the indigenous people, quiet, kind and obliging, his death is a great loss for the Vicariate."



MARIAN, Brother Nicholas



Nicholas was born in Madras, India, in 1888.

In 1954, the newly ordained writer of this article spent a year in Pietermaritzburg as an assistant to Fr Angus Mackinnon OMI, parish priest. Bro. Nicholas was a member of the community and during that year the writer got to know him very well.

According to Fr Mackinnon, Bro. Nicholas had arrived in Natal as part of a group of indentured Indians brought mainly to work in the sugar cane fields on the Natal south and north coast. Thousands of these labourers were transported to Natal over a period of 54 years from 1860–1914. Nicholas claimed to be 19 or 20 at the time so must have arrived in about 1907/8. Fr Angus was well-known as a raconteur of stories, some factual and some the fruit of his imagination! So what follows may not be exactly historically accurate.

Apparently Nicholas had come to Natal against his will. On arrival at the port of Durban the immigration officer interviewed each immigrant and all those who were not yet 21 years of age were told to return to India. Nicholas claimed that, although he was underage, the voyage

out had been so horrible that he could not face a return trip, so he lied about his age and was allowed to remain ashore. Many, many years later, when he was notified that he would no longer be liable for personal tax because he had reached the age of 60, Nicholas began chuckling, and told Fr Mackinnon that he was not 60 years of age, but 58 or 59, and then recounted the story of his arrival in Durban and how and why he had lied about his age!

After his arrival in Natal, he was employed for some time, and then was released from his contract and in compensation was given some land at Pentrich, a few kilometres from Pietermaritzburg. He took up residence there and grew vegetables coming weekly to the city to sell his produce. He also came every Sunday to St Mary's to attend holy Mass and got to know the Oblates at St Mary's, especially Fr Chauvin, who encouraged him to become a brother. In about 1923 he decided to become an Oblate missionary brother and did his novitiate year at St Mary's. It seemed that there had been some canonical error about the validity of his novitiate year, and

therefore a special dispensation had to be obtained from the Holy See to validate his novitiate and first vows which took place in 1924. In 1930 he made his final vows. Nicholas remained at St Mary's for the rest of his life.

Bro. Nicholas got to know personally almost every single parishioner, and in his turn, became known, loved and respected by every one of them. When a parishioner died, Nicholas would



dig the grave in the Commercial Rd cemetery and generally take care of the Catholic section of the cemetery. On the eve of All Souls he would spend the whole night in prayer in the cemetery. On one occasion, when he was old and not well, Fr Mackinnon refused to let him spend the night out in the open. At first Nicholas obeyed and went to his room, though displeased. According to Fr Mackinnon, there followed strange noises emanating from Nicholas' room. Eventually Nicholas emerged in an agitated condition and told Mackinnon that the Holy Souls would not let him sleep, but kept waking him and manhandling him. He begged Mackinnon to let him go and pray at the cemetery. Fr Mackinnon had to let him go. The next morning Nicholas turned up as if nothing extraordinary had happened!

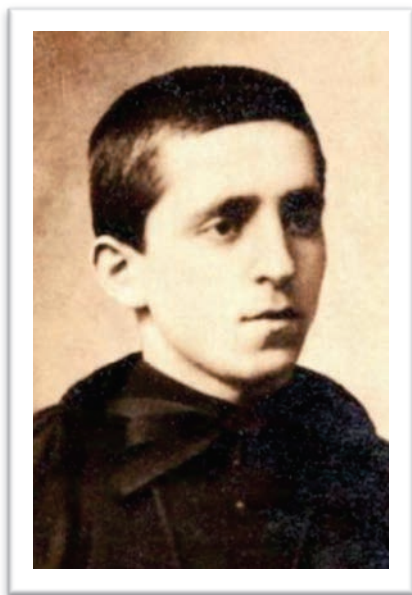
When he had arrived in the country, Nicholas had only a smattering of English. He taught himself to read the daily newspaper and would give the news to the housekeeper who was illiterate. His pronunciation was very poor, and on more than one occasion Fr Mackinnon had to accompany him to be interviewed by the magistrate because no one could understand what he was saying!

Every morning at about 5.30, Nicholas would go to the church and do the Stations of the Cross with his little dog following him from bench to bench! He kept the keys of the church, and no one, not even the parish priest could have them. He would go himself to open the church for anyone who wanted to enter it, including Fr Mackinnon! He was faithful to his daily and long visitations to the Blessed Sacrament. True to his vocation, Nicholas had a strong devotion to Our Blessed Lady. He also lived his vow of poverty literally.

Eventually on the 15 June 1968 at the age of 80, Brother Nicholas gave his soul back to the Lord whom he had loved and served so faithfully, devoutly and lovingly all his life. No plaque or memorial stone exists to remind anyone of this saintly Oblate Brother. He died as he lived: quietly and piously.



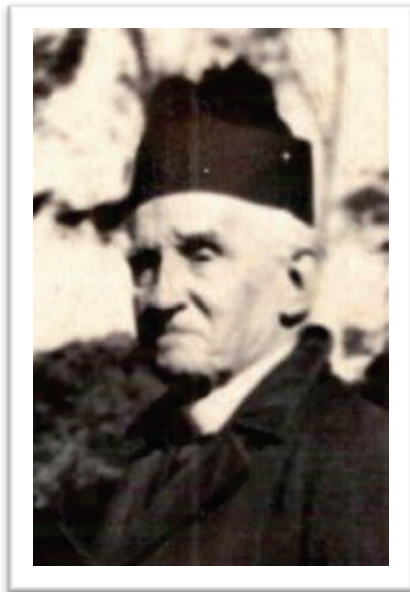
MASMEJEAN, Louis



Louis Masméjean, was born in 1870, made his Oblation in 1889, and was ordained in 1894. He arrived in Durban on the 10 December 1901 to begin his missionary work together with four other Oblates, Delagnes, Trabaud, Tosquinet and Rieland. He suffered from bad health and was placed in Pietermaritzburg where he helped as much as he could by giving a few classes to the pupils of St Charles' school. An anonymous report stated that the way he accepted his ill-health was an edification to his brothers in that he never complained but silently went about doing what he could as best he could. His very brief missionary life was cut short when he died at the young age of 35 at Estcourt on the 15 August 1905.



MATHIEU, Louis



Louis Mathieu was born on 5 January 1856 in Lyon, France, of John and Anne Marie (born Ract). He entered the Oblate Novitiate at N.D.de l'Osier in 1877, making his first vows on 2 July 1878 and his final vows at Autun on 9 October 1879. At that time religious orders were expelled from France and the Oblate House of studies had to close. Louis and several other scholastics were sent to Natal, and he arrived in Durban in 1880. In 1881, as a scholastic, he was sent to the Bluff to replace Fr Baudry who had been asked to act as a military chaplain in the First Anglo-Boer War (1880–1881). After his ordination on 8 April 1882, he was sent with Fr Baudry to St Michael's to examine the position there with a view to re-establishing the mission and at the end of December of the same year, Bishop Jolivet asked Frs Stephan Hammer and Mathieu to come to Pietermaritzburg in order to discuss the mission and buildings at St Michael's. In 1883, when Baudry left St Michael's for Umtata, Mathieu and Bro. Tivenan stayed behind to continue with the building operations there. Mathieu was one of the best isiZulu speakers among the missionaries.

At the beginning of 1884 Mathieu left St Michael's in order to begin the Oakford mission. In August 1886, Jolivet wrote "...The mission [Oakford] is going well but we need a good Brother to help Fr Mathieu, and to run a school for the Africans. I will send him the good Brother Tivenan and my faithful coachman, Daniel, who is a catechumen." Mathieu was also in demand as a preacher. In October he preached a retreat in Durban for the French-speaking Mauritians which proved a success. Then in May 1888 Mathieu was again sent to St Michael's to supervise the construction of a school and other buildings. However, he was back at Oakford by March 1889 to welcome 8 Dominican Sisters from King William's Town together with their chaplain. They had come to look over the place with the intention of establishing a convent there. Soon after this the convent and a school were built but by January 1890 it had become obvious that the Dominican Sisters at Oakford would have to separate from their Priory at King Williams Town and become an independent community which would develop into a new religious Congregation.

In 1891 Jolivet again depended on Mathieu to visit the Catholics dispersed between Estcourt and Harrismith. This visit took him 20 days, riding on horseback, and on his return to the capital, the two horses were stolen at Ladysmith!

In February 1896 Fr Rousset, Brother Boudon and three Dominican Sisters from Oakford set out to begin a new mission in Zululand at the farm of Chief John Dunn at eMoyeni,



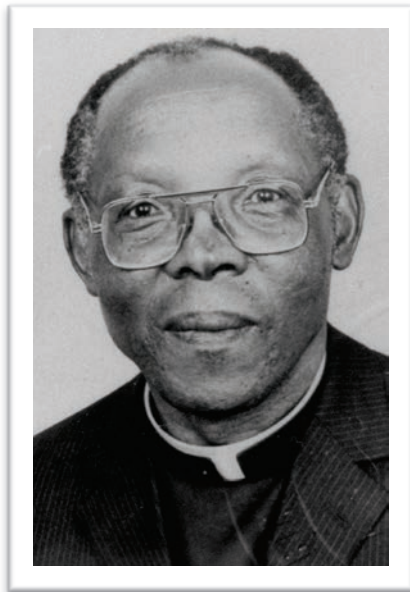
particularly a school for the education of Dunn's numerous children. Mathieu accompanied them as the most experienced isiZulu speaker. On many other occasions Fr Mathieu accompanied Jolivet on visits to various missions. Jolivet seemed to rely heavily on Mathieu's advice, especially when it came to founding new missions. In December 1896 Bishop Jolivet blessed and officially opened the new church at Verulam, built by Mathieu. Mathieu had extraordinary physical verve, travelling on horseback to visit every part of his 1,200 sq.mile (3,072 sq.km.) parish. In April 1899 the Bishop authorised Mathieu to buy an acre of land for a mission in the Noodsberg. This was an historic decision which eventually developed into the now famous Montebello Dominican Sisters and mission. This mission was situated on the Noodsberg range, 3,000 ft (942 m.) above sea level. Mathieu later claimed that eight missions originated from Oakford, among them Verulam, Noodsberg, Genezzano, Stanger, Waterfall and Montebello.

At the time of Bishop Jolivet's death on 15 September 1903, Mathieu and Murray were the two favourites to succeed him, but neither was chosen. This seems to have indicated a certain division among the faithful in Durban, both among the clergy and laity (see below under Murray). As it turned out, a French bishop was chosen by Rome in the person of Henry Delalle OMI.

Mathieu retired to one of his outstations at Kruisfontein, Upper Tongaat in 1933. In 1942 he celebrated the diamond jubilee of his ordination after which he moved to Genezzano, which he had also founded as a rest house for the Dominican Sisters of Oakford. There he spent the remainder of his days. On the 19 June 1945, four days after celebrating his last holy Mass, Louis Mathieu died in Durban at the age of 89. At his request his body was laid to rest at Oakford. His grave, which is situated just behind the Church he built, remains as a testimony to this great and indefatigable missionary and Oblate of Mary Immaculate.



MAVUNDLA, Jerome Johannes Jalimane Franz



On 15 September 1917 Jerome was born at Hlazakazi in Zululand. At a young age Jerome and Dominic Khumalo had both decided to become Oblate priests, and so were sent to do their schooling at the Oblate Juniorate at Inchanga, after which they went to St Theresa's Minor Seminary in Lesotho. There they both learned to play the trumpet in the band, and Jerome learned several other instruments, including the violin. Both had good singing voices, especially Jerome who had a wide vocal range. He also learned typing and shorthand, becoming accomplished in both. After matriculating they returned to do their novitiate year at Inchanga in 1940, with Fr Howard St George as their Novice Master, and made their first vows on 17 February 1941. They then returned to Roma in Lesotho to begin their priestly studies at St Augustine's where both Jerome and Dominic made their final profession on 17 February 1944. At the beginning of 1946, while Jerome was in his last year of theology preparing for ordination, his health showed some cause for concern, and he and Dominic were moved down to St Joseph's Scholasticate at Prestbury, being the first

black African Oblates to study at St Joseph's. On the 2 July 1946, Bishop Delalle ordained Jerome Mavundla and Dominic Khumalo to the priesthood in Emmanuel Cathedral before a packed church. Practically every single Oblate in the Vicariate attended the ceremony. This was also the last ordination performed by Bishop Delalle as he died shortly afterwards. Jerome and Dominic were the very first Zulu Oblate priests in South Africa.

At that time the Oblates were keen to consolidate the Juniorate at Inchanga, and so Jerome and Dominic were sent in 1948 to St Francis' College, Mariannhill, to train as teachers. Both did very well, and were assigned to Inchanga. Jerome became principal of the High School, while Dominic took charge of the Primary school. They gave themselves fully to their teaching obligations but, at their request, they were also given pastoral work over weekends. Over time they opened and served outstations which later would become important Mass centres in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. Every weekend they would ride off on their motorcycles to do their pastoral duties. Jerome took care of Entweka, Mabelane and Emolweni. He even looked after the Zulu-speaking people at Hillcrest and Camperdown. However, for both Jerome and Dominic, their school obligations remained their priority. They excelled in teaching and, for the rest of their lives, they both made good use of their teaching capabilities in their preaching and apostolic works. In 1963, Jerome bid farewell to Inchanga when he was appointed parish priest of KwaMadlala. In 1969 he was put in charge of Lamontville till 1977. During this time he also



looked after Clairwood Hospital, was the Youth Organiser for Durban and District and, in 1970, was given charge of the medical students in Durban. At the same time he was the District Scout Master at Lamontville and Chesterville. In 1977 he was appointed parish priest of St Augustine's, Machibisa, till 1979 when he was assigned as assistant at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, with special care for the Zulu-speaking congregation. There he remained until his untimely death in 1987. During that time Jerome founded a shorthand-typing-secretarial school for young ladies, and he helped them to find employment afterwards. He was often seen walking from St Mary's presbytery to Allard house across the road, rosary in hand. Jerome had a great devotion to Mary, and he was well known for his preaching with his deep, resonant voice.

In 1987 Jerome was found to be suffering from kidney failure. He was treated by two doctors, both of whom gave him excellent care and treatment. He was then sent to Montebello to be looked after by the Dominican Sisters but, shortly afterwards, he had to return to St Mary's as his health deteriorated. He was admitted to Grey's Hospital, where once again he received excellent care from the nurses and doctor. Jerome was ready to hand himself over to his Creator. He accepted his condition with peace and resignation. On the 16 December 1987 he gave himself into the hands of his Lord and Redeemer whom he had loved and served so faithfully during his priestly life. His funeral took place in St Mary's church which was filled to overflowing. Archbishop Denis Hurley presided, while Fr John Ngubane, Oblate Provincial, recited the obsequies. Jerome was laid to rest among his confreres in the cemetery at Cedara. He was 70 years old at the time of death.

Jerome was a man of prayer; his rosary was always in his hands. He was also a man of peace. Nothing seemed to faze him. He kept complete control of his emotions and never showed anger in hurtful situations. One cannot help but think that St Eugene de Mazenod was there waiting to welcome his spiritual son into the realms of heaven.



McDADE, James



Jim was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on 20 July 1913. As a youngster he attended school at Holy Family Primary and at St Malachy's Diocesan College. He entered the Novitiate in Cahermoyle in 1932 and made his first vows on 8 September 1933 followed by his priestly studies at Belmont and Daingean where he made his final vows on the 29 September 1936. He was ordained on the 26 June 1939. As a novice he taught fellow novice Denis Hurley how to handle a hoe and spade for manual labour! He received his first obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 9 October 1939. He began his ministry at Amanzimtoti in 1940, and remained there for the next two years. In 1942 he went to Mhlumayo in northern Natal where he worked for two years until 1944 when he was transferred to Seven Oaks for three years. From there in 1947 he was appointed to Dundee till 1951. Meanwhile, Fr Frank Hill, parish priest of the Cathedral in Durban, had been appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Archdiocese, residing at Archbishop's House. Fr McDade was then appointed parish priest of the Cathedral in 1951 till 1960, during which

time he replaced Fr Hill as Vicar General in 1957. In 1960 he was assigned to take charge of Pinetown parish where he ministered for seven years. He then did a short spell at Clermont Township for a year after which he was given the charge of Assumption parish in Umbilo, Durban (1968–72).

His last assignment was as parish priest of the young parish of St Vincent in Pelham, Pietermaritzburg, where he remained for 19 years, from 1972 to 1991. Whilst there, Jim had a nasty experience which could have embittered him for life had he not been a person of deep faith. He was 77 years old and alone in his house at 7 p.m. one evening when he was attacked by intruders who struck him with stones on the face and hands, causing a number of open wounds. He was dragged to his bedroom and bound to the bed before the thieves fled with a colour television set. Jim lay in agony for more than 12 hours until 7.15 a.m. when he was discovered and freed by his domestic. He was taken to hospital for treatment and later discharged. This was the third time that burglars had broken into the priest's house. After a few weeks of recuperation, Jim was back home carrying on his work in his usual quiet and efficient manner. However, in 1991, Jim realized that he had to retire from active ministry due to age and ill health. He was beginning to lose his memory rather rapidly and he realized he could no longer carry on doing pastoral work. It was then that he showed his greatness of soul. He surrendered his feelings to the Lord, gave up his beloved parish, and retired serenely to Nazareth House in Durban where he finished



off his days. There the good Sisters of Nazareth and staff cared for Jim with love and kindness till his death on 4 November 1995 at the age of 80.

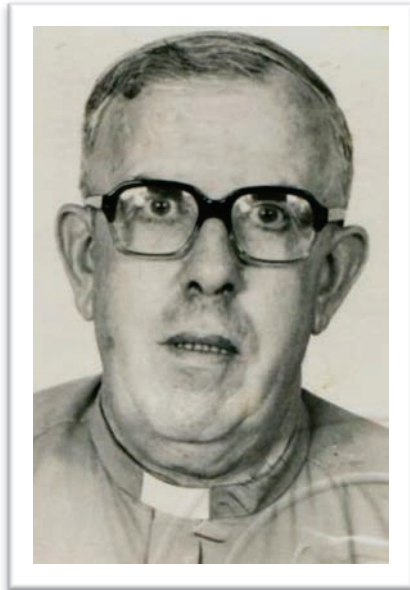
Jim was noted for his sense of humour. Fr Barry Clancy wrote that Jim was a shy man who tried to hide his shyness by putting on a stern exterior and cracking cynical jokes. Be that as it may, Jim was never short of an answer or a wise crack. In the 1960's Jim was parish priest of Pinetown which was still on the main road from Pietermaritzburg to Durban at that time, and priests travelling in that direction would usually drop in for a cup of tea. Jim told his confreres, "Well, now that I am in Pinetown, whenever you are passing by on your way to Durban, just keep passing by!" Perhaps Jim was best known by his fellow Oblates for the 31 years he served as bursar of the Oblate Natal Province. In that role Jim showed himself to be a shrewd financier, but also showed some of his more noble but hidden qualities, such as his kindness, humaneness and generosity.

In his ministry Jim was loved by the people he served. His patience and wise counselling made him a respected pastor. He loved children and they loved him. He always had a pocket full of peppermints which he gave to the children who came to him.

Jim's funeral was attended by a huge crowd of people, showing how well loved he had been in his pastoral ministry. He was buried with his fellow Oblates at Cedara.



McKEANEY, John James



John (also known as JJ), was born on the 22 November 1918 in Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. After entering the Oblate Novitiate in Cahermoyle in 1943, he made his first vows in 1944, and then began his priestly studies at Belmont and finally at Piltown. During that time he made his final profession in 1947, and was ordained to the priesthood on 29 June 1950. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban on the 29 September 1951. He was appointed assistant priest to Inchanga in 1952, and there he also learned the Zulu language in which he became quite proficient. He remained at Inchanga for thirteen years, during which time he was appointed Novice Master from 1956 to 1965. John soon showed himself to be a dedicated missionary and an understanding confrere. He was loved and respected by all his brother Oblates as a wise and prudent priest. He served for many years on the Achdiocesan Marriage Tribunal where his practical wisdom and sympathetic nature became evident. In 1965 he was appointed parish priest of Clermont, an important township in Natal. Whilst there he had a nasty experience which could have blinded

him permanently, but he was spared by what John himself called a 'miracle'. A man entered the priest's house and shot him twice in the face at point-blank range with an air pistol. Apparently the man, shabbily dressed, had asked John for money. On being refused, the man opened fire. The first shot smashed the left lens of his spectacles and the second lodged just above his cheekbone. He was successfully treated by Dr Brouckhaert at Mariannhill hospital and soon recovered completely and was able to continue his pastoral ministry with no ill effects. John was a man of prayer in the truest sense. He was faithful to his religious life and duties. He was kind, affable and willing to help as best he could. He had a lovely sense of humour with an appropriate remark at the right time and, as a member of the Marriage Tribunal he almost always had a story to tell which caused laughter and a sense of camaraderie among the members.

JJ remained at Clermont till 1975. Then in 1977 he was assigned as parish priest of Shaka's Kraal on the north coast. Whilst there he was subjected to another physical attack by a gang of intruders. This time he was trussed up and locked in a room where the windows were fortified by iron guards. He managed to free himself but could not get out of the room. Only in the morning was he found and freed. Even then JJ could tell of the event with good humour! In 1981 he was appointed to Hammarsdale (Mpumalanga), a township which had grown considerably in the past few years. JJ was the first parish priest of Hammarsdale. Holy Mass was celebrated in a side room of the priest's house.

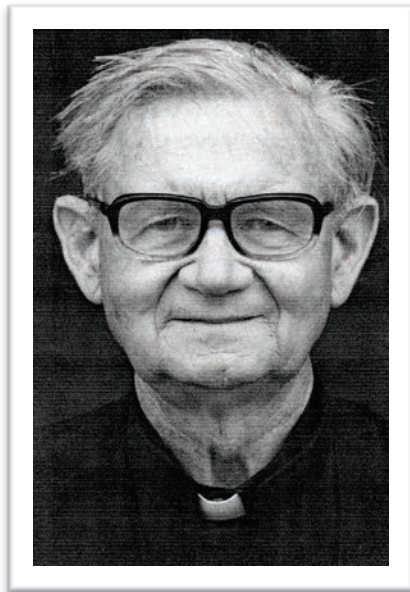


In 1983 he had completed all the Easter ceremonies and was very tired. He was about to go to a monthly retreat day on Tuesday, 13 April 1983, when he complained to his housekeeper that he had a slight stomach ache, and that he wanted only a cup of tea for breakfast. He went into the bathroom, but half an hour later, when he did not appear, the housekeeper found him lying on the floor of the bathroom, already dead. She had the sense to phone the Provincial and the Archbishop who immediately left for Hammarsdale. Fr Albert Danker, the Provincial, wrote of him "... Father John was a most zealous missionary Oblate, a cherished brother and a man who constantly edified us by his zeal, his deep spirituality, his spirit of faith and his endless hard work. We will sadly miss him here."

The funeral Mass was attended by a huge crowd of priests and faithful. His remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara. John was 65 years of age when he died.



McMAHON, Patrick



Pat was born on the 23 April 1912 in Co. Meath, Ireland. At the age of 26 he decided to give his life to the Lord as a missionary priest, and he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle in September 1938, making his first vows the following year. He began his scholastic studies at Belmont and continued in Piltown where he made his final vows on 15 September 1939. He was ordained priest on 29 June 1946 in Piltown and received his obedience for Natal, arriving in Durban on the 15 August of the same year. He began his missionary activities by learning isiZulu and that strengthened his resolve to give himself to the apostolate of the Zulu people for the rest of his life. He was appointed assistant priest at Inchanga in March 1947, and in January of the following year he was appointed priest in charge of Seven Oaks. In September 1948 he went to Oakford as assistant for a year, and then to Dundee for two years (Sept 1949). His next posting in September 1951 was to Ladysmith as assistant and he ministered there for four and a half years until January 1956 when he was appointed parish priest of Besters. In November 1959 he was sent to Estcourt as assistant priest,

and then became parish priest in March of 1961. Two and half years later he was assigned to Edwaleni as parish priest (October 1963), followed by Matikwe in August 1975. After five years there, at the age of 88, he 'retired' to Sukumawenze Community at Inanda and Newtown Church (August 2000). In May 2009, now aged 97, he finally had to retire from ministry. In July of that year he went to Ireland to visit his family members for the last time, and celebrated the 70th anniversary of religious life and 65th of ordination. On the 6 September 2009 Pat took ill while preparing to return home to South Africa and on the 18 September 2009 he answered the call of his Lord and surrendered his life into the hands of his Creator at the age of 97.

Pat (or Paddie) was an extraordinary man and priest. He was multi-talented and could put his hand to anything mechanical or electrical. He was always called upon to install the public address system at Ntshongweni prior to the Pilgrimage.

His greatest achievement was the foundation of Sukumawenze in the year 2000. He was then aged 88 years of age! 'Sukumawenze' means 'stand up and do something' – in other words, 'help yourself'. There, with the help of one or two Sisters from Matikwe, he began his school of teaching people how to improve their quality of life, starting with a second-hand sewing machine. With a donation from the Archdiocese they were able to build a small hall where many were taught to sew and were helped to get their own sewing machines. Next,

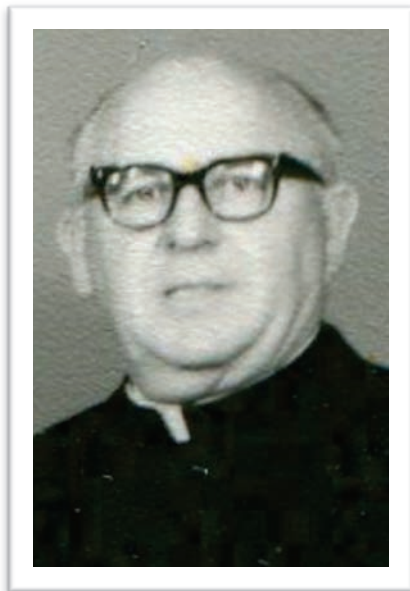


with a second hand computer, they began computer lessons. With the help of donors they were able to procure more computers and so have their own computer centre where jobless young people could be trained to become computer literate. However, the best was still to come. They began receiving AIDS patients who were discharged from hospital. They managed to get some beds and bed linen, and took care of 15 patients. The two Sisters from the Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart (from Matikwe) enlisted voluntary carers and trained them to assist the patients, for whom they also cooked meals on a daily basis, including children who would come morning and afternoon for meals: and so from a very small beginning, much was achieved, thanks to the determination, initiative and verve of this humble and devoted priest and Oblate, assisted so lovingly by the Matikwe Sisters. All of this Paddie began at the age of almost 90!

Pat's funeral took place at the Oblate centre, Inchicore, Dublin on the 21 September 2009, and his remains were buried in the Oblate cemetery in Inchicore. Although his body rests in Ireland, his 'spirit' remains in Natal where he spent his life doing good, just as his Lord and Master did.



McMANUS, Patrick



Patrick was born on 8 October 1916 in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. At the age of 20 years he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle in September 1936, and made his first profession as an Oblate the following year. He then pursued his priestly studies at Piltown where he made his final vows on 15 September 1940. He was ordained to the priesthood on 21 September 1942. After ordination he worked in England for four years during the Second World War, and then received his obedience for Natal, arriving in Durban on 27 October 1946. He began his ministry at the Cathedral, and then worked in missions and parishes all over Natal: Clairwood, St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, Stanger, Queensburgh, Wasbank, Inchanga, Greytown, Oakford, St Peter's, Point, and Amanzimtoti. His last assignment was at St Mary's, Merebank.

He died tragically on the afternoon of 14 March 1983. He had gone for a swim in the surf at Brighton Beach on the Bluff. Pat was a good and strong swimmer but that afternoon he drowned. Either he had suffered a heart attack while swimming, or he had got caught in a

strong backwash. His sudden death came as a shock to all who knew and loved him. His funeral Mass took place at the Church of the Assumption on Friday, 18th March, and his body was then taken up to Cedara for burial among his fellow Oblates. He was 67 years of age at the time.

In his eulogy at Paddie's funeral, the Provincial had this to say: "...Father Mac was a man who was unpredictable, yet also so very predictable. He was unpredictable: you never knew where he was, or where he was going to turn up, or how late he would arrive! Since his death I have discovered why. I have had so many phone calls from people he used to help. Those he would take to hospital, or to therapy, or to visit the sick. Nothing was too much trouble for him, no journey was too far. His room is full of slips of paper – reminders of so many people who wanted to see him in their time of need. Time wasn't important to him, or filling in forms, or any possessions, or his own comfort. It was people that mattered. And yet he was also very predictable.

In the nine years we shared the same home at Sacred Heart [Montclair] he never changed in his attitude towards me. I might have had my off-days, and been moody, and given him uphill, but his response to me was always kindness and understanding. People will tell you how he was always ready to accept a person where he was, to support him and defend him, and to build up his confidence. He would lend a listening ear, give his sympathy, and freely share his special gift to cheer one. If you came and complained to him about someone, he



was the one who could always find an excuse, a reason for things. He could defuse an argument. He was sometimes deeply hurt, but seldom showed it on the outside. In his sermons he spoke of how much the Father loves us. [Paddie] was never afraid to speak home truths straight from the shoulder when necessary. And into those who did not hear his sermons, into them he put the fear of God by his driving! ...Father Mac, in all the years we were together I understood about half of what you were saying. Now, in eternity, you are understood and loved completely by the Father. May you rest in peace.”

This is a good summary of the person of Paddie McManus. He was short and plump of stature, with a heart that filled his body – kind, generous and willing.



MEYER, John



John Nicolaus Meyer OMI, was born on 26 October 1850 in Dieblingen, Metz, Germany. He entered the Oblate Congregation as a novice in 1873, made his first vows on 16 July 1874 and his final profession the following year on 15 August 1875. He was ordained in 1879, and shortly afterwards arrived in Natal. He was sent first to Pilgrim's Rest and then to Kimberley. During the First Anglo-Boer War in 1880–81 he was appointed military chaplain and was sent to Pretoria by Bishop Jolivet. He knew very little English, and struggled to communicate with the British soldiers in the hospital who were recovering from an outbreak of typhoid fever. (*The Catholic Church in the Transvaal* by JB Brain, p.43). In spite of this handicap, Meyer did not hesitate to give his time and energy fully to the wounded soldiers as well as trying to attend to the needs of the Loreto Sisters in Pretoria. He remained in Pretoria until 1884. Fr Meyer suffered frequent bouts of illness. In August 1881 the Bishop wrote that "...Fr Meyer is not well. He is threatened with paralysis." However by June 1882 he was back in Pietermaritzburg and, in September 1884, the Bishop sent him to

Kokstad where he remained with newly ordained Fr Howlett until January 1887 when he was elected by his confreres as the delegate who would represent them at the General Chapter of the Oblate Congregation. He left for Europe that March. Jolivet wrote that he hoped the trip would be good for his health. Meyer returned in January 1888 and went back to Kokstad.

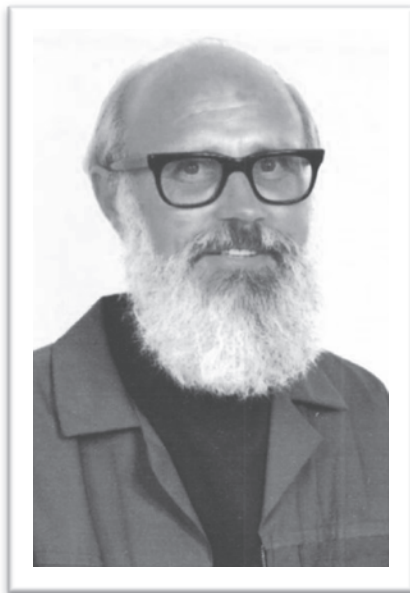
From 1890 he was based in the Transkei serving as chaplain to the Holy Cross Sisters in Umtata until December 1893 when Bishop Jolivet sent him to Cala to found a new mission. According to a letter written by Fr Le Bras in April 1900, and published in *Missions*, Fr Meyer on arrival in Cala lived in primitive conditions while establishing a temporary chapel in an old house on a piece of land purchased for the purpose with the help of a local Catholic, Mr T. Costello. Le Bras tells us that Meyer's 'presbytery' was "... a small hut whose walls remained standing only by habit ... one night he awoke with a start, a loud noise of a wall which had given up the will to remain standing!" Undeterred Meyer patched it up and continued to live there. In January 1894 six Holy Cross Sisters came from Umtata to open a school at Cala and from these small beginnings the school grew and prospered. Meyer left Cala for Umtata in September 1894 when he was appointed superior of the Transkei in place of Fr Monginoux who had been called to Basutoland (Lesotho). Meyer returned to Cala with Bishop Jolivet in January 1897. The bishop reported: "... This dear Father works well. In less than 2 years he has received 28 converts." Meyer remained in Cala while Fr Le Bras drove the bishop to Indwe.



It seems his health was still a cause for concern and, in June 1900, he came to Pietermaritzburg and the Bishop sent him to Mooi River to consult Sir William Stokes, an Irish surgeon serving as a consultant with the British troops. Whatever the result of that consultation, Fr Meyer continued in his missionary work. In 1907 he was in Durban where, according to Fr Ademmer, Meyer became a leading figure in the administration of the Natal Vicariate. Finally, on 17 February 1918, he died in Durban at the age of 61.



MICHELSON, Garth



Garth was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa, on 1 June 1933. The family later moved to Johannesburg. As a youngster he attended the Marist Brothers' College at Observatory, Johannesburg, where he matriculated. He then worked for a few years in a factory while studying for a BSc degree part time. Then, at 20 years of age, he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston in 1953 and made his first vows the following year. He then came down to Cedara to begin his priestly studies and made his final vows on the 27 February 1957. After this he was sent to Rome for further theological studies and returned to Johannesburg for his ordination on 8 December 1959. In 1965 he joined the staff at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, where he taught dogmatic theology. Garth had a sharp and incisive intellect. He was an excellent theologian who had a gift of assimilation and synthesis and was also a very good lecturer. He remained at St Joseph's till 1971, when he was asked to join the staff at St Peter's Major Seminary at Hammanskraal. At the same time he was appointed Secretary for Ecumenism of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference. In 1974 he returned to Natal and

was given pastoral work for the next two years. He was *locum tenens* at Stanger and Greytown parishes, and worked as Chaplain at Montebello Convent. In 1977 he founded the Sion Community of Reconciliation in Mariannhill, but the following year he moved to St Joan of Arc parish in Pietermaritzburg and opened a Sion Community there, whilst also being parish priest. At the same time he taught theology at the Federal Seminary and also took care of Sobantu Village in the city. In 1986 he was appointed parish priest of Mbava parish situated near Nagle Dam in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. He was there for six years until 1992 when he was transferred to Margate on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal for two years as the Natal Oblates had been requested to help out in the Diocese of Umzimkhulu (1992–1994). This included the growing township of Gamalakhe. In 1994 he was appointed parish priest of Ntuzuma parish where he ministered for fourteen years. Whilst there he was hijacked on one occasion and his 'bakkie' was stolen (a 'bakkie' is a South African term for a small pick-up truck). This was not the first time that he had been robbed. The next day Garth went in search of the hijacker-thief until he found him ten days later. He sat down with the man and told him that he had come in search of him out of respect and concern. The young man broke down and wept.

Certainly one of Garth's greatest works was that of ecumenism. Here Garth knew no bounds, no prejudices, no separating walls. He was well-known in Hindu and Muslim circles. When the founder of an Ashram on the outskirts of Durban died, his ashes were taken to India for

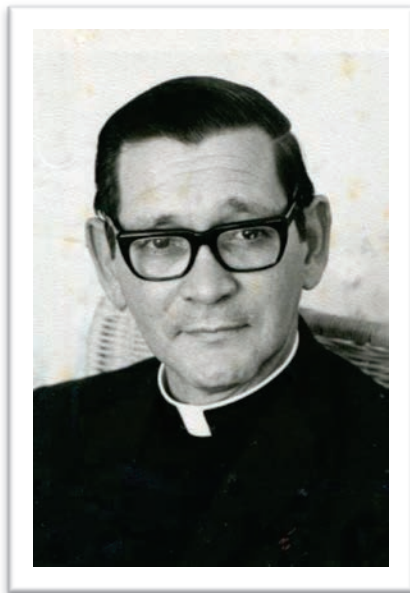


burial. Garth was asked to accompany the family and devotees on their journey to India and back. In 1999 he was invited to give a presentation at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Cape Town. The title of his talk was *Religion Ahead: Relevant or growing Irrelevance?* Garth was a great man for dialogue at every level of communication: religious, political and social. Every Sunday evening, after completing his religious and pastoral duties for the day, Garth would go to the Divine Life Ashram in Reservoir hills and attend satsang (service) there. When the Turquoise Harmony Institute held its 3rd Annual *Ubuntu* Lecture and Dialogue Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 13 February 2010, the award was given to Garth at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rosebank, Johannesburg. This Institute is an NGO, independent, nonpartisan, not-for-gain, which promotes inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and tolerance among people. It gives annual awards to "Outstanding individuals who make noteworthy contributions to dialogue, peace and harmony in the society."

For many years Garth suffered from blocked arteries and cardiac problems. Twice he had to undergo an operation on the main arteries to the brain in order to clear them. But this did not prevent Garth from giving himself totally to his work in whatever form it required. On the 16 November 2011, after visiting his confreres at Sabon House and having breakfast with them, he drove off to his personal physician and friend. Whilst there, he had a severe heart attack in the doctor's rooms, collapsed and died. He went as he would have desired, without fanfare or fuss. His funeral Mass took place at Emmanuel Cathedral which was packed to overflowing with priests, nuns, lay people, and friends from other Christian churches, Hindus and Muslims. His remains were taken to Cedara where he was laid to rest beside his Oblate brothers, and adjoining the Scholasticate where he had taught and directed young men to the priesthood for many years.



MILLER, Basil



Basil Cecil Miller was born on 15 February 1925 in Durban. The family home was virtually opposite St Joseph's Church in Greyville. Basil was one of a large family of ten and, after matriculating, he went to the Technical College (1937–40) where he graduated as a diesel mechanic. He worked in this field for six to seven years. During that time his vocation was being groomed by Fr Emmet Neville OMI, and Basil was a familiar face at the church and in parish activities, particularly the Boy Scouts and the St Joseph's Youth Club. He was also instrumental, together with Fr Emmet Neville, in drawing up the early statutes of the Knights of Da Gama. In 1946 he was ready for the Novitiate, and in January 1947 he and two others from Durban arrived in Germiston to begin their novitiate year. On the 17 February 1948 they made their first vows after which they began their studies for the priesthood at St Joseph's Scholasticate in Cleland, Pietermaritzburg. Final vows followed on 17 February 1951. 1952 marked the centenary year of the arrival of the first Oblate missionaries to the shores of Africa and a very large and successful Vocations Exhibition was held in the City Hall.

Basil's ordination at the end of 1952 took place in the City Hall on the 7 December 1952 as part of the celebrations (most probably the first ever to take place in a public hall).

His first assignment was to assist Fr Anton Pfister at the Mission of Besters in northern Natal. This consisted of a large farm founded by the Trappists of Mariannhill. He spent three years there after which he spent two years at Maria Ratschitz Mission, also founded by the Trappists and having a large farm attached to the mission. In 1958 he was appointed assistant priest at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg and this marked the beginning of a very long stay at St Mary's. In the interim, he had spent some months doing a *locum tenens* at Elandskop, after which he returned to St Mary's. In 1970 he was appointed parish priest of St Mary's until 1980, when he was appointed acting parish priest of Sacred Heart parish at Woodlands/Montclair, Durban. While he was in Pietermaritzburg, Basil had suffered a heart attack from which he recovered.

However, at Montclair he had a second heart attack and, while recuperating, was doing a little work at the Assumption parish, Umbilo, Durban, where he suffered a stroke on 26 January 1982, which led to his death. He was then 57 years of age.

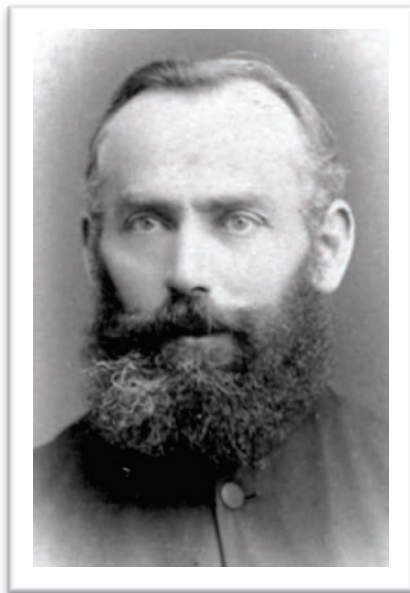
Fr Albert Danker, Provincial, wrote: "... During his 30 years of priesthood, Father Basil was known as a quiet, gentle man, zealous for the things of God, extremely loyal to the Church and to his Congregation. Always orthodox in doctrine, a little conservative at times,



nevertheless he made every effort to understand and implement the teachings of the Vatican Council, being particularly interested in new forms of Christian life and ministry. At St Mary's he was instrumental in developing an excellent catechetical programme. He was a good administrator and had a keen sense of availability and obedience as a religious. The Oblate Congregation has lost a cherished brother and the Church a loyal son." Basil was interred in the cemetery at Cedara where he had studied for the priesthood many years previously.



MONGINOUX, Odilon



Odilon Monginoux was born in the diocese of Mende, France, in 1849. After making his final vows in 1867 he was ordained in 1872 and came to Natal with Fr Baudry in September 1874. He was sent to Basutoland (Lesotho) to learn Sesutho and he worked there for a short while before going to assist Fr Lenoir in Kimberley. Whilst in Kimberley, Monginoux celebrated the Mass for the official opening of St Mary's church, assisted by Frs Lenoir and Schoch. Bishop Jolivet, who was supposed to preside at the ceremony, had been held 'prisoner' at Potchefstroom by the Boers who finally allowed him to continue his journey to Bloemfontein; but he arrived too late for the solemn blessing and opening of the new church. When Fr Sabon in Durban became too ill to continue looking after St Joseph's church, Fr Monginoux was sent to assist him in 1883. He succeeded Fr Sabon as parish priest of Durban.

In 1885 we find Monginoux in Kokstad but by February 1886 he was back in Kimberley. On the 12 July of the same year he was appointed first Prefect Apostolic of the Transvaal (1886–1891). Bishop Jolivet

noted that he was very pleased with this appointment.

In September 1886 Monginoux went to Europe, presumably to try and recruit help, both of personnel and financial, for the Transvaal Province. He returned in February 1887 with two Oblates and several Holy Family Sisters. On the 19 September 1887 Jolivet accompanied Monginoux and some Holy Family Sisters to establish the foundations of the church and school in Johannesburg, and to officially open the church of the Sacred Heart in Pretoria, which took place on the 2 October 1887. Under Monginoux's direction the church in the Transvaal made great strides. However, while he was Prefect Apostolic of the Transvaal, some friction developed between him and Jolivet in 1888, mainly in regard to financial administration, but they were again on friendly terms when he returned to work in Natal in 1891.

In 1892, he was again working in Kokstad and Matatiele. In Bishop Jolivet's journal, Monginoux is often mentioned as a travelling companion of the Bishop and in February 1893 he accompanied Bishop Jolivet to Europe, presumably as the delegate of the Oblates to the General Chapter. There were several other priests with them on their way to France on long leave. Monginoux then went with Jolivet and Fr De Lacy to Rome where they had an audience with the Pope.

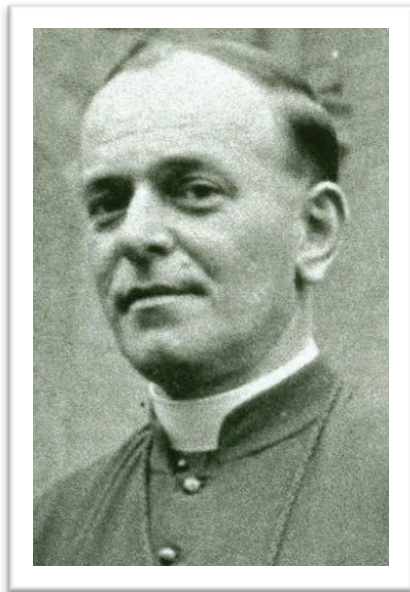
In 1894 Monginoux was resident in Umtata, as superior of the Transkei. He chose the village of Cala as the best place to found a mission and arranged with the help of a local Catholic,



Thomas Costello to buy a piece of land there for this purpose. Bishop Jolivet visited Cala with Monginoux in August 1894 and stated in his diary that “...they are taking Father Monginoux away from me.” He had been appointed Prefect of Basutoland (Lesotho) in July/August 1894. However by August 1895 he was back in Durban and was appointed Superior of the Oblate House there. In 1897 the Bishop wrote that he had to go to Durban to help out since Fr Monginoux “was worn out.” In December 1898 the Bishop took Monginoux with him to visit the missions in Zululand. Then in April 1901 he was back at Cala in the Transkei. All told, Fr Monginoux did valuable work in Lesotho, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Johannesburg, Durban and the Transkei. He died in Durban on the 28 November 1917 aged 68.



MOREL, Ernest



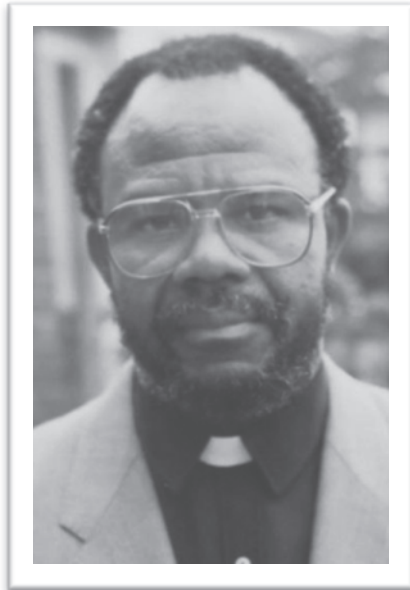
Ernest was born in Jersey in 1892. After completing his studies at the Oblate Juniorate, he entered the novitiate in 1912, at the end of which he pronounced his first vows in 1913. He then went to study for the priesthood in Belgium, presumably Lumieres, where he made his final profession in 1916 and was ordained in 1918. He received his first obedience for Ceylon (Sri Lanka), where he taught in the well-known college of St Joseph's in Colombo.

In 1931 he was transferred to Natal where he served in several missions, notably the Cathedral parish in Durban. He was entrusted with the newly established parish of St Peter's in Point Road. Ernest was loved and respected wherever he served – a good and faithful priest and Oblate. He did not enjoy good health and died in Durban on 14 May 1944 aged only 52. At his funeral Bishop Henry Delalle OMI conducted the Requiem Mass and preached saying, "... [He was] a very successful professor, a zealous worker in the missions, an active parish priest in spite of indifferent health, he made many friends who today mourn with us. We are sad and we pray, we pray that God may call his

soul to the joys of Heaven, we pray that he may not forget us, but may continue to do good to those whom he served so well and loved so truly." (*Southern Cross* May 31, 1944.)



MTHANTI, Benedict



Benedict was born at Lusitania, Mhlumayo, northern Natal on 9 January 1936. He did his schooling at Maria Ratschitz and Inchanga High School. When he expressed his desire to become an Oblate priest, he was sent to complete his schooling at St Theresa's Minor Seminary in Lesotho on the 28 January 1957. After completing his matriculation he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Villa Maria in Lesotho in 1959, making his first vows in January 1961 and his final vows in 1964. His ordination took place at Wasbank on 18 December 1965. Fr Ben quickly endeared himself to his fellow Oblates.

He began his ministry at St Clements, Clermont Township in 1966, and from there he was sent to St Philomena, Maphumulo from 1966–1970, then to St Dorothy, Matimatolo, a recent and growing parish, from 1970 to 1977. That year he was transferred to KwaKristo uMsindisi, KwaMashu, as parish priest where he ministered from 1977–1987. His final appointment was as parish priest at Umndeni Oyingcwele, Mpumalanga (Hammarisdale), from 1987 to 2005.

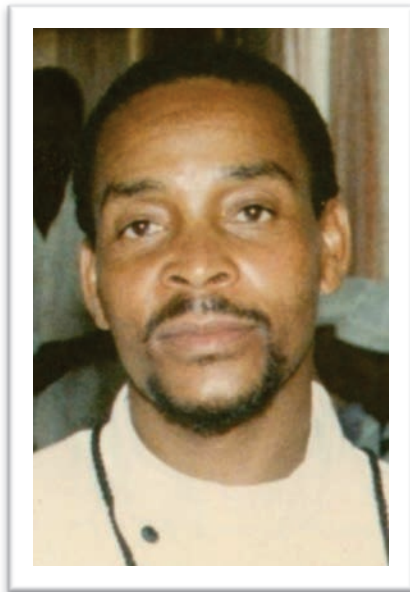
Ben had many outreach ministries as well, such as a Radio Preacher for the SABC, TV Preacher and Marriage Encounter Animator. He served on the Oblate Provincial Council and was also an Oblate District Superior. In addition, he founded a Youth Adult Group – Izinsizwa neZintombi.

After a fairly long illness, Ben was called to eternal life on the 31 May 2005. His Requiem Mass took place on 7 June at Umndeni Oyingcwele, after which he was buried in the Oblate Cemetery at Cedara. He was 69 years of age at the time of his death.

The OMI Provincial newsletter stated: "... He was a dedicated and devoted priest. He was a sympathetic and compassionate pastor who was always in his parish caring for his people. He was a wonderful role model for us the clergy of the Archdiocese and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was also well known for his love for and devotion to Mary."



MTOLO, Jabulani

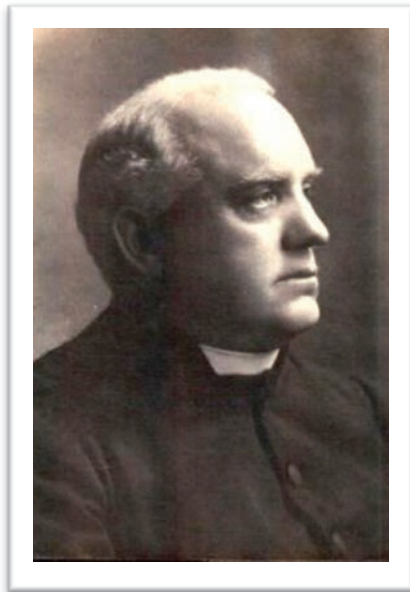


Jabulani Allison Japhet Mtolo was born on 28 February 1954 at Esimozameni, Richmond, in the Diocese of Mariannhill. His parents were James Japan Mtolo and Eslina born Ngcamu. His family were not Catholics. Jabulani was baptized as a young man at the age of 23 by Fr Cletus Mvemve OMI at St Raphael's Mission, Henley on 5 March 1977. A few years later he decided to become an Oblate priest and made his first vows on 26 January 1981 and final vows on 17 February 1984. He did his priestly studies at St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara and was ordained on 28 February 1987 at St Joseph's Parish, Richmond. After ordination his first assignment was to St Theresa's, Inchanga as assistant priest. He stayed there for almost a year, after which he was appointed as an assistant Formator at the Prenovitiate at Cleland from May 1989 to July 1990 when he was assigned as parish priest of St Albert, Esigodini and St Raphael at Henley. In 1992 he was appointed parish priest of St Augustine, Machibisa. From September 2003 to July 2004 he attended a sabbatical programme at St Anselm, and did some pastoral work at Margate. Then in 2004 he was appointed to take charge of Albini Mission, Ntshongweni.

In the second half of 2008, Jabulani fell ill and got progressively worse. He was transported to Sabon House and then to Entabeni hospital where he was treated for a few days. He was given medication, and was then taken to Montebello hospital where the Dominican Sisters would be able to take care of him. On the 15 December he succumbed to the illness and passed away peacefully. After a Requiem Mass at his former mission, his remains were taken to Cedara for burial, where he lies in peace with his Oblate confreres who preceded him into eternal life. He was 54 years of age at his death.



MURRAY, William



William was born in 1855. At the age of 22 he entered the Oblate Novitiate, making his first vows in 1878, and his final vows the following year. He must have started his priestly studies in France because he was one of the students, together with two French scholastics, viz. Louis Mathieu and Pierre Vernhet, who had to leave the country following the expulsion of religious orders from France in 1880. We are not told where or how he completed his theological studies, but he, Mathieu, and Vernhet were ordained by Bishop Jolivet in Pietermaritzburg on 8 April 1882. In March 1883 his name is mentioned by Bishop Jolivet as being one of the members of the Oblate residence in Durban, as an assistant to Frs Sabon and Monginoux, the Superior. Murray was appointed Procurator or Treasurer. In June Murray and Barret "...spent a day or two at Estcourt during their rounds of the small villages and country areas where there were Catholics living and no resident priest." This visit led to Bishop Jolivet acquiring a site at Estcourt for a mission. In December 1884 he was sent to visit the military camp at Rorke's Drift as many of the soldiers there had contracted enteric fever. Then in April the

following year, Murray and Monginoux assisted Bishop Jolivet as witnesses of the election of the first Abbot at Mariannhill, Abbot Franz Pfanner.

In August 1886, Murray was sent to visit the gold mines of the Transvaal, returning to Durban on the 2 October. On that visit he had chosen a site at Barberton for a church, but when Bishop Jolivet visited the town in November he found it unsuitable, and bought another in the centre of the town. In January 1888 Bishop Jolivet appointed him treasurer of the Vicariate and in June of the same year he went to visit the British troops in Zululand. Again in May of the following year he did a round of visits among the soldiers in Zululand. On the 21 November 1891 he was sent to Vryheid, presumably to see how this new mission was doing. His stay there was very short, as he was back in Durban in January 1892 when he accompanied Jolivet to Bellair to choose a site for a chapel. In December of that year he did another tour of visits to the troops in Zululand. In July 1894 he returned to Durban from Vryheid and Dundee but had to take to his bed because of ill-health. In October of that year, Fr Edward Kelly in

Pietermaritzburg lay dying with cancer of the stomach. Fr Murray came from Durban to visit his Irish confrere, and when the latter died the following day, Fr Murray celebrated his Requiem Mass in St Mary's. In January of the following year (1895) Murray was in Ladysmith and Estcourt for several months. Jolivet depended a great deal on Fr Murray for practical advice and administration and he had been acting as the Bishop's business secretary. It was no surprise then, that in August 1895 he was appointed Procurator (Treasurer). In October of that



year he went to Eshowe to see about the foundation of the mission in Zululand (Emoyeni) where Fr Rousset would be going to take charge.

In April 1898 Murray was elected delegate of the South African Oblates to the General Chapter which was due to take place in May and therefore accompanied Bishop Jolivet to Europe. They both returned in September, and Murray straightaway returned to his duties in the Ladysmith and Dundee area. The next month, November, the Bishop appointed Murray as the first parish priest of Ladysmith while Fr Saby took over as Treasurer. Murray was also chaplain to the soldiers billeted in Ladysmith and in Dundee during the second Anglo-Boer War. In October 1899 Bishop Jolivet wrote in his Journal: "...In effect, Fr Murray is a prisoner of the Boers, as military chaplain in Dundee, but we have no communication with him." Murray had become friendly with the Anglican chaplain, Revd Gerard Bailey, and the two worked together among the troops and the wounded. The two chaplains slept behind the altar in the Catholic Church! When the British troops moved out of Dundee they left the sick and wounded behind and after the Boers took over the town the two military chaplains continued to look after the sick and wounded in the field hospital, Boer and Briton alike. (Acknowledgements to Revd B.B. Burnett, *Anglicans in Natal*.)

On the 22 January 1900 Fr Murray returned to Durban via Delagoa Bay and on the 29th he accompanied Bishop Jolivet to Mariannhill for the burial of Abbot Amandus. In July of that year Murray, who had been in Durban as an invalid, was granted a holiday as a military chaplain, and was to go to England on a hospital ship at government expense. He was back in Durban in 1901, and was appointed Superior of the Oblate Residence in Durban on the 16 April.

After Bishop Jolivet died on 15 September 1903, both Frs Murray and Mathieu were popular choices to replace him, but instead Henri Delalle was appointed as bishop-elect. This unfortunately led to tension between Delalle and Murray and the latter was relieved of his task as vicarial bursar and sent to Umtata, apparently for health reasons and at his own request. However, a small group of English-speaking Catholics began a campaign to have him re-instated, and they even publicised the whole affair in the press. Later the ill-feelings were resolved, and Murray was back working in Natal.

He was stationed at the Cathedral, and from there he would "... go to Maris Stella to offer Holy Mass. Seeing the results of the Sister's missionary work [especially Sr St Anne from the Holy Family Sisters at Maris Stella], he managed to collect sufficient money from donors all over Durban, to purchase land and build a church in Sydenham. On the death of his son, Mr Raoul de Gersigny had given all the insurance money he received towards the church building fund. Parish records show that Bishop Henry Delalle OMI purchased a piece of land in Sydenham from Mr William York for £135 on 10 November 1922. The building of the church was carried out by Brother Boudon." (*St Anne's Catholic Church Golden Jubilee Brochure: 1924–1974*). Murray became the first parish priest of St Anne's parish, and was succeeded by Fr Noel de Gersigny when in 1922 he was posted to Estcourt. He died in Durban on the 30 August 1932 aged 77.



MUTHEN, Brother Stephen



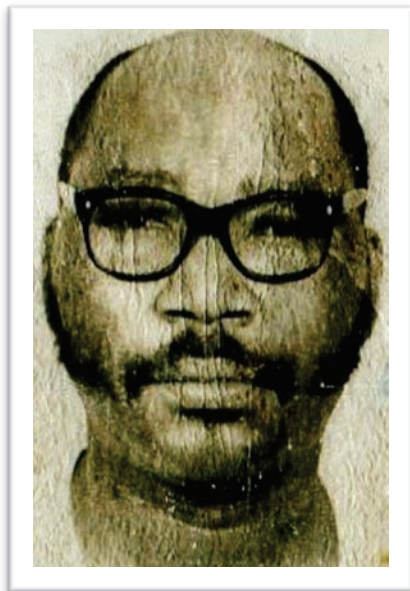
Stephen was born at Redcliffe, Verulam, Natal on the 30 January 1923. He attended St Xavier's School at Oakford, and after leaving school worked on his father's farm at Redcliffe. In 1952, at the age of 29, he was baptized by Fr Denis O'Sullivan at Oakford. He felt a call to the religious life as a missionary brother and at his own request was sent to Sri Lanka to begin his Novitiate in 1959. He made his first vows on the 31 May 1960 and returned to Natal. He was assigned to the community of St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara and worked on the farm with Brother David Dupreez until the end of 1962. Stephen was then transferred to Emmanuel Cathedral where he worked till 1974, taking care of the sacristy, teaching catechism and visiting the parishioners. During that time he made his final vows in 1968. He continued this work when he was assigned to St Anthony's parish in 1975 for a year. He then returned to the Cathedral at the beginning of 1976 and remained there until 1980, doing invaluable work, especially among the many Indian parishioners. That year he went to Khanyisa Pastoral Institute at Mariannhill in order to renew himself for teaching catechism and for

Adult Formation. In 1982 he was appointed pastoral assistant at Shaka's Kraal until 1984 when he went to Good Shepherd Parish, Phoenix, again as pastoral assistant. From there in 1989 he was transferred to Amanzimtoti/Isipingo and remained there till his death.

Stephen was a man of faith. His devotion to the Eucharist and to our Blessed Lady was the mainstay in his life. One of his greatest joys was to bring converts into the Church and instruct them in the faith. In the words of St Eugene de Mazenod, Stephen had a 'Zeal for souls'. While at Isipingo he reached out to the people in the informal settlements of Malukazi. During that time he fell ill, and was sent to Sabon House to recuperate. His burning desire while recuperating there was to return to work with the people of Malukazi. However, the good Lord had planned that Stephen should come to Him, and He called him on Monday, 17 October 1994 when Stephen surrendered himself to the Lord whom he had loved and served so devoutly during his life as an Oblate brother. He was then 66 years of age.



MVEMVE, Cletus Boyi

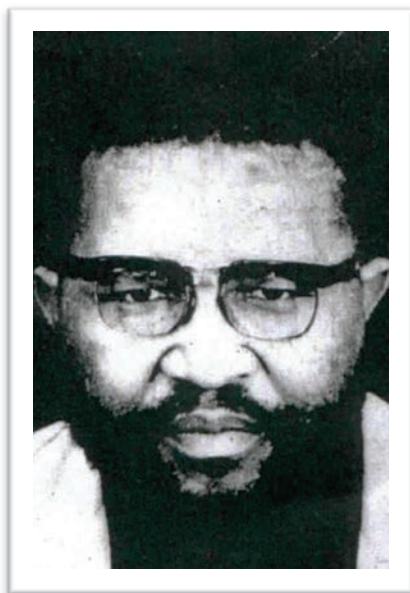


Cletus Boyi was born on 25 November 1936 at Bandlabathwa, Dannhauser, northern Natal. His parents were Alfred and Prisca (born Hadebe). From 1954–55 he attended Inchanga High School as a boarder at the then Oblate Juniorate. When he decided to pursue his vocation he was sent to St Theresa's Minor Seminary in Lesotho from 1956–57. He matriculated there and then entered the Oblate novitiate in Villa Maria, Quthing, Lesotho in 1958, making his first vows on 9 March 1959. From there he entered St Augustine's Seminary where he did his philosophy and theology while residing at the Oblate Scholasticate in Roma, Lesotho. He made his final profession in 1963, completed his studies in 1965, and was ordained priest on 18 December 1965 at Maria Ratschitz, near Wasbank, northern Natal. At the Scholasticate he had showed his prowess on the football field and earned the Sesutho nickname of 'Maeto', which means 'travels', a name which depicted his ability to cut through the defence of the opposing team!

Cletus began his ministry at St Augustine's parish, Machibisa or Henryville, and at Imbali Township outside Pietermaritzburg in 1977 as assistant to Fr Albert Couedor. There he showed his charisma for youth ministry and communicated well with youth and young adults. His genuine goodness was experienced in personal relationships with him. He enjoyed reading and never stopped studying volumes of systematic philosophy and dogmatic treatises on sacramental theology, or Merkelbach's volume on moral theology. He also enjoyed theological and philosophical discussions. In 1974 he was appointed parish priest of St Raphael's parish, Henley, and he served this parish until 1984 when he was transferred to, and was appointed parish priest of, St Philomena, Maphumulo. He remained there till 1988, when he was sent to St Paul's University, Ottawa, Canada for two years, and obtained a Licentiate in Canon Law. On his return in 1990 he was appointed pastor of Ntuzuma, but the following year (1991) he was appointed Director at the Pre-Novitiate, Cleland. After three years there he was assigned to KwaKristo parish, KwaMashu from 1993 till 1995. During the years after his return from Canada, he served on the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal where his knowledge of Canon Law was very useful and he also lectured at Cedara on Canon Law. Sadly, in 1995 he fell ill and was sent to Sabon House to recuperate, but on the 26 December 1995 he surrendered his life and soul to his Lord and Master whom he had served faithfully and dutifully. He was then 59 years of age.



MZOLO, Paul(os)



Paulos (Paul) was born on 2 May 1929 in Dundee, Natal, and was baptized by Fr Charles Hugo OMI. His father was a catechist. Paul's primary education was at St Thomas' school in Village Main in Johannesburg where he got to know Fr George Clarke who had a good influence on him and sowed the seed of a vocation in him. Paul was sent to Lesotho to do his high school studies at Roma College and he matriculated at St Theresa's Seminary in 1951. On 25 January 1952 he entered the Oblate novitiate at Villa Maria, Lesotho, and made his first vows there the following year. He then went to pursue his priestly studies at the Major Seminary in Roma whilst residing at the Oblate Scholasticate. On the 2 February 1956 he made his final vows and was ordained to the priesthood on 13 December 1958 in Dundee. He returned to Roma for two years to do some further studies at Pius XII University. Then in 1962 he was appointed to the High School and Oblate Juniorate at Inchanga where he taught for two years. Unfortunately his health was not good and this task at Inchanga proved too much for him, so he was relieved of his duties there and placed at

Clermont Township parish where he did relief work. In 1965 he was appointed parish priest at Seven Oaks Mission, remaining there for almost four years until 1969 when he was assigned as parish priest to St Philomena's, Maphumulo till 1976 when once more he became ill and had to be treated in hospital for some time. After he recovered he was again assigned to Inchanga as assistant doing light pastoral work until he had sufficiently regained his strength when he was appointed to Clermont as parish priest in 1977. He continued his ministry in Clermont till 1 August 1983 when he was assigned as parish priest of St Paul's, Ntuzuma. His stay there was short-lived however. In December 1984 he again took ill and was taken to Mariannhill hospital where he died of cardiac failure on the 27 December, aged 55.

Fr Mzolo was noted for his kind and friendly disposition and sympathetic nature. He enjoyed the company of his confreres and joined in their laughter. In spite of his poor health, he was always available to his people. His Requiem took place at St Paul's Church, Ntuzuma, after which his remains were taken to Cedara for burial among his brother Oblates.



NGCOBO, Michael Sibusiso



Michael Sibusiso was born in Empangeni, KwaZulu, on 6 June 1967. Later his family moved to the Maphumulo area where Sibusiso grew up. After completing his matric he went to join the Oblate Community at Cleland Pre-Novitiate and in 1987 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Johannesburg, where he made his first vows on the 25 January 1988. He then went to Cedara to begin his scholastic studies. In 1990 he was sent to Rome to continue his studies at the Gregorian University where he completed his degree in philosophy and theology. On his return in June 1993 he was eager to be ordained to the priesthood and to be of service to his people in Natal but, soon after his return, he was diagnosed with cancer of the liver and was told that he had only a few months to live. He accepted his heavy cross with faith and courage. All over the Province, and in all the parishes, prayers were offered up for his recovery, but it was not to be. On the 28 August 1993 he was ordained at his home parish of Maphumulo by his relative Bishop Dominic Khumalo. The whole ceremony was very moving. Sibusiso, now under medication with morphine and having lost a great deal of

weight, was helped to vest for his ordination and the ceremony proceeded with him in a wheel chair. That morning he had refused to take his medication in case he would not be conscious enough to realize what he was doing and therefore the ordination ceremony could be declared invalid. He wanted to remain as conscious as he possibly could so as to give his whole-hearted willingness to be ordained priest. That he was suffering and struggling to keep conscious was evident from the photographs taken of the ordination. This was his Garden of Gethsemane. After his ordination he was transferred to Sabon House in Durban where he could be nursed and treated.

On Friday 15 October 1993, Father General, Marcello Zago, who was visiting at the time, went to celebrate the Eucharist with Michael in his room. He was found to be too weak, so they decided to return after lunch. The Durban District had gathered to greet Fr General at a lunch at Provincial House. After lunch they returned to Sabon House to find Michael dying. The Oblates gathered round his bed and joined in the prayers for the dying. Mrs Ngcobo, his mother, held him in her arms whilst his Oblate brothers surrounded him, including the Provincial and Archbishop Denis Hurley. As they prayed, so Sibusiso quietly breathed his last and rendered his soul to his beloved Lord and Saviour. Fr General and those gathered immediately sang the 'Salve Regina', after which Fr General celebrated holy Mass for the repose of his soul. Just as Mary, the Mother of Jesus, stood beneath the Cross and



watched her son die, so Mrs Ngcobo stood with Michael day and night, and finally gave him to God when the hour came. On the day he died, at 4 a.m. he said to her, "Everything is okay, Ma." He then slipped into a coma and a few hours later died, aged only 26. The funeral was held at Cedara where his emaciated body was buried in the cemetery with his Oblate brothers, whilst his spirit rejoiced in the glory of heaven.



NGUBANE, Johannes (John) Bhekabantu



John was born at Eston, Natal, on the 23 August 1923, the second of six children born to Alfred Gade Ngubane and Anastasia (born Gumedede). His parents gave him the Zulu name of 'Bhekabantu', which means 'to care for or look after people', a somewhat prophetic naming! He was baptized at Inchanga and given the Christian name 'Johannes' or 'John'. He completed his primary education at Inchanga, and then went to St Theresa's Seminary in Lesotho for his secondary education. At the end of his schooling he decided to join the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and entered the novitiate at Inchanga at the beginning of 1945. Fr Denis Howard St George was his novice master. He made his first vows on the 6 January 1946, after which he went to St Augustine's Seminary in Lesotho to commence his studies for the priesthood. Whilst there he pronounced his final vows on the 17 February 1949. He returned to Inchanga to be ordained priest by Bishop Patrick Whelan OMI of Johannesburg on the 8 December 1950. He was then the first priestly vocation from Inchanga.

From 1953 to 1954 he did a post-Matric teacher's course at Mariannhill, after which he taught at Inchanga High School from 1955–1960. At that time the High School was under the management of the Oblates. His next assignment was to teach future catechists at the Diocesan Catechist's School at Esigodini in the Pietermaritzburg area (1961–1964). After this he was appointed parish priest at Kwa Machibisa (1970–1976) and from there he was assigned to St Joseph's Scholasticate as parish priest of Cedara parish and lecturer at the Scholasticate (1976–1977). He had previously obtained a BA from UNISA. The following year he went overseas for further studies at London University where he obtained an MA (1978–1981). He then returned to St Joseph's Scholasticate where he once again took up the position of lecturer and parish priest. In 1985 he was appointed acting Provincial and then Provincial (1985–1992). At the end of his term as Provincial he was appointed parish priest at Esigodini (1993–1996), after which he took charge of KwaKristo Umsindisi parish in KwaMashu (1996–1999).

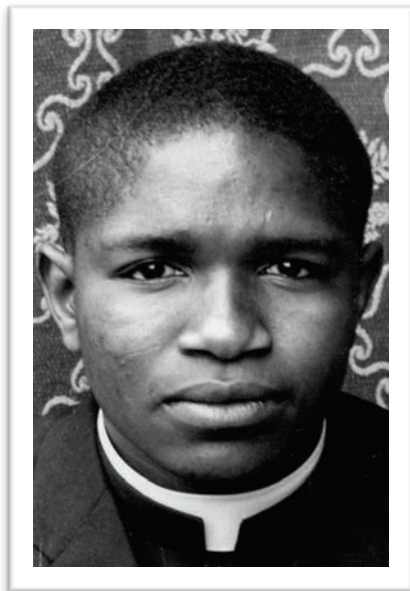
In 1999, at the age of 73 he retired from active ministry; but that was not to be the end of John's ministry. He was requested to move to Himmelberg in the diocese of Mariannhill to be chaplain to the Franciscan Sisters of Assisi, a duty which he readily accepted and which he enjoyed very much. The Sisters, on their side, were very pleased and grateful for having such a priest as their resident chaplain.



Even in his old age, John retained the great sense of humour which accompanied him all his priestly life. He had a kindly nature which easily endeared him to people. In 2013 John developed ulcers on his legs which left him incapacitated as far as walking was concerned. He retired to Sabon House in Durban where his Oblate brothers received him with open arms and helped him to be as comfortable as possible in his fading months. Finally at the beginning of 2014 John was no longer able to walk or get out of bed. He resigned himself to his incapacity, and he was fortunate in having his brother, who was a medical doctor, care for him in many ways. His family, especially his niece, Nokuthula, also visited him regularly and showered him with love and care. On the morning of the 17 March 2014 John passed away peacefully and handed himself over to his Lord and Master whom he had served so faithfully in his long life. If Bishop Dominic Khumalo and Fr Jerome Mavundla were the first indigenous South Africans to become Oblate priests and who throughout their lives were an example of dedication to the Oblate way of life, then Fr John Ngubane was undoubtedly the third. Together they left a wonderful example that would be hard to follow.



NKOSI, Michael Mandla



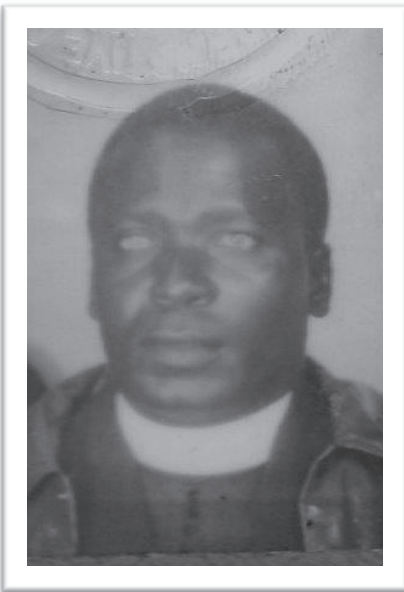
Michael was born on 24 July 1943 at Wasbank, northern Natal, of Pius Nkosi and Rosalia (born Ntombela). He was baptized by Fr Francis Dufait OMI in the church of Maria Ratschitz. He attended the Oblate High School at Inchanga and, after matriculating, entered the Oblate Novitiate at Villa Maria, Lesotho in 1967, making his first vows on 17 February 1968. He then began his studies for the priesthood at the Scholasticate in Roma, Lesotho. He made his final vows on 31 January 1971 in his new parish of Bethlehem, Botha's Hill, to which his parents had moved from Wasbank much earlier. For the last two years of his theology he studied at St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara and was ordained priest on 30 June 1973. His first assignment was at St Augustine's, Machibisa where he served as hospital chaplain to Edendale Hospital from 1974–1979. Whilst there he was appointed parish priest of the new parish at Imbali. In 1979 he went to Cedara as parish priest and bursar of the Scholasticate until 1983 when he was appointed parish priest of St Clement's, Clermont, and he ministered there till 1993. In 1994 he took up residence at Sabon House.

Michael was a likeable character, kind, gentle, good humoured, and always willing to help. In 2004 his health began to decline. At first he seemed to have a very bad cold, but in spite of strong antibiotics, he did not improve. Eventually he was admitted to Entabeni hospital, seriously ill. A scan revealed a huge mass on the pancreas. The surgeons decided against an operation and Michael died on Friday, 30 July 2004, exactly two weeks after entering the hospital. His confreres were with him on that last day, praying with him as he lay on the bed, his frame wasted away. He tried to join in the prayers, but was too weak. He was 61 years of age.

The people of Clermont did not forget Michael and arranged a special memorial service for him on the Thursday before his funeral. The church was packed. There were three Bishops present, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale OMI, Bishop of Johannesburg, Bishop PiusDlungwane of Mariannhill, both classmates of Michael, and Bishop Dominic Khumalo OMI. The Requiem Mass took place at St Augustine's Church, Machibisa and was conducted by Bishop Jabulani Nxumalo OMI, Auxiliary Bishop of Durban. The huge congregation consisted of friends, former parishioners and Religious Sisters from various Congregations, plus his priest confreres in great numbers. After the Mass his body was taken for interment at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



NKUNA, Brother Philip



Philip was born in March 1922 in the diocese of Maputo, Mozambique. It seems that as a young man he must have come to Durban to look for work. In December 1943 Fr Ernest Canevet OMI of the mission in Malvern, Durban, thought this young man was a possible vocation and sent him to Fr Howard St George, who was novice master at Inchanga. In August 1944 Philip entered the novitiate at Inchanga, making his first vows on 8 December 1945, and continued to reside at Inchanga for most of his life (from 1945 to 2000). He was the only one of three vocations from Mozambique that persevered to the end in his vocation.

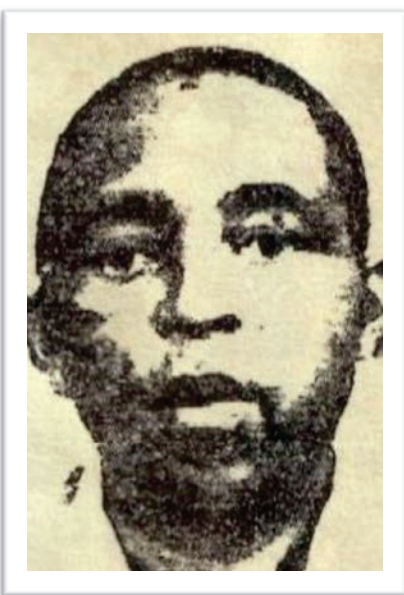
Philip had to carry a heavy cross for the greater part of his life; he became blind in his forties. He was already blind in one eye when he had entered the Oblate Congregation. The sight in the other eye quickly deteriorated and, by the time he made his final vows, he was already blind in both eyes. His formators had recognised in him a great faith and spirit of resilience. But they had also noted a certain stubbornness in him, and this made them question his vocation.

However the Novice Master felt that his depth of faith made him worthy to take vows and so he was admitted to final vows on 8 December 1950. In the 1950's he went to the Natal Blind Association for training and learned to do basket weaving. In the many years he spent at Inchanga his main companion was Brother Joseph Kubone, but after Brother Joseph's death, Philip retreated more and more into himself.

In 2001 he retired to Sabon House in Durban and had to adapt himself to new surroundings and circumstances. No doubt Philip became accustomed to having Jesus as his constant companion in prayer, and he had learned the hard way to rely solely on Jesus for companionship and strength. Finally, at the age of 86, on 30 May 2008, Philip died peacefully as he gave himself over to his Lord and Companion for eternity, and, no doubt, now no longer blind, saw Jesus in all his glory. He is buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



NZAMA, Gervas(e)



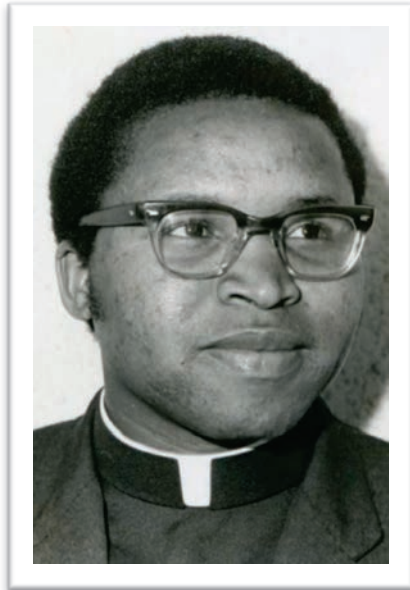
Gervas Vivian was born on 7 July 1940 at Inchanga. After completing his secondary education at Inchanga Juniorate and St Theresa's Seminary in Roma, Lesotho, he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Villa Maria, Qhuthing, Lesotho in 1961, where he made his first vows on 6 January 1962. From there he went to begin his priestly studies at St Augustine's Seminary, Roma, but resided at the Oblate Scholasticate of Mater Jesu. He made his final vows on 6 January 1966 and then returned to his home parish of Inchanga for his ordination on 6 July 1968. After ordination he was assigned as assistant priest to Our Lady of Lourdes, KwaMashu from 1969 to 1970 and then was appointed parish priest at Ekukhanyeni, Inanda, in 1971, but was there for only six months, as he had to do a locum at Matikwe, Inanda for three months in the same year. In 1972 he was appointed chaplain to King Edward Hospital and Prisons, a ministry he held for two years until 1974 when he was assigned as parish priest to Esigodini, Pietermaritzburg. From there he went as an assistant to Port Shepstone in April of 1975 till 1978, when he was appointed parish priest till 1983. In April of that year he went to Hammarsdale, Mpumalanga, as acting parish priest,

and in January of 1984 was appointed parish priest, a post he held till 1987. In June of 1987 he was assigned as parish priest of St Augustine's, Machibisa where he remained till his death in 1992.

Whilst he was there, he did all he could to encourage the parish choir to take part in competitions, and while consigned to his bed in his final illness, he had the joy and satisfaction of knowing that his choir had won the national competition. Gervas had developed cancer of the colon with secondaries, and he was sent to Montebello for care and treatment, but he succumbed to the disease on 4 January 1992, aged only 52. His funeral took place at Machibisa in a packed church, filled to capacity with parishioners, friends, family and priests on the 9 January, after which he was buried at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



NZIMANDE, Johannes Ncane



Johannes Ncane was born on 4 June 1946 at Henley of Alfred Delashi Nzimande and Florence Ntombana Ntsindane. As a youngster he attended the Oblate Juniorate and then High School at Inchanga. After completing his matric he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Villa Maria in Lesotho in 1961, making his first vows in 1962. He then entered the Oblate Scholasticate of Mater Jesu in Roma, Lesotho, attending classes at St Augustine's Major Seminary, and made his final vows in 1968. He returned to his home parish of St Raphael's, Henley, for his ordination on 7 July 1973. His first assignment in 1974 was to Assumption parish, Umbilo, Durban, as assistant priest and chaplain to King Edward Hospital. In 1975 he was appointed parish priest of Esigodini, St Albert's parish, till 1978, when he was assigned as parish priest to St Augustine's, Machibisa, for the next nine years. In 1987 he took charge of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, KwaMashu where he remained till 1995. Because of ill health he had to retire to Sabon House at the end of 1995. For the next few years he had to have dialysis on a regular basis because of kidney failure, and he suffered this illness with great

courage, never complaining, and resigned to God's will. On the 17 February 1997, a feast day very precious to the Oblate Congregation, Johannes was born to eternal life, aged only 51 years. The funeral Mass was held at St Augustine's parish, Machibisa, on the 24 February and was attended by thousands of people. Bishop Dominic Khumalo was the main celebrant, assisted by Archbishop Denis Hurley, Bishop Mvemve of Rustenburg, Fr Barry Wood (Natal Provincial) and over sixty priests. Johannes was buried at the Oblate cemetery at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara.



OCHS, John



John William Francis was born in Dorchester, Boston, on the 21 February 1905 of Irish-German parentage. He was educated at St Margaret's Parish School and Boston College High School. After working for a few years he returned to supplement high school and college studies at Canisius Preparatory and Canisius University College in Buffalo, NY. In 1928 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Tewksbury, Mass. and took his first vows on 8 September 1929. From there he went to Newburgh-on-Hudson, New York State, for his philosophy course. He did theology in Washington, DC where he made his final vows in 1932, and was ordained to the priesthood on 10 June 1935, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He immediately volunteered for the Zulu missions and was sent to Natal, arriving in Durban in 1935. John began his missionary activities in Newcastle, and then was appointed pastor of St Michael's, Redhill, Durban. From there he took charge of St Paul's, Greyville, Durban, then Assumption parish in Malvern, after which he went to Holy Rosary parish in Dundee.

John's activities spread beyond parish boundaries. He was a well-known preacher, and served on the Oblate Mission Band which preached missions in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Durban, and many other centres. He was a foundation member of the Council appointed to launch Pius XII University College in Roma, Lesotho. John was closely associated with the Catholic African Union and was the first National Spiritual Director of the Catholic African Teachers' Federation. In 1952 Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI appointed him associate organiser of the National Marian Congress in Durban, celebrating the centenary of the arrival of the Oblates in South Africa. He worked in close collaboration with the organiser, Fr Sheldon Kelly OMI. In 1953 at the special request of the South African Hierarchy, Most Reverend Leo Deschatelets OMI, Superior General, released Fr Ochs to be secretary for African Affairs in the recently founded Secretariat of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference in Pretoria, a post he held until his death.

John was struck down by cancer to which he finally succumbed on the eve of All Saints, 31 October 1957. He was then only 52 years of age. His funeral Mass, presided over by Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI of Durban, took place in a packed Cathedral, attended by well over a thousand people, including two Bishops, representatives of Bishops of other dioceses, about 80 priests and representatives of Sisters and Brothers of Religious Congregations. The burial took place in the Catholic cemetery adjoining Emmanuel Cathedral. In his sermon, the Archbishop alluded to the fact that Fr Ochs was being buried on the 4 November, patronal

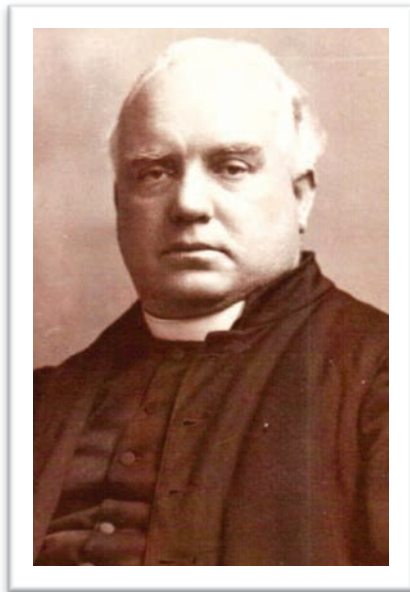


feast of Charles de Mazenod, Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, of whom Father Ochs had always been a loyal son, and also the eve of the feast of St Martin de Porres, in the spread of whose devotion in South Africa, Fr Ochs had been a pioneer.

John was a man of deep loyalties. He loved the Church and the life-long practical expression of that love was his complete devotion to the Zulu people and all other Africans whom the Church sent him to evangelize. He dedicated his life to the Africans whom he considered his spiritual children. This was the key-note of his attitude towards them. His great joy and pride was to serve them, which he did unstintingly, with open-hearted generosity and fatherly indulgence. He felt it quite normal to identify himself with them and with their cause, and many recall his frequent public references to 'us Africans'. John was beloved by all for his kindness, understanding, cooperation, and irrepressible gaiety. He was the life of every clerical gathering and will long be remembered for his quick repartee and witty sallies. He set the example of a great-hearted missionary. *(All the above information is taken from an article published at the time of his death, - an article most probably written by Archbishop Denis Hurley himself.)*



O'DONNELL, James



James O'Donnell, was born in 1870, probably in Liverpool, England. In May 1885 Bishop Jolivet and Fr Barret went to Europe to attend a General Chapter of the Oblate Congregation and in October Jolivet paid a visit to his former parish in Liverpool. There he met an old acquaintance, Mr O'Donnell. In his Journal Bishop Jolivet wrote: "... Mr O'Donnell proposed that I take his son, James O'Donnell, who has begun his studies with the Jesuits of Liverpool. It seems from the notes which I read that the Rev Fathers are pleased with this child." (O'Donnell was then 15 years of age and doing his secondary education with the Jesuits). Jolivet readily accepted the young man and on the 4 November 1885, Jolivet wrote: "... Also with me is the young James O'Donnell of Liverpool and with him Fr Barret and Miss V. Whiteford." Jolivet does not specify where he was at the time. Did he mean "with me on board ship" or "here in London"? It is not clear. It is possible that James remained behind to complete his schooling and do his novitiate year with the Oblates. Whatever the case, James made his first vows in 1891, and his final profession the

following year. The next occasion that Bishop Jolivet mentioned O'Donnell in his Journal was on 2 May 1892: "... Brother O'Donnell went to Estcourt to study under Fr Le Bras," obviously to complete his clerical studies. Bishop Jolivet frequently took Brother O'Donnell with him on his rounds and on 21 January 1894 James, then a deacon, attended the solemn blessing and opening of the new church built by Fr Baudry on the Bluff. James was finally ordained to the priesthood, together with Francis Weinrich, by Bishop Jolivet on the 8 June 1895 in St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg.

At the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer war in October 1899, the Boer government of the South African Republic (Transvaal) expelled all 'Uitlanders' (foreigners, mainly British). Many of the refugees landed up at Newcastle, Ladysmith and Estcourt, the main towns on the railway line to the SAR. On the 28 October, Bishop Jolivet wrote: "... Fr Saby is at Ladysmith in the centre of military operations. Fr O'Donnell and Fr Ford are looking after the soldiers, the wounded, etc. at Ladysmith."

Then in May 1901 the Bishop wrote: "... At long last I have received a welcome letter from Fr O'Donnell. I have been told that he is doing a good job among the soldiers."

Fr O'Donnell became a very influential priest in the Vicariate, especially in the Durban area, particularly in the Greyville precincts, where he was a very popular and well-known parish priest for many years, being looked upon as a sort of icon by Catholics and non-Catholics



alike. During the First World War, 1914–18, the South African Government decided that all those of German nationality or origin should be interned. This put the Trappists at Mariannhill and all their mission stations in a very precarious position. Through the intervention of Bishop Delalle the Trappists were allowed to remain undisturbed. Again in 1916, with the tightening of restrictions on German subjects, Fathers Kolbe and O'Donnell made another visit to Pretoria and asked for an exception to be made for the German priests. Again they were successful.

In 1920 a plan had been mooted to divide the Vicariate of Natal. This involved the handing over of a large portion to the Mariannhill Congregation as a separate Vicariate, which would include Pietermaritzburg and district. There was a conflict of ideas between the OMI General Administration and Bishop Delalle in regard to the demarcation of boundaries, so the Vicarial Council decided to send Fr O'Donnell to Rome to put forward the bishop's proposals about future boundaries. As a result Delalle declared he was pleased that Propaganda had taken note of his observations, and he hoped this would serve as a lesson to the OMI General Administration not to ignore Natal in future.

In the late 1920s the Vicariate of Natal was in a bad state financially so this time Bishop Delalle sent Fr O'Donnell to the USA and Canada to raise funds for missionary purposes. In those six years away from Natal, Fr O'Donnell managed to raise several thousand pounds with which Bishop Delalle was able to open a considerable number of new missions and to finance extensions to the old ones.

In an article written by Fr Sheldon Kelly who succeeded O'Donnell at St Joseph's, Greyville he stated that “... James O'Donnell was a powerful personality, keen of mind, strong of will, quick of wit, and zealous for God's glory and the salvation of souls...Fr O'Donnell had an intense love of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. He never preached without some reference to the Eucharist, Mass and Communion. When criticised for this constancy he replied: 'If people assist frequently at Mass and Holy Communion, they will never lose their faith, and Jesus will teach them many things that we cannot.'”

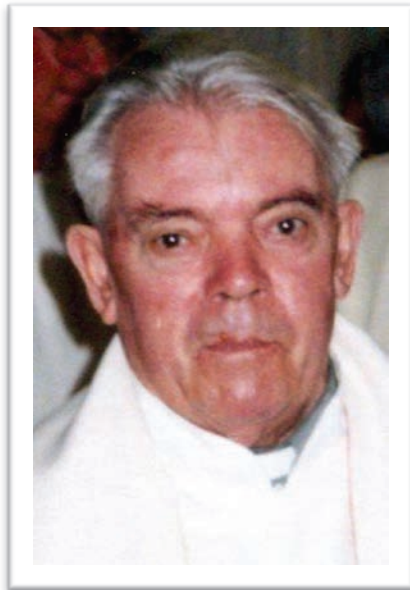
Fr O'Donnell was finally stricken suddenly by a fatal illness, and lapsed into a coma. Fr Sheldon Kelly concludes, “...he lapsed into a coma after receiving the Last Sacraments. As the evening hours wore on he finally recovered full powers of mind and asked that I bring him Holy Communion. At midnight, I brought him our Sacramental Lord which he received with profound devotion. Then he said to Sr St Charles and myself, as he used to say to parishioners who broke in on his thanksgiving: 'Go away. I want to talk to God.' He made his thanksgiving and then relapsed into a coma from which he never awoke.”

Fr O'Donnell died in Durban on the 21 March 1936, aged 66.



O'HARA, Gerard. (See Necrology part 2)

OLIVIER, Romain



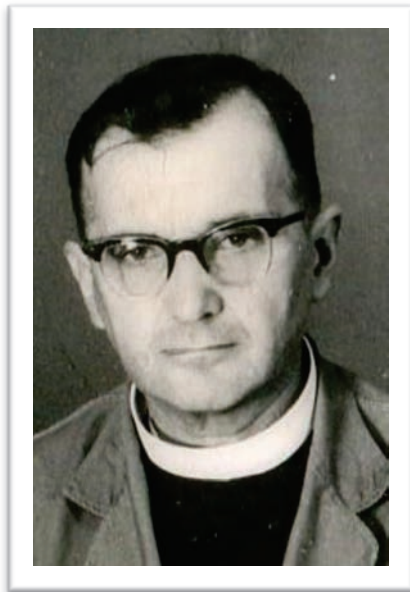
Romain Olivier was born on 29 September 1918 at St Pierre des Laudosa, Brittany, France. He attended the Minor Seminary in Laval, after which he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Berder at the age of 18, making his first vows as an Oblate on 8 August 1937. He then went to the Scholasticate at La Brosse, where he made his final vows on 26 April 1942, and was ordained a priest on 4 March 1944. In all probability, 'Olive' (as he was known among his confreres) was a scholastic at the time the Nazi soldiers invaded the Scholasticate and shot some of them in cold blood. At the completion of his studies, he remained in France for a time as the war was still going on. He was at the Provincial House, Petites Annales, from 1944–1947. He then received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 1 March 1947. His first assignment was to Inchanga in order to learn the Zulu language, and then to Greyville in order to learn English. From July 1947 to 1948 he was at Montebello to continue his lessons in isiZulu and from January to April 1948, he was back at Inchanga as assistant priest after which from April to September he went to Mbava as assistant priest. He then spent a year

at Maphumulo as assistant priest from September 1948 to 1949 when he was assigned to Mhlumayo, northern Natal, as *locum tenens*. After this he was appointed parish priest at Machibisa for one year in 1950, and from 1951 to 1956 was parish priest at Montebello. His next move was to Corpus Christi, Upper Tongaat as parish priest from 1956–1964, after which he did a stint as *locum tenens* from September to November in Greytown before being appointed parish priest of Bergville where he ministered till 1976, and then on to Mooi River from 1976 to 1981. His final appointment was as parish priest at Weenen, from 1981–1996. That year he retired to Sabon House at the age of 78.

While there Olive lived quietly and fruitfully, occupying his time making rosaries for the missions, and praying with the community. He was short of stature, but large of heart and was always smiling and willing to help. On the 21 July 2000, at the age of 82, he quietly rendered his life to the Father he had served so faithfully in his lifetime. Olive went as he had lived, quietly, unobtrusively, and joyfully.



PAQUOTTE, Ferdinand



Ferdinand Paquotte was born on 2 April 1904 at Bourneville, France. After completing his studies at the Juniorate in Pontmain, he went to the Major Seminary in Montmagny, after which he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Berder in 1930 at 26 years of age, making his first vows the following year on 15 August 1931. From there he did his priestly studies at Liège in Belgium, La Brosse in France, where he made his final vows on 15 August 1934, and finally at Daingean in Ireland. He was ordained priest on 5 July 1936 at La Brosse, aged 32. He arrived in Natal in January 1938. His first assignment was to Mbava mission in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, near Nagle Dam, a very difficult and remote mission where he probably learned the Zulu language in which he became quite fluent. From then on he dedicated his whole priestly and missionary life to the Zulu people. He went to Inchanga for four months, between November 1938 and March 1939 as assistant, then went back to Mbava in April 1939 until February 1940. His next move was to Stanger (KwaDukuza) from March to July 1940, and then he returned to Mbava for the third time from July 1940 to September 1948, after which he was sent to take charge of Wessels Nek, while

residing at Maria Ratschitz. His final assignment was to Matikwe, where he served a few outstations as well as being chaplain to the Sisters of the Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart.

Fr Paquotte suffered from asthma all his life, but that did not deter him from spending himself and being spent on the evangelization of his people. He was totally dedicated to his apostolate. Ferdinand had a cleft palate which gave him a slight defect in speech, but this did not prevent him from delivering the message of the Gospel at every opportunity. He was a priest dedicated to his vocation and his life of prayer and had a kind and gentle nature. On the material side, he was somewhat of a mechanical engineer. On one occasion, when he was residing at Maria Ratschitz, the tower clock on the church stopped working and chiming. Ferdinand dismantled it entirely, and then reassembled it, a task which took him several weeks after which the clock worked perfectly and dutifully chimed the hours again. Like most, if not all, of the missionaries before him, Paquotte began his

missionary work on horseback, then on motorcycle, and finally in motor cars or light vans which dared not break down on him without being fixed on the spot.

Eventually, Ferdinand's health began to weaken, due mainly to his asthma. On Sunday, Christmas Eve, 24 December 1972, he fulfilled his priestly duties by celebrating three Masses at different outstations and returned home in the early evening. He felt nauseous



and weak, so he lay down to rest. When he did not arrive for supper the good Sisters went to see what the trouble was, and they found him unconscious with the inhalation pump in his hand. The doctor was called and declared him dead. He died as he had lived, giving himself totally to the service of his Lord. When Fr Paquette left France to come to Natal in 1938, he made the sacrifice of his life. He promised never to return home, and he never did. He never saw his family again. His sacrifice was total, even to his death. He was then 68 years of age.



PETERS, Noël



Noël was born in Durban on the 22 March 1938. He attended Sastri College in Durban and Little Flower School in Ixopo. In 1956 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston and made his first vows on 5 April 1957. He began his priestly studies at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, but the apartheid laws in South Africa at the time interfered, and Noel was sent to complete his studies in the USA at San Antonio, Texas, where he pronounced his final oblation in 1960. In 1963 he returned to Durban where he was ordained by Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI on 21 June. He was assigned as parish priest of St John's in Chatsworth in 1964, in succession to Fr Philippe Evers OMI (the first parish priest). Up to then there had been no church and Mass had been celebrated by Fr Francis Duffy OMI in the backyard of a Catholic family. When Noël took over, he approached the Lutheran Pastor, Revd Ims, who gladly offered the use of his church to the Catholics, and in this way Noel began to build up a strong Catholic community in Chatsworth. He went all out to raise funds for the building of a parish church – a task he succeeded in doing and, on 28 September 1969, the new church of St

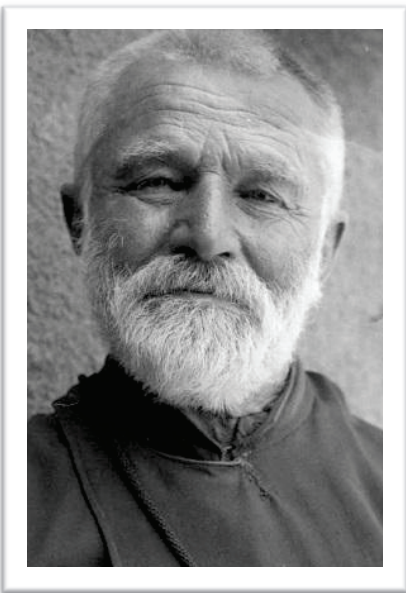
John's was opened and blessed. From then on the parish grew and flourished under the guidance of Noël who also served St Mary's, Merebank, at the same time.

In 1972 he was transferred to the Transvaal where he served as parish priest of St Joseph the Worker at Bosmont, Johannesburg. There again he built up a strong Catholic community. He remained there till 1980, when he requested to be transferred to the United States. There he was assigned to St Mary's, Oakland, CA (1981–1982). From 1982 to 1985 he did advanced graduate studies and obtained a Doctorate in psychology, and from 1985 to 1988 he was Director of Psychology, West Oakland Clinic. For a year he was also Director at St Agnes Hospital – Social service and pastoral care, in Fresno, CA. From 1989 to 1998 he was Professor and Head of Department of cross-cultural Society Alliant International University, Fresno, CA.

In 1998 he returned to his home Province of Natal, and was appointed parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Westville, a post he held till 2008 when he had to retire due to ill-health. Towards the end of 2011 he fell seriously ill with circulatory troubles aggravated by diabetes and had to have a leg amputated just above the knee. He seemed to manage for some time after that, but finally died on 29 January 2012 at the age of 74. His Requiem Mass took place in St Anthony's Church, Durban, after which Noël's remains were transported to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery.



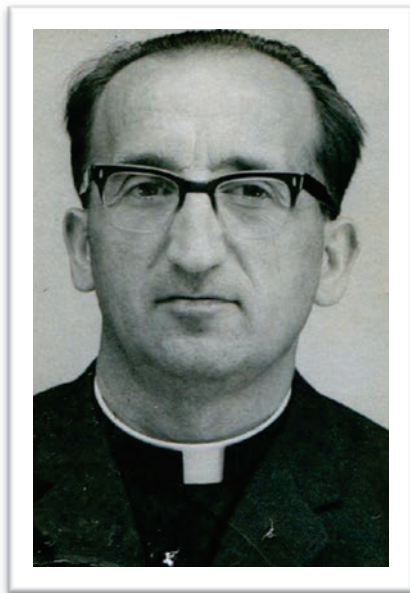
POIRIER, Brother Charles



Charles Poirier, was born in 1866. He joined the Oblate Congregation in 1891, and was sent to Natal the same year, arriving in Durban on the 6 March with Bro. Boudon. He made his final profession on the 15 January 1898 in Pietermaritzburg. He remained in Natal for the rest of his life, and died in Durban on 16 Feb 1944 aged 78.



PROVENT, Alfred



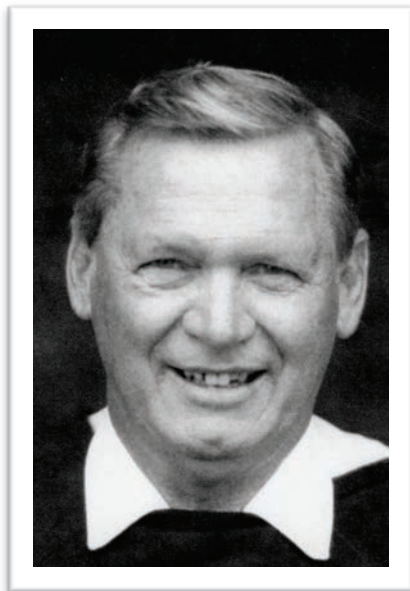
Alfred Provent was born on 23 March 1923 of Louis André and Jeanne Provent at Puygros, Savoy, France. Having completed his studies at the Minor Seminary, College La Villette, and the college for late vocations at Bevarieux, he entered the Oblate Novitiate at N.D. de Bon-Secours in 1944 at the age of 21, making his first vows the following year on 17 February 1945. From there he went to begin his studies for the priesthood at N.D. de Lumieres, where he made his final profession on 17 February 1948, and where he was ordained on 2 July 1950. He volunteered to go to the missions in Natal, and was privileged to be ordained by Bishop Denis Hurley OMI, who was in France on a visit, this being the very first ordination performed by Hurley. Provent then received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban on 27 November 1951. He was immediately assigned to Emmanuel Cathedral for just over a year, till 1953, after which he went to Newcastle where he served the outstations from 1953 to 1955. He was then transferred to Ladysmith for a year, and then to Montebello for four years (1956–1960). After that he was posted to Estcourt for a year (1961). From there he was assigned to Mooi River from 1961 to 1964,

after which he was appointed to take charge of Upper Tongaat from 1961 to 1967. The following year (1968) he was assigned to Winterton, a new parish, and he remained there till his retirement in June 1996, aged 73.

Alfred was of a nervous temperament, but tireless in his dedication to his ministry. He did not enjoy good health and suffered greatly from sinusitis. Despite this he managed to accomplish his apostolate cheerfully. He retired to Sabon House and lived there for two and a half years before being called to Eternal Life on 23 January 1999, aged 76. His burial took place at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



PURVES, George



George was born in Pietermaritzburg on 29 January 1931. He completed his primary and secondary education at St Charles' College, Pietermaritzburg, while it was still in the hands of the Marist Brothers. In his youth he was an active member of St Mary's parish, serving at the altar and taking part in youth activities. After matriculation, he worked for a short while before deciding to join the Oblate Congregation. At the age of 21 he entered the Novitiate in Germiston in 1952, and made his first vows the following year on 27 February 1953. He then went to St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara to begin his priestly studies, making his final profession in 1956. He was ordained at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg on 6 December 1957. When he had completed his scholastic studies he began his missionary apostolate, and served at many different places and at various times.

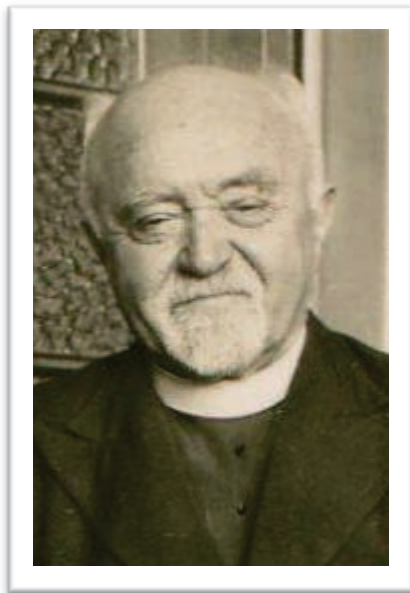
After spending a short time at his home parish of St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, he was sent to Maphumulo where he learned isiZulu. From there he was assigned to Ntshongweni, then Stanger, Queensburgh, Lamontville, and Port Shepstone in the diocese of

Umzimkhulu. After this he was appointed parish priest of Emmanuel Cathedral, then Assumption parish in Umbilo, followed by a fairly lengthy stay at Bergville where he introduced many improvements, including the building of rondavels to house the Sisters as well as for those who wished to spend some time on retreat. From there he was appointed to Sacred Heart, Woodlands. George also served as Oblate Provincial in Natal from 1984–1986. Finally he was appointed Superior of Sabon House where he showed his generosity and hospitality to visitors.

For most of his life George was a very keen and good golfer, and organised an annual clergy golf tournament where clergy and religious from other areas joined in. He managed to collect some valuable prizes for the occasion. But in spite of his outdoor activities, George's health had begun to fail. He retired to Nazareth House where he seemed to lose contact with the world around him. In his final months, he was brought back to Sabon House where he was cared for with love and concern. Now and again he showed some signs of lucidity but he finally succumbed to his illness and dementia on the eve of the Assumption of Our Lady, 14 August 2012, so that he could celebrate with our Blessed Mother herself in the glory of heaven. After the Requiem Mass in a full church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Umbilo, George's remains were taken up to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery. He was 81 years of age at the time of his death.



QUINQUIS, Jean-Marie



Jean-Marie was born on 8 November 1876 at Plouzané, Finistere, Brittany, France. He did his primary and secondary education at Pont-Croix, and at the Major Seminary of Quimper. It seems that at first he had intended to be a diocesan priest, but changed his mind during his studies and joined the Oblate Congregation, making his first and final vows on 2 February 1901 at Angers. He was ordained to the priesthood a month later, on 23 March 1901. He desired to be a missionary in Natal and received his first obedience on 20 May 1901, arriving in Durban on 21 June 1901. He was assigned to Verulam on the north coast of Natal on 10 December 1902 and remained there for almost fifty years, holding the record for the longest sojourn in the same place!

Quinquis was of a cheerful nature and always welcomed others with a smile. In the early days he travelled by train from Verulam to Stanger and Darnall on the north coast to celebrate Mass. The territory he had to cover, first on horseback and later by train, was quite vast. Later he was given the assistance of Fr Francis-Xavier Rousseau who had spent some years as a missionary in the hinterland, particularly

Bloemfontein, and who had come to Durban to replace Fr Barthelemy who had died in May 1902. Rousseau and Quinquis became good friends and worked well together for many years until the former's death in 1931. Quinquis had built the first church in Verulam, and on his death, Rousseau was buried in a grave adjoining the church.

For many years Quinquis organized a sports day for the clergy. This became a very popular event in the Vicariate and, if not all, at least most of the clergy looked forward with eagerness to the occasion. It was held at Genezzano situated on the north coast, so that the priests could also bathe in the sea at their leisure. Eventually at 75 years of age, almost to the day that he was appointed to Verulam 50 years earlier, Quinquis retired from active ministry, and was assigned as chaplain to the Sanatorium and Augustinian Sisters in Pietermaritzburg on 13 December 1951. The move from Verulam was a result of the fact that he had been attacked by two intruders who had tried to strangle him in the early hours of the morning. This traumatic event left him shaken and unable

to continue living on his own in Verulam. He remained at the Sanatorium quite contentedly for the next eight years.

On his 80th birthday (1956) he sang a High Mass at St Mary's, attended by 30 priests. It was a great occasion. Quinquis was interviewed by a newspaper reporter in Pietermaritzburg, who then published an article about him in the *Natal Witness* on the 8 November 1956 in

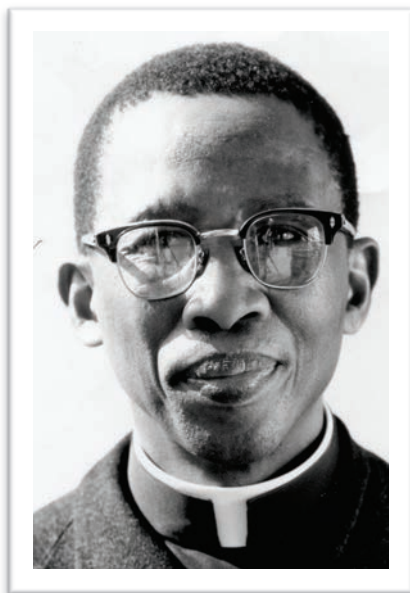


which he quotes Quinquis: "In those days I was the only Roman Catholic priest in that district [the north coast, from Durban to the Tugela River]. We built our first church at Mt Edgecombe...Today no fewer than six priests attend to the churches, and the combined congregation has risen to many thousands." Quinquis built eleven churches between Durban and Zululand. For the opening ceremony of Montebello Catholic Missionary Hospital all the clergy of the Diocese were invited. Quinquis, now an old man, could no longer drive a car, so he wrote to Archbishop Hurley stating: "My Lord, 30 years ago I was the only priest in Natal with a car. Today I am the only one without one. Please give me a lift in yours." The Archbishop obliged!

On the 13 September 1959, Jean-Marie Quinquis finally gave himself over totally to his Lord and Master. His funeral took place at Verulam, where people from all over the north coast arrived to pay their last respects. His remains were buried near his old friend, Fr Rousseau, beside the church which he had built and where he had given fifty years of his priestly life and ministry. He was 83 years of age.



QWABE, George



George was born in Kimberley on 22 October 1910. He belonged to the Diocese of Kroonstad in the Orange Free State which had been entrusted to the Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers. George studied for the diocesan priesthood at St Augustine's Seminary in Lesotho, and was ordained priest on the 14 August 1944 at Kroonstad after which he worked as an assistant priest at Bethlehem which was then still in the diocese of Kroonstad. In 1950 George decided to become a religious in the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. No doubt he had had many contacts with the Oblates while he was studying in Lesotho. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Inchanga in 1951, and made his first vows in 1952, and his final profession at Estcourt in 1955. Afterwards he continued his apostolate in Natal, which he had begun following his Novitiate year. He served in the following parishes: Besters in northern Natal, Inchanga, Corpus Christi (Upper Tongaat), Mhlumayo also in northern Natal, then back in Pietermaritzburg (Machibisa) where he served as chaplain to Edendale Hospital for fifteen years.

From his early years, George suffered from asthma, and this got progressively worse as he grew older. Eventually he could not take the humidity of Natal any longer and moved to the more favourable and drier climate where he had spent his youth, namely the Orange Free State as it was called then. In 1978 he went to the Diocese of Bethlehem where he had begun his ministry. There he was appointed Diocesan Recruiter of Vocations and did great work in encouraging young men to join the Diocesan priesthood. George also served in various parishes in the diocese, viz. Qwa Qwa, Clocolan and Petrus Steyn. In 1992 he retired to Mmabatloki-Clare Home at Petrus Steyn under the care of the Sisters of St Paul. He was visiting his sister, Mrs Twala, in Newcastle when he had a heart attack and was taken to Madadeni Hospital where he died on 3 September 1993, aged 83.

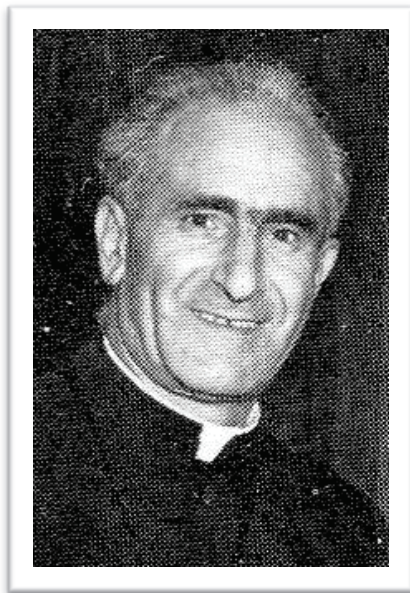
George was thin and short of stature, but had a big heart. He had a delightful sense of humour, and was always smiling. It was impossible not to have liked him. He was kind, gentle, and went about his work with a generous heart, unobtrusively and effectively. Wherever he worked, people loved him. His passing was mourned by the many hundreds of people to whom he had ministered with his quiet and effective manner. His funeral took place at St Augustine's parish, Edendale, on the 9 September 1993. Bishop Bucher of Bethlehem was the main celebrant with Bishop Dominic Khumalo OMI, Fr Sutha OMI, Fr



Jerome Skhakhane OMI, and Fr Barry Wood OMI, Natal Provincial, as main concelebrants. Most of the priests of the Durban Archdiocese also concelebrated. A tribute given by Fr Radebe of the Bethlehem Diocese followed Mass. Fr Heinz Kuckertz CSSP, Provincial Superior, spoke and mentioned George's relationship with the Spiritans. Many priests of the Diocese of Bethlehem and Spiritans also concelebrated. The burial took place at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



RAUCCI, Gennaro



Gennaro was born on 13 September 1917 at Caserta, Italy. As a youngster he attended the Juniorate of S. Maria a Vico at Caserta. At the age of 19 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Ripalimosani at Campobasso where he made his first vows on 15 August 1937. From there he went to the Scholasticate at S. Giorgio Canavese, Torino for his clerical studies. There he made his final profession on 1 August 1940, and was ordained to the priesthood on the 3 May 1943, aged 26. He was then assigned to preach missions at Maratea, Pescara. His desire to be a missionary was fulfilled when he received an obedience for Natal, and he arrived in Durban at the end of 1947. He was assigned to Emmanuel Cathedral for a year (January 1948 to February 1949), at the same time familiarising himself with the English language, and then he was posted to Inchanga in order to learn the Zulu language (February 1949 to December 1949). During this time he was also serving Mbava, then an outstation of Inchanga. In December of 1949 he was appointed to Kwa Madlala-Esigodini-Machibisa till December 1950, when he was transferred to Mt Edgecombe/Newlands as priest-in-charge, while

residing at Redhill. He remained there for the next five and a half years until April 1956 when he was sent to take charge of Maria Ratschitz mission and farm, a difficult assignment. Whilst there his brother, Eddie, arrived from Italy to assist him in the management of the huge farm. In February 1960 he was sent to Umgeni Poort as priest-in-charge until January of 1967 when he was transferred to Durban to take care of the parish of Clairwood, while residing at Montclair. After two years there, in September 1969, he was appointed parish priest of St Anne's, Sydenham, which included St Theresa's in Mayville. During his time there he was responsible for the construction of the beautiful new church and presbytery at St Anne's. His last appointment was as parish priest of Stanger (KwaDukuza) in 1977. Whilst there he fell ill and was diagnosed with leukaemia to which he finally succumbed on 11 August 1983 at the age of 66.

Gennaro is remembered for his strong love and loyalty to the Church. Even in his later years he tried to keep abreast of the times by attending a course for updating theology at the Khanyisa Pastoral Institute. An article in the *Southern Cross* stated: "His interest in lay responsibility and lay ministries paid a dividend. During the months he was away sick, the parish lay leaders kept the parish going."

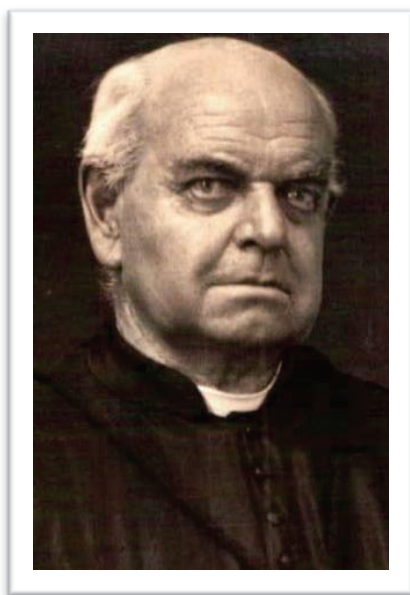
He also had a great and fervent devotion to our Blessed Mother. He was kind and generous with his time, and hospitable especially to his brother priests. After the Requiem Mass his body was taken to Cedara for burial, exactly 43 years to the day he had made his final profession as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate.



RIELAND, Francis

Francis Rieland was born in 1874 and made his final profession as an Oblate in 1899. He arrived in Natal in December 1901 as a sub-deacon, and was ordained deacon by Bishop Jolivet at Mariannhill together with three Trappists on the 22 February 1902 and 10 months later, on the 20 December 1902, Jolivet ordained him priest – probably the last ordination ceremony to be performed by Jolivet before his death. Unfortunately, two years later, Fr Rieland died in Pietermaritzburg on 15 February 1904 at the young age of 30 years. He is buried in the Catholic section of the Commercial Road cemetery, Pietermaritzburg.

ROUSSEAU, Francis Xavier



Francis Xavier was born in 1852, and made his final profession as an Oblate in 1878 after having been ordained the previous year. When he actually came to Natal is not known. The first mention we have of him is in Bishop Jolivet's Journal on the 26 May 1896, where he wrote that when he arrived in Bloemfontein from having visited Basutoland (Lesotho), Fr Rousseau was there. Then again, in January 1897, Jolivet mentions meeting Rousseau in Bloemfontein.

After Fr Barthélemy's death in May 1902, Fr Rousseau was appointed to replace him, taking charge of the apostolate to the African population in Durban.

Towards the end of his life he was sent to Verulam to assist Fr Quinquis. The two worked well together for some years. This was to be his last assignment, for he died in Durban on the 18 May 1931, aged 79. His funeral took place in Verulam, and his remains were buried in a plot adjoining the church of Our Lady of Good Help, where he had spent his final years of ministry. Later Fr Quinquis himself would be buried in the same plot next to his old friend and co-worker.



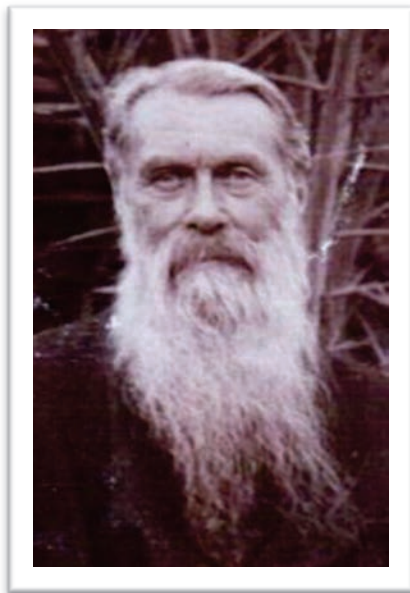
ROUSSEAU, Louis-François



Louis was born on 29 February 1864 at Laigné Chéripeau in the Diocese of Laval, France. At the age of 22 he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Gerlach on 20 October 1886, making his first vows the following year, and his final vows on 8 December 1888 at St François, with the Oblate Number 1392. He was ordained on the 9 March 1890, and received his obedience for Natal. He began his missionary work in Kimberley (Beaconsfield) and Bloemfontein where he remained till 1899, when he was transferred to the Transvaal. There he ministered in Johannesburg till 1908 when he returned to Natal. Very little is known about his ministry from then on. He died in Durban on the 24 November 1943 in Durban, aged 79.



ROUSSET, Anselm

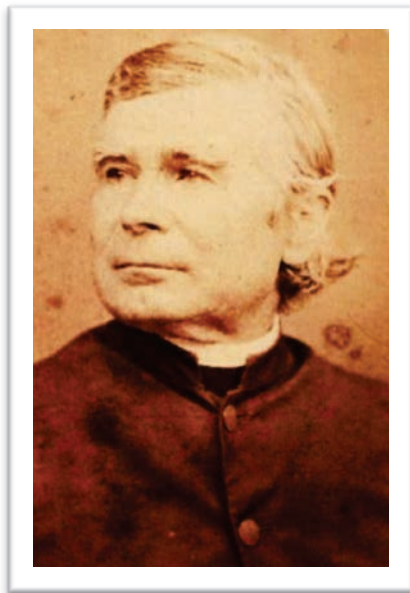


Anselme Rousset was born in 1862 and ordained to the priesthood in 1891. Shortly afterwards he arrived in Natal to begin his missionary work. He replaced Fr Maximini in Newcastle, and worked there till 1896. Whilst there he visited the Catholics in Dundee and ministered to their needs.

At the request of John Dunn, white chief amongst the Zulus, Fr Rousset was sent on 6 March 1891 to open the first Catholic mission at Emoyeni. Since this school was for the use of the Dunn children, Rousset applied for another site at Entabeni which was granted to him, and there he established Holy Cross Mission for the Zulu people of the district. From there Rousset "...made numerous journeys into the interior of Zululand in search of mission sites and Zulu Catholics. He was an indefatigable traveller, frequently walking 64 km a day to visit outlying villages and calling on chiefs. He had many disappointments but on one occasion at least he was successful in obtaining a mission site on which he later built St Jules mission...Fr Rousset, who is regarded as the father of the Zululand missions, was assisted for many years by the first Zulu Oblate, Brother Leo Gumede." Much more could be said about this intrepid Oblate priest, but it would be too much to include here. Rousset died in Durban on the 13 September 1938 aged 76.



SABON, John-Baptist



John Baptist Sabon, was born on 27 June 1819, at Rochegude, Drôme, France. He was ordained as a diocesan priest in the diocese of Valence on 6 July 1844. Subsequently he joined the Oblate Congregation and made his final profession on 30 July 1848 at N.D. de l'Osier, receiving the Oblate Number 203. His first assignment was to Algiers as one of the priests sent to open a new mission there. However this venture proved unsuccessful and Sabon volunteered to go to Natal with Bishop Allard and his small team to begin the evangelization of Natal and its interior in March 1852. They arrived at Port Natal (Durban) on 15 March 1852 and rented a house in Durban until the end of March and then, on 1 April, they all moved up to Pietermaritzburg. On 29 October Bishop Allard received a reply granting his request for a site in Durban on which to build a chapel. Meanwhile Allard required that the Oblates should first learn English before venturing into the Zulu language.

When the Durban Catholics complained that they had no priest to look after their spiritual needs, Allard sent Sabon down to Durban as parish priest in December 1852. Sabon experienced difficulty in learning English and suffered recurring attacks of fever, possibly malaria contracted in Algeria, which left him very home-sick and despondent and he requested to return to France or to be sent to a French-speaking mission area. However the Founder, Bishop Eugene de Mazenod, refused to give in to Sabon's requests, and urged him to remain at his post and to persevere in his apostolate. The Catholics in Durban gave Sabon their affection and care during his illness and eventually he opened and blessed the first Catholic chapel in Durban on 24 July 1853.

When the first indentured Indians arrived in Natal in 1860, Sabon immediately visited them and attended to their needs. Within a short time he learned to speak and write Tamil, and later opened the first Indian mission. He also took a very keen interest in gardening and agriculture and became an enthusiastic gardener. A visitor to Durban wrote: "The nicest church building in Durban is the Catholic chapel, which I discovered by accident. Attracted on a warm day by some lovely roses blooming in a trim and luxuriant garden, I looked longingly over



the fence, when forth came a simple shy old père – Father S. – reputed to be the most self-denying man in the place. His manner is a charming mixture of self-deprecation and courtesy. His garden shall see me again...." (*Catholic Beginnings in Natal and Beyond*. Joy Brain.)

In 1863 Sabon was able to buy a piece of land next to the chapel, which the Protestants had

allegedly assisted him to acquire by discouraging further bidding. This showed that Sabon's kindly disposition and humility were already making an impression on Catholics and Protestants alike. By 1865 the old chapel was badly in need of repairs and Sabon knew that the Catholics in Durban would not be able to contribute the required sum by themselves. So he approached his many non-Catholic friends, who "...readily agreed to put on a concert for his benefit." (*ibid*) The concert was a great success and Sabon was presented with a tidy sum to help swell his building fund. He then wrote to the press to express his thanks to all who had helped in the project. The opening of the 'new' church took place on 29 October 1865. By this time Sabon had overcome his shyness and home-sickness, and gave himself unstintingly to his apostolate.

As the number of Catholics in Durban increased so the need arose for a larger church. Sabon gave himself completely to the raising of the necessary funds, and this affected his health. "The new church, St Joseph's, was ready for use in November 1881 and Fr Sabon said the last Mass in the old church. The next day, November 13, Bishop Jolivet officially opened St Joseph's in the presence of a large crowd including the local dignitaries." (*ibid*) Two years later Sabon's health was deteriorating and Jolivet, in his Journal, wrote on 2 November 1884 that "...Good Fr Sabon, having fallen into his second childhood, I nominated Fr Baudry Superior..." [*of the Durban district*]. Sabon had finally succumbed to senile dementia. Eventually he died on the 13 January 1885, at the age of 66, and his funeral was attended by a large number of Catholics, local dignitaries and "hundreds of other citizens of Durban from all walks of life and including Zulu and Indian parishioners from the surrounding missions."

Sabon House in Congella, Durban, – a house for retired Oblates, and home-from-home for visitors – is named in memory of this saintly Oblate. A beautiful tribute to this faithful priest can be found in *Catholic Beginnings in Natal and Beyond* by Professor Joy Brain, p.176.



SABY, Jacques



Jacques Saby was born in 1867. He made his first vows as an Oblate in 1889 and was ordained in 1893. He arrived in Natal the following year and it seems that for the next two to three years he worked in the Pietermaritzburg area because in April 1895 Bishop Jolivet noted in his Journal that Fr Saby had been sick with dysentery for more than 15 days and not able to get up. Then in July he accompanied Jolivet to Estcourt for the blessing of the new church after which they returned to Pietermaritzburg. He again accompanied Jolivet to Estcourt in November that year to take part in the Requiem Mass and burial of Mother Thérèse, the Superior of the Augustinian Sisters. Then in April 1896 he and the bishop went to Ladysmith with a Mr Frazer, the building contractor, to inspect the foundations of the new Convent. It appears that Saby was stationed at Estcourt at the time. The following year (1897) Saby was posted to Ladysmith as chaplain to the Augustinian sisters who had recently opened their new Sanatorium in that town. In August 1897, on his return journey from Pretoria, Jolivet had visited Dundee to buy a property. Whilst there he had visited Mr McCaffery of the Royal Hotel who was very ill and had prepared him

for death. When Jolivet reached Ladysmith the next day he immediately sent Fr Saby to Dundee to attend to McCaffery. Unfortunately Saby arrived too late but at least he was able to perform the funeral rites before returning to Ladysmith. Then, in November 1898, Fr Murray was appointed parish priest of Ladysmith, and Fr Saby was made bursar (treasurer).

When the Anglo-Boer War broke out in 1899, Ladysmith was besieged by the Boers and suffered tremendous damage. The convent and the hospital were taken over by the military. Fr Saby had to care for the sick and wounded in addition to his pastoral duties. During this time he contracted dysentery and never completely recovered. In 1900 he was convalescing in Ladysmith and on 19 March Jolivet noted in his Journal that Saby had left Ladysmith, the 'infected town' and gone to Estcourt to recuperate. The Journal states that Saby was extremely weak. In January 1901 we find Saby back in Ladysmith, and on the 1 February he went to Harrismith

to be with Fr Forrest, military chaplain in the British Forces, who was dying. The latter eventually recovered and, after a period of convalescing in England, returned to South Africa, where Bishop Jolivet met him on the 23 June 1902.

By 1922 Saby's health had deteriorated considerably and he died in Durban on 21 December 1923 at the age of 56, after a life of dedicated service in the vineyard of the Lord Jesus.



SENECHAL, Christophe(r)



Christophe was born on 21 November 1904 in Gonnehem par Chocques, France. He studied for the diocesan priesthood at the Major Seminary at Arras, and was ordained to the priesthood on 17 July 1927. He then decided to join the Oblate Congregation and entered the Novitiate at Berder in 1928, making his first profession on 29 September 1929. Soon after this he received his obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 4 October 1930. He made his final vows in Durban on 29 September 1932. Like the other French missionaries, Christophe began by having to learn English and isiZulu. After that, for the next 63 years, he served at many places in Natal: Oakford, Montebello, Genazzano, Dundee, Bluff, Shallcross, Inchanga, Esigodini, Newcastle, Maria Ratschitz, Clairwood, and St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg. He also did two short stints at Howick and Queensburgh in 1974 and for a time acted as chaplain to the Good Shepherd Sisters, Montclair, Durban. The last thirteen years of his life he spent in comparative retirement at the Bluff.

The Natal OMI Provincial Newsletter had the following to say about Christophe: "Christophe Senechal was a quiet, shy, retiring person, a hidden apostle who in a very quiet unassuming way touched the lives of many of God's 'little people' here in Natal over the past 63 years. He never sought the limelight, and was often in ill health, but went about his ministry with great dedication. During the past year he experienced great discomfort and was in great pain but never complained and was always cheerful and gracious to those who visited him regularly." For most of his life Christophe had suffered from epilepsy, which probably was part of the reason for his shyness and his quiet life-style. He was also an avid stamp collector, and over the years he built up a magnificent, and probably valuable, collection.

Christophe died in hospital in Durban on 6 June 1993 at the age of 89. The Requiem Mass took place at the Bluff, celebrated by Archbishop Wilfrid Napier OFM, and concelebrated by many of Christophe's brother priests. After the Requiem the burial took place at Cedara. The Provincial then thanked Fr Julian Williamson OMI, parish priest at the Bluff, and his co-helpers for the excellent and compassionate care they gave to Christophe in his last years.



SERRIÈRE, Charles



Charles Serrière was born at Valfroicourt in the Diocese of St Die, France, in 1863. At 20 years of age he entered the Oblate novitiate at St Gerlach on the 27 January 1883, making his first vows on 14 August 1884. It would seem that he was sent to Ireland to do his priestly studies since, according to information from Ludger Ademmer OMI, Charles made his final vows at Belcamp, Ireland, on the 15 August 1885. He received his first obedience for Natal and arrived in Durban on 18 September 1888 as a deacon. He was ordained priest by Bishop Jolivet at Mariannhill together with Fr Gourlay and three Trappists on 22 September 1888.

Serrière began his ministry in the Transvaal and remained there till 1907. In 1899 he had been sent to Potchefstroom in succession to Fr Leopold Trabaud, and worked in that area till 1907 when he returned to Durban where he worked mainly in the Emmanuel Cathedral and Greyville parishes. He died in Durban on 20 July 1941, aged 78.



SHUNMUGAM, Reginald



Reginald (or Reggie as he was called by his confreres) was born in Durban on 10 June 1943. His parents were Lazarus and Violet Shunmugam (born Parvathee). They were members of the Full Gospel Church. Reggie came into the Catholic Faith at the age of 12. He was baptized on 10 December 1955 at St Theresa's Mayville. His parents also later became Catholics followed by the rest of the family of eleven children.

He attended St Theresa's School at Mayville and Verulam High School. He worked for a time as a wine steward and then in the clothing industry for a few years, during which time he was involved in the Youth movement at St John's, Chatsworth and attended many workshops and seminars. Then he decided to join the Oblate Congregation as a priest. He entered the Novitiate in Germiston in 1969, making his first vows the following year on 8 September 1970 after which he went to St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara for his priestly studies and made his final profession there on 31 March 1975. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Emmanuel Cathedral by Archbishop Denis Hurley

OMI on 16 December 1975. His assignments were at St John's, Chatsworth, as assistant (1977–78), St Anne's, Sydenham as assistant (1978–79), parish priest of St Anthony's and Our Lady of Health, Pietermaritzburg (1979–1985), and acting parish priest at Holy Family, Newlands East, (1986–87).

Reggie then went to the USA to study a program for rehabilitating alcoholics. On his return he opened Talbot House, Otto's Bluff, in 1987. There he incorporated his own program, which included drug addicts. The news soon spread and he received many patients who underwent the program, and were healed of their addiction. Prayer was an integral part of the program. He was assisted by a group of faithful and devoted volunteers whose loving service helped many addicts to regain their serenity.

Unfortunately in 2004 Reggie fell ill and he was sent to Glenwood Hospital, Benoni for treatment. He was diagnosed with pancreatitis and heart failure. He died during the night on 21 August 2004, aged 61. The Requiem Mass was held at Holy Family Church, Newlands East, Durban, presided over by Cardinal Napier and concelebrated by about 40 priests of the Archdiocese. Reggie's parents and all his ten brothers and sisters took part in the ceremony. After the Mass his remains were buried at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.

During his ministry Reg also served as chaplain to the nurses in Northdale Hospital, Pietermaritzburg from 1980–85. He was appointed Superior of the Oblates in the

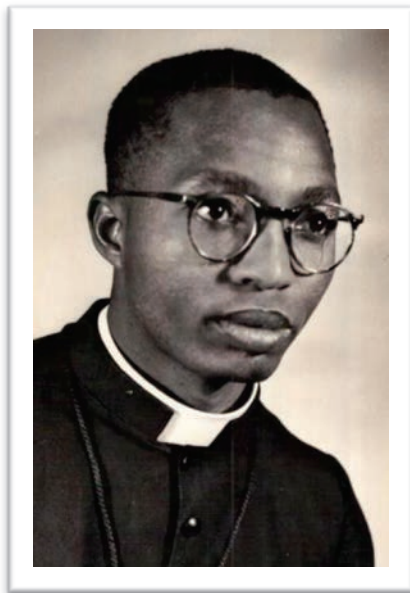


Pietermaritzburg District from 1980–86, a task he took seriously, visiting all the Oblates at their various stations on a regular basis. He also served on the Durban Marriage Tribunal from 1981 onwards, and he represented the Archdiocese of Durban on the SA Council of Priests in the Drugs Forum.

Fr Reg was a likeable character and was appreciated by his fellow Oblates. He never lost sight of his Hindu background and spent a year in India getting in touch with Indian culture and made efforts to enculturate Hindu ways of worship and respect into the Eucharist.



SIBISI, Patrick



Patrick Pius Phikinkani was born on 15 July 1929 at Wesselsnek, northern Natal. After completing his primary education at the Juniorate at Inchanga, he went to St Theresa's Minor Seminary and Roma High School in Lesotho. After matriculating he returned to Inchanga to do his Novitiate, and made his first vows there on 25 January 1950. From there he went to Cedara for his priestly studies, where he made his final profession on 25 January 1953. Patrick and co-student Paulus Mthembu (who did not persevere) were the first Zulu students to attend St Joseph's Scholasticate. He was ordained to the priesthood on 19 December 1954 at St Joseph's Mission, Besters in northern Natal. He began his ministry as a curate at Inchanga (1956–57), after which he was a curate for one year at Machibisa (1958–59), and again a curate at Esigodini for another year (1959–60). His next move was to Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban, for two years as a curate (1960–62), being the first Zulu priest to be appointed to the Cathedral staff which was under the direction of Fr Francis Hill at the time. The Sunday afternoon Zulu Mass proved to be a huge success. In

the few years that Patrick was there he had done a wonderful job and reinforced the Zulu contribution to the Cathedral. He was instrumental in forming a society called *Hlanganani, Thandanani, Sizanani* which meant “Be united, love and help one another.” The Zulu parishioners would meet after the Sunday afternoon Mass in the Parish Centre Hall to socialize and celebrate the feast days of their various patron saints. So a vibrant and prayerful community was established.

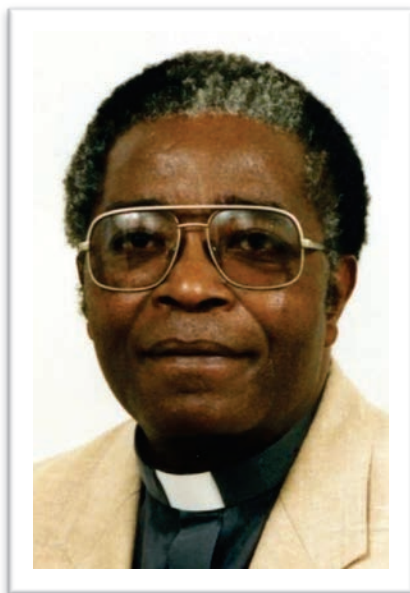
From 1963 to 1965 he was parish priest of Cato Manor, which was becoming a hot spot of unrest during the apartheid years, and from there he was sent as an assistant to KwaMashu where he ministered for two years (1965–67). That year he was assigned as an assistant at the parish of the Assumption, Umbilo, Durban, after which he returned to KwaMashu as curate (1967–69). In 1969 he was appointed parish priest of KwaMadlala for a year and then parish priest of Imbubu, where he built up this outstation into a flourishing parish (1970–86). His next move was for a year at Ntuzuma as parish priest (1986–87), and finally he went to Glenmore Oblate Residence in Durban, where he resided in 1987, and made himself available for preaching retreats. He also served in other Dioceses, e.g. Christ the King, Port Shepstone, at Mahoba in Umzimkulu, and St Xavier (Dumisa). Pat was not one to remain idle or uncreative. He continued to read books of theology and spirituality in abundance and obtained an MTh at NY State University, Maryknoll.



His health began to fail and he retired to Sabon House where he suffered two or three strokes which left him partially paralysed. Nevertheless Pat kept up his good spirits until he succumbed and died on 23 February 1997, six days after the death of his Oblate Confrere, Johannes Nzimande. The Requiem Mass at St Augustine's Church, Machibisa was attended by hundreds of friends and past parishioners. The main celebrants were Bishop Dominic Khumalo OMI, Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI, Fr P. Mancini (Vicar General of Umzimkiulu Diocese) and Fr Barry Wood, Oblate Provincial. Fr Zaba Mbanjwa OMI (a former parishioner) preached the homily. After the Mass Pat's remains were taken to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery. Present at the burial was the Acting Premier of KwaZulu Natal, Dr Ben Ngubane.



SKHAKHANE, Jerome



Jerome Zithulele was born on 28 November 1939 at Dannhauser in northern Natal. His father was a well-known catechist in the area. He did his early schooling at the Oblate Juniorate at Inchanga, after which he continued his studies at St Theresa's Seminary, Lesotho, and completed them at Inchanga High School in 1950. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Villa Maria in Lesotho in 1951, making his first vows on 7 March 1952. He then went to the Scholasticate at St Augustine's, Roma, Lesotho where he made his final profession on 7 March 1955. For his ordination he returned to Natal and was ordained at Newcastle on 21 December 1957. He then went to Rome to do further studies at the Gregorian University where he obtained his Licentiate in Church History (1963–66). On his return to South Africa he was appointed lecturer at St Augustine's Seminary, Lesotho, from 1959–1975 and from 1968–1971 he was Rector of St Augustine's Seminary. He then returned to Rome from 1971–74 where he obtained his Doctorate in Church History at the Gregorian University. On his return to Lesotho he was appointed Lecturer at the Universities of Botswana, Lesotho and

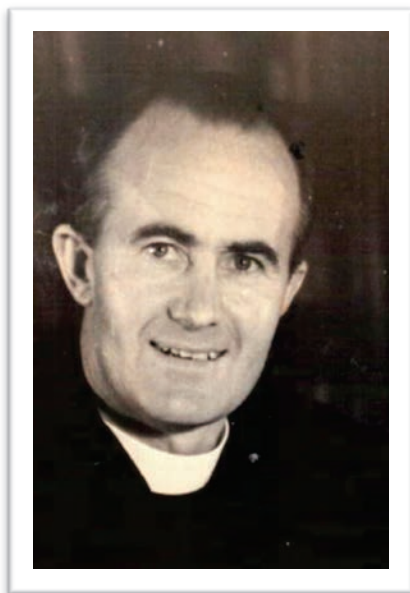
Swaziland, and from 1976–79 he served as Superior of Pius XII University College and Chairman of the University Council of Lesotho. Between 1979 and 1985 he was Professor and Dean of Studies at the University of Swaziland and in 1983 he was also made Visiting Professor of North Carolina, Cullowhee, USA, and between 1985 and 1987 he served as Professor at the National University of Lesotho. During that time, 1976–87 he also served as Chaplain to the Universities.

In 1987 he returned to his home Province of Natal and lectured at St Joseph's Scholasticate and St Joseph's Theological Institute, Cedara till 1996. In 1998 he took a pastoral post when he was appointed parish priest of the new parish of iKwezi Lokusa, Imbali, Pietermaritzburg, and from there he was put in charge of St Vincent's parish, Pelham, Pietermaritzburg in 2000. His stay there was short-lived however as his health began to deteriorate and on 3 February 2001 he was born to Eternal Life, aged 71.

Jerome was a gentleman and a gentle priest. He was loved by all his many friends, pupils, confreres, and parishioners. He had a quiet reserved nature which went with his depth of intelligence. In his teaching career, his main subjects were Philosophy, Theology and Church History. He served on a number of Provincial Councils in Natal, and was Vicar Provincial for a short time. He was secretary for many years of the Inter Provincial Council. His gentle smile and wisdom always inspired confidence. Jerome was laid to rest in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara.



SLATTERY, Thomas



Thomas Slattery was born in Lahinch, Co. Clare, Ireland, on 13 April 1917. At the age of 19 Tom decided to join the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and entered the Novitiate at Cahermoyle, making his first oblation on 30 September 1937 and then began his studies for the priesthood. He made his final profession on 30 September 1940, and was ordained to the priesthood on 20 June 1942 at Cahermoyle. As World War II was still raging at the time, Tom remained in Ireland and worked for 3 or 4 years as bursar at Cahermoyle and Belcamp. At the end of the war he received his obedience for Natal, and arrived in South Africa in October 1946. He was immediately placed at the Emmanuel Cathedral as assistant from 1946–56 and then was appointed parish priest of the recently established parish of the Assumption in Umbilo from 1956–63 in succession to Fr Joseph Burke OMI. Tom was responsible for the building of the new and beautiful church of the Assumption which stands today in tribute to him. He had a great devotion to Mary Immaculate. In 1964 he was assigned to Sacred Heart, Woodlands, as *locum tenens* from January to August,

and then again as *locum tenens* to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, from August 1964 to January 1965. That year he was appointed parish priest at St Mary's, a post he held from 1965–69. In 1970 he took over the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Durban North for the next nine years until 1980 when he was posted to St Joseph's, Morningside, Durban until 1984 when he received a new obedience to St Peter's, Point (1984–2000). The next two years he served as assistant at Sacred Heart, Woodlands (2000–2002).

In a tribute to Tom, Monsignor Paul Nadal wrote: "As a young priest with his slim and athletic build he came across as priestly and very much the man of God. He was somewhat stern and austere and he always kept his distance...When considering the priesthood for myself, it was to Father Tom that I turned. In my heart of hearts (although at the time I was not consciously aware of it) there must have been a deeply hidden admiration for this priestly man...One knew exactly where one stood with Tom Slattery. Perhaps this is one of his many qualities that I most admired. I shall always be grateful to him for his outstanding witness as a gentleman, a

great golfer, a dedicated priest, and above all, as a man of prayer." Mr Mike Maidment, a National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society and a past parishioner, had this to say about Fr Tom: "He was the model 'parish priest'... I was privileged to be able to learn more of and from Father Tom and, as I did so, he seemed to grow in moral stature. He was a priest always available to his people. He knew his people, celebrated with them, and wept in his



compassion for them...Father Tom personified integrity. He was passionate about the Faith and the need to propagate it...[He] lived his faith, and his reverence for the Mass was an inspiration and powerful example to his parishioners. Long before the Renew process commenced, Father Tom recognized the value of small parish groups and divided the parish into cells... He initiated home Masses...Father Tom was not blessed with patience...His stern countenance belied his warmth, but accurately indicated that he brooked no nonsense."

In 2004 his health began to deteriorate rapidly. He was taken to St Augustine's hospital, and then to Nazareth House, where he died peacefully on 20 March 2004. His funeral took place in Holy Week. The Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Emmanuel Cathedral. Fr Allan Moss, Natal Provincial at the time, wrote: "This moving celebration in honour of a unique man, was led by Archbishop Hurley. Tom could be described as a quiet man. Friendly yet reserved, firm yet gentle, even humorous yet serious. He was a sort of man you could love and fear, no nonsense and not too much familiarity. He was a neatly dressed person with his cross always carefully placed in his cincture. He was a dignified person who commanded the respect of all." Tom was 84 years of age at the time of his death.



SLOWEY, Andrew

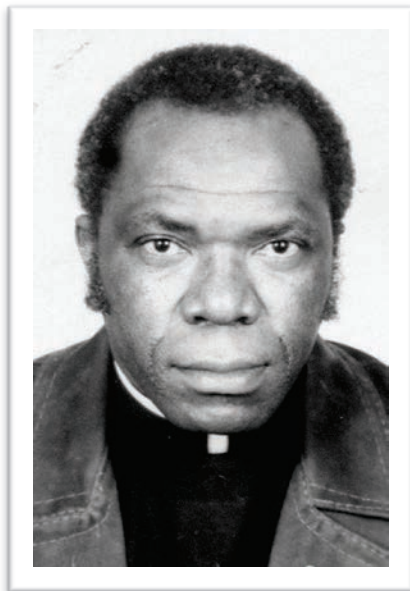


Andrew was born in Drung, Co.Cavan, Ireland on the 5 January 1920. He attended the Oblate Late Vocations Juniorate and the Marist Brothers College in Dumfries. At 21 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Cahermoyle and made his first profession on the 1 October 1942. From there he went to the Piltown Scholasticate, Co. Kilkenny to pursue his priestly studies and made his final vows there on 1 October 1945 and was ordained to the priesthood on the 29 June 1947. He received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived on the 16 September 1948. He was assigned to Bellair for two months, October and December, after which he was sent to Ladysmith (today in the diocese of Dundee) from December 1948 to July 1949, and then spent two months in Newcastle. He then spent one year in Maphumulo (August 1949–1950). From there he was appointed parish priest of Ekukhanyeni from 1950 to 1958. Whilst he was there he installed a diesel motor plant to supply electricity to the whole mission: priest's house, church, convent and clinic. Andy was next assigned to Clairwood where he remained for the next eight years (1958–1966). In

October of 1966 he served at Redhill in a temporary capacity till the end of 1966, when he received a new obedience to take charge of Inchanga where he remained from January 1966 to July 1974. His next move was to St Francis Xavier, Bluff, as parish priest (1974–1983). It was during his stay there that the magnificent present church was built. In July 1983 he was appointed parish priest of Woodlands/Montclair where he remained till February 1997. He was then 77 years of age, and his health was beginning to take its toll. So he retired to Sabon House in February 1997, and resided there till May 2000, when he was transferred to Nazareth House. On the 28 November 2001 he passed peacefully away into the hands of the Lord whom he had loved and served faithfully. He was then 81 years old.



SOKHELA, Enoch



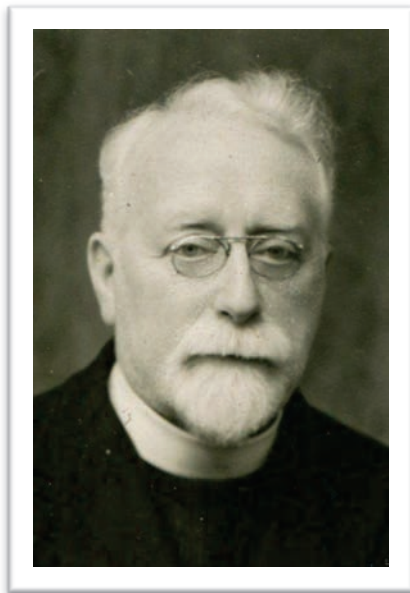
Enoch Fikela was born on 5 July 1941 at Msinga. At a young age he converted to the Catholic Faith. He did his primary schooling at the Ekukhanyeni Preparatory Seminary (no longer in existence), and then went to St Mary's Seminary at Ixopo as a prospective vocation to the Diocesan priesthood. Whilst there he decided to become an Oblate. After matriculating he was sent to do his Novitiate at Villa Maria, Lesotho in 1966. He made his first vows there on 7 March 1967, and then went to begin his priestly studies at Mater Jesu Scholasticate, Lesotho, attending lectures at St Augustine's Seminary. He made his final profession in Roma on 7 March 1970. He returned to Natal for his ordination which took place at St Augustine's, Machibisa, Pietermaritzburg on 5 February 1972. For a year following his ordination he was involved in Youth Work in the Archdiocese. From 1976 to 1979 he was parish priest of Ntuzuma and then went on study leave to St Paul's University and Ottawa University, Canada, where he obtained an MPS in Counselling, and an MA in Theology (1979–81).

When he returned to South Africa he was placed at Machibisa and practised counselling there and at KwaMashu. In 1982 he was assigned to St Joseph's Scholasticate where he taught and continued counselling and in 1983 he was appointed parish priest of Imbali, while residing at Machibisa, and continuing to counsel at Machibisa and KwaMashu. During all that time Enoch was also involved in Marriage Encounter, and served twice on the Provincial Council. He was a person of pleasant character and temperament, always available to be of assistance when required.

In September/October of 1988 he contracted a bad bout of influenza which debilitated him, and on the night of 9/10 October he died of a heart attack, aged 47. His Requiem Mass at Machibisa on the 17 October was attended by a great crowd of friends, nuns, parishioners, priests and brothers. After the Mass his body was taken to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery.



SORMANY, Leo Joseph



Leo was born on the 9 March 1878 at St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. His parents were Amédée Sormany, a St Helier gunsmith and mechanic, and Célestine Angélique Porée of Mournée, France. He completed his primary and secondary education in Jersey, and then went to the Sorbonne University in Paris. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1896, making his first vows the following year and then was sent to the Gregorian University in Rome to do his priestly studies, and obtained a doctorate in Philosophy and Divinity. He made his final oblation in 1898, and was ordained in Rome in 1902. He received his first obedience for Natal where he arrived in 1904 and began his ministry by being put in charge of St Charles' College in Pietermaritzburg, where he remained for 8 years, and was then transferred to Durban.

In 1921 he was appointed administrator of Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban, a position he held until 1947. During this time he was responsible for the building of St Peter's church in Point Road (now Gandhi Road), and the Apostleship of the Sea. In 1929 he was

appointed general secretary of the first national Eucharistic Congress held in Durban, to commemorate the centenary year of Roman Catholic emancipation as well as the episcopal Silver Jubilee of Bishop Henry Delalle of Durban. For most of his life Sormany was Bishop Delalle's Vicar General and confidant.

"Sormany was an educationist by profession and played a vital role in the development of tertiary education in Natal, being partly responsible for its promotion both in the technical and university levels. He pioneered the provision of university courses in Durban, and was a foundation member of the council of the Natal University College and served as its chairman for a long time and represented that body for 30 years on the council of the Natal Technical College. During World War II years (1939–45) his administrative skill as chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the technical college proved of immense value in a difficult period when the college was required to train large numbers of additional technicians for the armed forces and civilian defence.

From 1916–1918 Sormany was one of the Natal members on the council of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, serving as a member of its Divinity Committee. In 1918 he was chosen by the council of the Natal University College as its representative on the governing body of the federal University of South Africa retaining this office until March 1949. Here he served on the Honorary Degrees and Examination Committees. A close friend of the principal of the University College of Natal, John William Bews, Sormany shared the latter's desire to see the



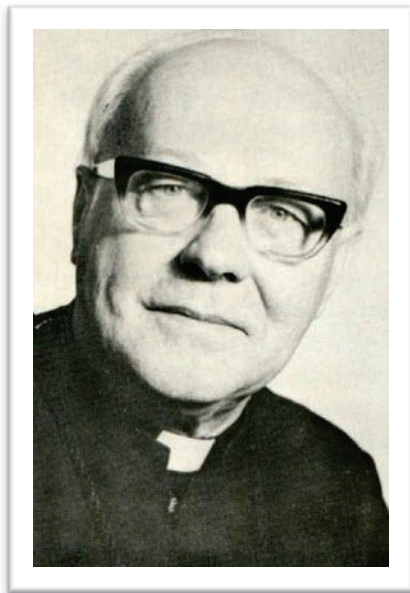
creation of an independent university for the province of Natal.” (*Dictionary of South African Biography*. Vol.III p.749 by M. Boucher)

In 1949, their wish was fulfilled and the college became the University of Natal. Leo Sormany was appointed to its first council, and also served with distinction on many college and university committees. A little known fact is that Sormany composed the Natal University College song *Natale solum canimus*. ... “Sormany identified himself for almost half a century with the needs of youth in the country which he described as 'my own South Africa'.” (*Ibid*)

In 1947, when Bishop Delalle retired, Leo Sormany also left Emmanuel Cathedral and went to stay at Maris Stella, where he was chaplain to the school. Whilst there his sight began to fail. In 1948 he preached the annual retreat of the scholastics at Cleland without a note in his hands. He could no longer read. Even in his disability Sormany was an example to all who visited him in the way he kept up his cheerfulness and good humour. Towards the end of 1950 he took ill and died on 24 January 1951. His body lay in state in Emmanuel Cathedral where people came in their hundreds to pay their last respects to this great Oblate priest. In the absence of Archbishop Hurley overseas, the Oblate Provincial, Fr Joseph Kerautret led the funeral rites and presided at the Requiem Mass which was attended by virtually all the clergy in the Archdiocese, and more than a thousand worshippers, representatives of various departments of the City, University and other educational bodies. The Vicar General, Fr Francis Hill OMI, presided at the grave side in the Catholic cemetery adjoining the Cathedral. He said: “With the death of Father Sormany the curtain falls on a wonderful era in the life of the Catholic Church in South Africa...Although during his lifetime there had been confusion and intellectual, scientific and religious storms, Father Sormany had been unmoved because his faith was so deep, his knowledge of life, of the source of life, was so much a part of him that he could not be disturbed in his trust in God.”



ST GEORGE, Denis Howard



Howard was born in Pietermaritzburg on 6 September 1902 into a well-known and respected family in the capital. He was baptised at St Mary's on the 25 September 1902 by Bishop Henry Delalle OMI. In the baptismal register his first name is spelled 'Denys'. His father was a Baronet, Sir Theophilus St George, and his mother was Florence (born Vanderplank).

Howard could trace his ancestry on his father's side back to Baldwin St George, who had accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066. About 1600 the St Georges moved to Ireland and there they were given an English Baronetcy. This title passed from one generation to the next until it came to Howard's father, Sir Theophilus, and later to his elder brother, Brother Robert St George OMI. When the latter died in 1983, the title passed to Howard who was very amused at the idea of meriting an entry in Debrett's Peerage and of being referred to good humouredly by fellow Oblates as the Reverend Sir Denis Howard St George, Baronet! Originally the St George family were not Catholics. Howard's grandfather, Sir Theophilus had married Maria Power of

Waterford, Ireland, and she brought to the St George dynasty a strong Catholic faith. They arrived in Natal in 1853, just one year after the arrival of the first Oblate missionaries to Natal under the leadership of Bishop Allard. The St George's got to know Bishop Allard very well. Howard's parents raised ten children in a family remarkable for its sense of loyalty and longevity.

As a youngster, Howard completed his primary and secondary education at St Charles' College when it was still in the heart of the city, adjoining St Mary's Church. At that time St Charles' was still under the care of the Oblates with Fr Leo Sormany as principal. After finishing school Howard went to the University of the Witwatersrand from 1920–23 where he acquired a BSc in civil engineering. He then decided to become an Oblate priest, and was sent to Cahermoyle, Ireland for his novitiate year in 1928. He made his first vows there on 8 September 1929, after which he went to Belmont for his scholastic studies and made his final oblation on 29 September 1932. From there he went to continue his theological studies in Jersey, Channel Islands, where he was ordained priest on 29 June 1934, and then went to Daingean in Ireland. At the completion of his studies he returned to South Africa on 30 August 1935. He was appointed assistant priest at Bellair for two years (1935–37). In 1938 he was placed at Malvern as chaplain to the Augustinian Sisters and St Theresa's Orphanage. After two years there he was appointed to Inchanga as Superior and novice master (1940–50). Whilst there many young men passed



through his care and learned from his example. Among these were Dominic Khumalo (later to become Auxiliary Bishop of Durban) and Jerome Mavundla, who were the first Zulu vocations to the priesthood in Natal and who left their mark as exemplary priests and Oblates in the province. In 1950 Howard was appointed Secretary of Mission Schools in the Archdiocese of Durban for the next seven years until 1958 when he was assigned as Diocesan Treasurer and Vicar General until 1960. He was then sent to Emmanuel Cathedral as Assistant priest (1960–1987). Whilst there he took charge of the Zulu congregation and built up a strong and vibrant community of Zulu parishioners. He also took on the task of chaplain to the Augustinian Sisters at St Augustine's hospital from 1965–69. In 1966 he was chosen by his brother Oblates as their representative at the Oblate General Chapter in Rome and later, in 1976, he was a participant in the Congress on the Oblate Charism in Rome. Again, in 1982, he took part in the Congress on Evangelization and the Oblates in Rome. For many years he directed the Catholic African Savings Union which helped its many members to save their hard-earned money.

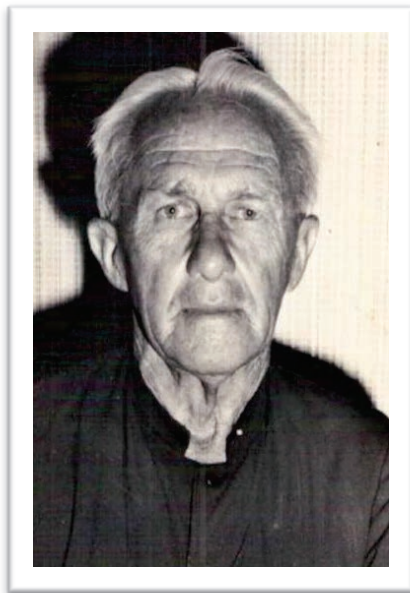
One of Howard's greatest achievements, if not the greatest, was his painstaking work of translating into isiZulu various pastoral and liturgical texts that had emerged as a result of Vatican II. Together with Fr Raphael Studerus OSB of Eshowe diocese, they produced virtually all the isiZulu translations of the Altar Missal and Roman Ritual and Lectionary. They were also assisted by Fr Peter Butelezi OMI (later Archbishop of Bloemfontein). If today priests are able to celebrate Mass and dispense the Sacraments to the people in the Zulu vernacular, it is to a very great extent thanks to Frs St George and Studerus, and Bishop Peter Butelezi. Howard was also a stickler for historical details. Besides the many articles which he wrote for various publications, his *opus magnum* was the reconstruction of Bishop Allard's diary plus another 300 pages of his own commentary based on his research of over twenty years. He entitled his work *Failure and Vindication*.

Howard was already a legend in his time. His love for the Oblate Congregation and for Mary Immaculate was one of his strong points. Another was his love for the Zulu people. As a young priest he had learned the Zulu language and became not only proficient in it, but also an expert. Much more could be said and written about him. He is remembered by those who knew him as a very kind person, willing to help, honest and straight forward, saying what he believed to be the truth, and had a quiet sense of humour which was sometimes hidden by his occasional brusque manner. He has left a legacy that will be extremely difficult to follow.

Towards the beginning of 1989, Howard began to feel unwell and he was placed at Nazareth House in Durban so that he would be well cared for; but on the 25 April 1989 he died of congestive cardiac failure, aged 87. His Requiem took place in a packed Cathedral, after which he was buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara. (*Much of the information above was taken from an article written by Fr Gerard O'Hara after Fr St George's death.*)



ST GEORGE, Brother Robert Allan: An Oblate Baronet



Robert Allan St George was born in Pietermaritzburg on 20 March 1900, the eldest son of Sir Theophilus John St George and Lady Florence Emma Vanderplank, both devout Catholics. He was baptized in St Mary's on 9 April 1900 by Fr Auguste Chauvin OMI. He was educated at the Marist Brothers' Colleges in Uitenhage and Pietermaritzburg. After obtaining his Junior Certificate, he worked as a bank clerk and later as a farmer. When World War II broke out, he volunteered to join the South African Defence Force and served 'up north' as a private in the SA Tank Corps. He was taken prisoner at Tobruk and spent a fairly lengthy period in a POW camp in Italy. He managed to escape and was sheltered by a kind Italian family, whom he went back to visit some 40 odd years later. At the end of the war, he took up sugar farming in Zululand (as it was then called), until at the age of 49, he decided to join the Oblate Congregation as a Missionary Brother. He entered the Novitiate in Germiston where he made his first vows in 1950 and his final vows in 1956 at Cedara. His brother, two years his junior, Denis Howard, had preceded Robert in the Oblate

Congregation. After his Novitiate year, Robert led a team which became known as the 'Building Team' of the Archdiocese, and which was responsible for the building and maintenance of the many mission churches in the rural areas, including Besters, Maria Ratschitz, Cedara and Archbishop's House in Durban. In his later years he joined the community at Cleland and then at Cedara, where he finished off his days. If anyone was part of the very fabric of scholastic life, it was 'Bobs' or 'Uncle Bobs', as he was affectionately called by everyone. Stories abound about his 'inventions', activities, mannerisms and exploits, some genuine, many embellished! His nephew, Brother David du Preez, was the manager of the Oblate farm at Cedara, and he had a difficult time evading his uncle, who persisted in telling him to use good old-fashioned and infallible farming methods, such as that of increasing land fecundity and productivity by using the waste products of cows instead of modern fertilizers, especially as there was a large herd of cattle on the farm!

Bobs' sense of humour enabled him to live in a community where 90% of the scholastics were less than half his age. On one occasion the late Fr Joe Surgeson was being buried in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara, and Bobs was watching the proceedings. At the end he looked annoyed, and when someone asked him why, he answered, "He has taken the place I had booked for my grave!"

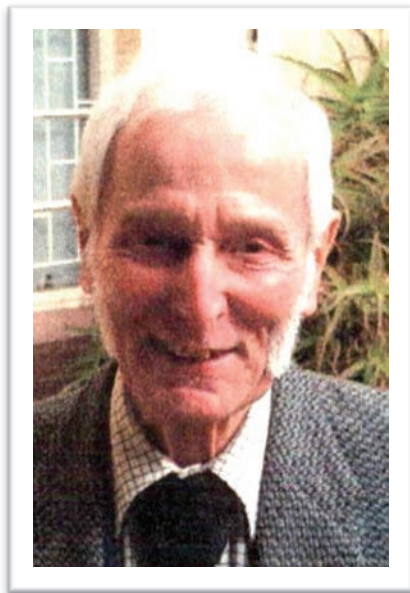


Bobs, being the eldest son in the St George family, was the first to inherit the Baronetcy on the death of his father, Sir Theophilus St George in 1943. The baronetcy was conferred on the St George family in 1763. Bobs was the 7th Baronet. On his death the title went to his younger brother, Fr Denis Howard, and then to the younger brother, George.

Bobs was well-known as a man of prayer, spending hours before the Blessed Sacrament in the evenings, often 'falling asleep in the Lord', which he eventually did literally, by entering the eternal pastures of the Kingdom of God on the 21 April 1983 at Nazareth House, Durban, due to heart failure. He was 83 years old when he died. His remains were buried at Cedara where he had worked and lived for many years.



STRUVE, Karl Friedrich



Karl (better known as Charles or Charlie) was born on 21 November 1922 in Amsterdam, Holland. When he was fourteen years of age (1936) his parents decided to emigrate to South Africa, and so Charlie arrived with them to take up residence in Pretoria on 24 March. He did his secondary education at the Christian Brothers' College in Pretoria. At the age of 20 he decided to become a priest in the Oblate Congregation, and entered the novitiate in Germiston in 1942, making his first vows on 17 February 1943 together with Kevin Cawte. Both then came down to Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg, to begin their scholasticate under the leadership of Denis Hurley OMI, Superior. Both Kevin and Charlie made their final vows on 28 February 1946. The following year Charles and the rest of the community moved to the new premises in Cleland, Pietermaritzburg. On 11 July 1948 he was ordained to the priesthood in Sacred Heart Church, Pretoria, and received his obedience for the Transvaal Province (now Northern Province) where for almost a year he served as assistant priest in various parishes. Then in 1950 he was sent to Rome for further studies

at the Angelicum where he obtained a Licentiate in Canon Law and Theology. After completing his studies he received an obedience on 3 August 1955 for the Natal Province as a Formator and Lecturer at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, and remained there until 1970. During that time, in 1960, he was appointed an *Officialis* of the Durban Marriage Tribunal, a position he held for many years, and which he undertook, like everything else he did, with thorough dedication. In 1965 he was appointed Superior of St Joseph's Scholasticate. After fifteen years at the Scholasticate, Charles decided to go into pastoral ministry. From 1970 to 1972 he served as an assistant priest at Mayville, Durban, and in 1973 he did supplies at Pinetown, Addington Hospital, and Virginia parish. In 1974 he did a short stint at Holy Trinity parish on the Berea, Durban. Then in 1978 he was appointed acting parish priest at Raisethorpe and Eastwood and in 1979 also served as assistant at St Anthony's parish, Pietermaritzburg. That year he was assigned to St Martin de Porres, Woodlands, Pietermaritzburg as parish priest. From 1982–1985 he was seconded to the Western Transvaal Delegation where he served in the



Orkney and Stilfontein parishes. In 1986 Charlie was back in Natal, serving as assistant at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg till 1988. The following year he was assigned to Cleland to supply and assist as a Formator at the Pre-Novitiate till 1993, when he returned to St Mary's as assistant for three years until 1996 when he was appointed Superior of Sabon House in Congella, Durban, for the next two years, and then from 1998 to 2006 he 'retired' to Cleland.

That year he again 'retired' to Woodlands/Montclair, and in 2009 he finally retired completely to Nazareth House in Durban, where he remained till his death on 22 January 2010 at the age of 88.

At Charlie's funeral a confrere preached the homily in which he managed to sum up the personality, spirituality and character of Karl Struve. "His was a cross-centred life. When he spoke to the Province on the occasion of his golden jubilee of Oblate life...he expressed the point that religious life is only possible through prayer and discipline. This was not merely something he said, it was something he lived....He not only preached the cross – he lived it...With him there were no half measures... When he was younger and able to fast he was extremely abstemious during Lent, but feasted through the Easter season and beyond. He certainly knew how to feast!"

As a student in Rome he had concentrated on Canon Law, but later in his life Charles developed a passion for Scripture and Spirituality. He never missed a Theological Winter School or an on-going formation course. He was awestruck by Mahatma Gandhi and the spirituality of Mother Theresa. Charlie was a man of sober habits, and like the biblical characters Hannah and John the Baptist, 'took neither strong drink nor wine.'

Charlie loved a good joke, although he would take some time to catch on to the punch line. But when he did, he would laugh heartily, and would ask the person telling the joke to repeat it whenever he saw the person again. The homily concluded with these words: "Today we bid farewell to a man of deep personal and priestly prayer. He prayed in season and out of season." – a wonderful tribute to a great Oblate priest.



SURGESON, Joseph



Joseph was born in Pietermaritzburg on 29 August 1913. He began his primary school studies at the Dominican Convent school at Lennoxton, Newcastle, together with Denis Hurley and Patrick Holland, all three of whom would one day become Oblate priests. For his secondary studies he went to the Christian Brothers' College in Kimberley. After matriculating he joined the Oblate Congregation, and was sent to Ireland to do his Novitiate at Cahermoyle in 1931, where he pronounced his first vows on 11 February 1932. He was then sent to the Scholasticate at La Brosse, France, and made his final vows there on 17 February 1935. For some unknown reason his ordination took place at Tivoli, Italy on 20 February 1938 and from there he went to Jersey, Channel Islands. In 1939 he returned to South Africa.

He was appointed assistant pastor at St Paul's, Greyville from December 1939 to August 1943, when he was made priest-in-charge of Mt Edgecombe and Newlands (Sept. 1943 to June 1947). In July 1947 he was appointed parish priest of Stanger, where he ministered till November 1949. Between 1949 and 1950 he was assigned to Pius XII

University, Roma, Lesotho, and lectured in the English language. In April 1951 he was sent to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, as assistant for five months, after which he was appointed priest-in-charge of Dannhauser from September 1951 to December 1958. His next move in January 1959 was as *locum tenens* in Dundee for four months and then was appointed priest-in-charge of Kranskop in May. But in August he took ill, and for the next six years he was incapacitated and not able to do any pastoral work. He was afflicted with a disability that prevented him from walking. After a visit to Lourdes in France, Joe claimed that he was healed, to the extent that he was able to walk without the aid of a stick, and began to minister once again. He was appointed parish priest of Virginia/Glenashley in June 1965, but this assignment proved too heavy for him, and in September of that year (1965) he was assigned to Queensburgh as assistant for a few months, and in February 1966 he was appointed parish priest of Oakford where he remained for 12 years. During his stay there he narrowly missed a fatal accident when the tower of the church collapsed. It was whilst he was parish priest of Oakford that the new



beautiful parish church was built and it was in that church that his funeral later took place, and it remains as a monument to his priestly ministry. After Oakford, Joe supplied at St Anne's, Chesterville (Cato Manor) for a short while.

Joe was a talented musician and composed the music for the Oblate Hymn 'Queen of Oblates'. He spoke impeccable English and was often called upon to review and proof read

church publications. He was kind and gentle and had a special place in his heart for the unfortunate. In 1983 he celebrated his seventieth birthday with the Oblate Community at Glenmore, and the next day went to hospital never to return again. He was discharged from hospital because they were unable to do any more for him and he spent his last weeks at Nazareth House where he was lovingly cared for by the good Sisters and staff. Joe had been the perfect gentleman at all times and, whilst on his deathbed, he would often apologize for any inconvenience he might be causing. It was in these last few days that he whispered that through his terminal illness he had come to really experience and know the kindness of people. He died peacefully on Friday, 21 October 1983, at the age of 70. His Requiem was celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hurley and fifty priests, in the presence of a crowded church. After the funeral his remains were taken to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery.



THEOBALD, Joseph

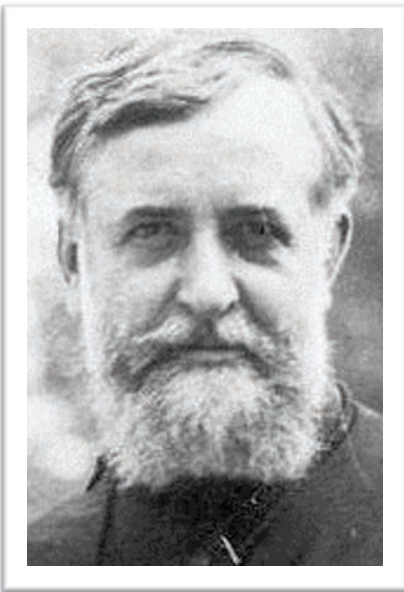


Joseph was born on 8 November 1918 at Sarreque mine, Alsace-Lorraine, France. After completing his schooling at the Juniorate, first at Strasbourg/Roberstau, and then Augny, he entered the Oblate Novitiate of St Ulrich in 1937. He made his first vows on 15 August 1938, after which he began his priestly studies at Burthécourt (1938/39) and then at Lumieres (1940–45), where he made his final profession on 26 July 1942 and was ordained to the priesthood there on 18 June 1944. He received his first obedience to join the Mission Band at St Ulrich, and then to Grandvillars (*Territoire de Belfort*), after which he received an obedience for Natal, where he arrived on 1 March 1947. For the next 42 years, Joe served in several parishes beginning as a curate at Emmanuel Cathedral in 1947 and remaining there for the next ten years. In 1957 he was assigned to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg for a year as assistant and in 1958 he did a short stint as *locum tenens* at St Theresa's, Mayville, Durban, after which he was appointed parish priest of St Peter's, Point, Durban, till 1964. His next move was to Greytown and Seven Oaks as *locum tenens* for several months, and

then he was assigned as curate to Machibisa for a short spell followed by another short stint as *locum tenens* at Estcourt. In 1965 he was back at Emmanuel Cathedral as an assistant and remained there for the next four years until 1969 when he was appointed parish priest of St Michael's, Red Hill, where he ministered till 1983. From there he was assigned to St Francis Xavier at the Bluff as parish priest from 1983 to 1986. Unfortunately his health had begun to trouble him seriously, and he left the Bluff, and went to live at Maris Stella School to serve as Chaplain to the Holy Family Sisters and the school. He remained there for three years until 1983 when he had to retire to Nazareth House because of his failing health. He finally died on 2 October 1989 at the age of 71 of kidney failure from diabetes. The burial took place on 6 October at the Oblate cemetery at Cedara. Joe had a fine singing voice, and he was often asked to lead the singing or to direct the congregation at a sung Mass. He was a dedicated priest and was well-liked by parishioners wherever he served.



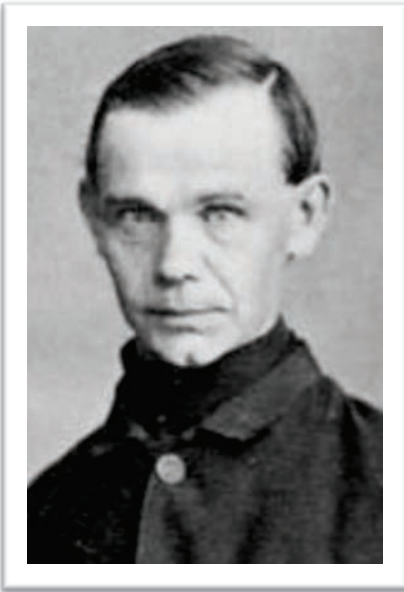
THIRY, Ferdinand



Ferdinand-Jean was born on 19 January 1873 in Saarltdorf in the Diocese of Metz. His father was Nicolas Thiry and his mother Thérèse (born Grosse). At 17 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate on 14 August 1890, making his first vows there on the 15 August 1891. From there he was sent to Rome for his priestly studies and made his final profession on 15 August 1892 in Rieti. He was ordained to the priesthood on 30 May 1896 in Rome. His first obedience was in 1898 to the Scholasticate in Rome as choir-master (*répétiteur*). In 1901 he was sent to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as professor at St Bernard Seminary and in 1908 he was made Superior of Wennapuwa. Two years later he was appointed Pastor at Dehiwala (1910), and in 1912 to Bambalapitiya. In 1921 he was assigned to Marawila as Pastor. Three years later, he returned to Rome and was once again appointed to the Scholasticate as choir-master, and the following year as Vice-Postulator of the Congregation. Then in 1931 he was made Postulator and it was in that capacity that he visited South Africa in May 1940 in order to 'institute enquiries relative to the introduction of the Cause of Reverend Father Joseph Gérard.' (*Circular Letter No. 172* of December 8, 1945 of Hilaire Balmes, Vicar General). Because of the prolongation of the Second World War, Thiry was unable to return to Europe, and he died in Durban on 29 August 1945 at the age of 72.



TIVENAN, Brother Lawrence



Lawrence John Mary Tivenan was born at Boyle in the diocese of Elphin, Ireland on 3 December 1830. He took the habit at Sickling Hall in October 1858 and made his final vows in 1864, receiving the Oblate Number 621. He was posted to Glencree. He travelled to Natal with the 1864 party (first Holy Family Sisters from Bordeaux destined for Basutoland, and Frs Hidien, Barthélemy and Bro. Moran) and spent many years teaching at the Catholic school in Pietermaritzburg. In September 1882 he was sent to St Michael's with Fr Mathieu to try and re-open the mission. In August 1886 Bishop Jolivet wrote: "... I visited the Oakford mission and the Catholics in the surroundings of Verulam. The mission is going well but we need a good Brother to help Fr Mathieu, and to run a school for the Africans. I will send him the good Brother Tivenan and my faithful coachman, Daniel, who is a catechumen." Lawrence also worked at the Bluff mission for a while, and finally in Durban. After a long life of devoted fidelity to his vocation as a missionary co-worker, he died in Durban on the 2 July 1912, aged 82.



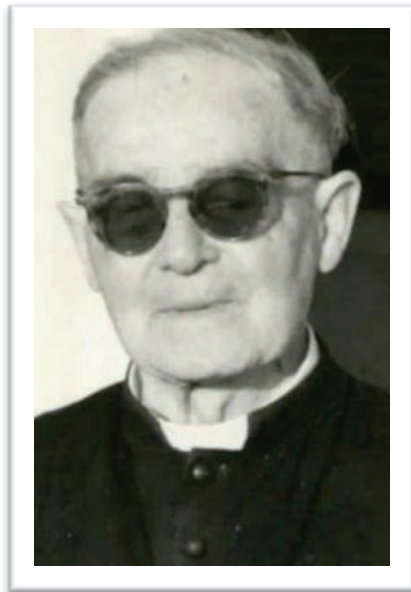
TROY, Michael



Michael was born in Ballysagart, Lismore, Co. Waterford, Ireland, in 1913. He was educated at the local National School and at Mount Melleray Seminary. He entered the Oblate House of Late Vocations, then went to Belmont House, Dublin. At the age of 24 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1937, making his first vows the following year, and his final profession in 1941. He was ordained priest on 29 June 1943, one of 17 ordinations. His first obedience was to Natal, and he arrived in Durban in March 1945. He was sent to Newcastle to learn isiZulu, after which he was appointed to Maria Ratschitz mission near Wasbank. His heart was in the missions from his earliest days in the Scholasticate. When asked where he would like to be sent after ordination, he always gave the same answer: "To a foreign mission – anywhere!" Here at Maria Ratschitz he was able to fulfil his heart's desire. Unfortunately the good Lord had other plans for him. Like Jesus, our Saviour, he gave his life for the salvation of others at the young age of 33. The details regarding the cause of his death are unclear. One explanation is that he contracted typhoid while anointing a sick person. Another is that he drank water from a contaminated stream or river. Whatever the cause, he was struck down with typhoid fever and died on Easter Sunday, 21 April 1946, to join the glorious resurrected Jesus Christ whom he had served so zealously in his short life.



TUAL, Jean-Louis



Jean-Louis was born on 29 January 1881 in Saint Dolay, in the Diocese of Vannes, France. His parents were François and Jeanne (born Chesnin). He was twenty years of age when he entered the Oblate Novitiate on 2 October 1901 in Angers, where he made his first vows on 6 October 1902. He then went to Liège for his scholastic studies, and made his final profession there on 8 December 1903. On 10 July, 1904 he was ordained to the priesthood in Cambrai. The following year he received his first obedience for Natal. He was sent to Oakford, presumably to learn the Zulu language, and then in 1906 he was posted to Umsinsini in Zululand for a year until 1907 when he was appointed to St Paul's Church in Greyville. According to an article written by a confrere, very little was being done at the time for the African population in and around Durban. He claimed that there were 25–30 Oblates in Natal: 4 were in the Transkei and 1 in Zululand (probably Fr Rousset at Emoyeni). The only church in central Durban was the Cathedral. In the recently opened suburb of Greyville there was St Joseph's Church, and on an adjoining site stood St Paul's church,

which served the small African Catholic population. Fr Tual was stationed at St Paul's. Of course, when he arrived in 1905, Tual had to learn both English and isiZulu, aided by Fr Jenn. It didn't take long for him to become proficient in the Zulu language in which, over time, he became somewhat of an expert. He remained at St Paul's till 1914 when he was called up to serve in the French army during World War I (1914–18). He served as a stretcher-bearer for three years, and also helped as an interpreter for French and English speakers. He was not involved in actual fighting, but assisted in hospitals. For at least a year he was not able to celebrate Mass until someone managed to obtain portable altars for the priests, after which they were able to celebrate regularly. Later Tual expressed the feeling of emptiness he experienced at not being able to celebrate the Eucharist.

On his return to Natal after the war, he picked up his missionary work again among his beloved Zulu people. He served as Novice Master at Inchanga for some years, at the same time teaching isiZulu to young missionaries who had arrived from Europe. "Later he was stationed in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, then at Maryvale

Mission (St Joan of Arc) in Pietermaritzburg. At the age of 70 he took on the responsibility of a large mission area at Maria Ratschitz, Waschbank. Finally, he was appointed chaplain to the Augustinian Sisters' Novitiate at Umgeni Poort." (*Newspaper clipping*)

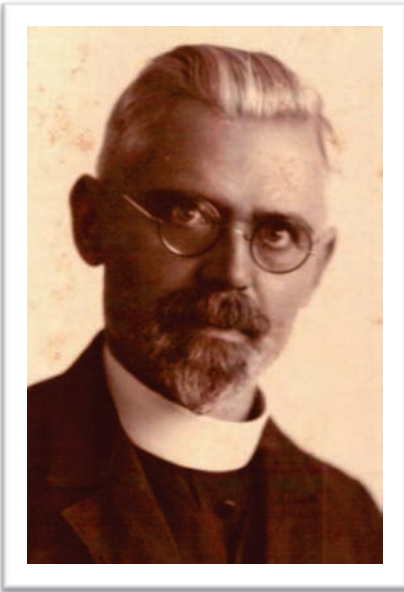
Whilst there he became blind, which forced his retirement from active ministry. He then went to St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara, to help with the formation of scholastics,



especially as confessor and spiritual director. After a year or two there he requested to do active ministry again, so he was posted to Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban. He soon became accustomed to finding his way around the presbytery and church, where he would sit in the confessional, hearing confessions for hours on end. Eventually, even this became too much for him, and he was restricted to his room where he was looked after by nurse-aid carers during the day. Finally, on 10 December 1975, he breathed his last on earth, and gave himself over to Our Divine Lord and his Blessed Mother whom he had served so faithfully and lovingly all his days as a priest. He was then 95 years of age, the longest serving priest in the Archdiocese. His Requiem Mass was in Emmanuel Cathedral where over 50 priests concelebrated. His remains were taken to Cedara for burial in the Oblate cemetery. Jean-Louis left a lasting memory. He was one of the most revered missionaries of the Natal Province, greatly loved by the Zulu people, and admired by his confreres for his down-to-earth wisdom and his devout spirituality.



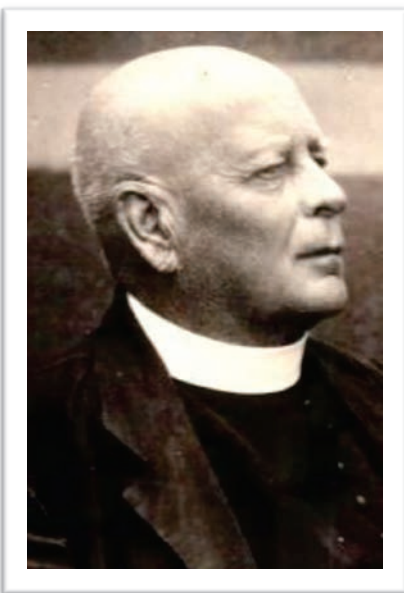
VAN DER LANEN, Arthur



Arthur Van der Lanen (also spelled Laenen) was born on 29 March 1880 in Berlaere in the Diocese of Gand, Belgium. His father was François, and his mother Marie-Louise (née De Braudt). He entered the Oblate Novitiate in Bestin on 28 September 1901, making his first vows there on 29 September 1902, and then went to Liège for his priestly studies and made his final vows there on 1 October 1903. He was ordained priest in Liège on 23 February 1907. The first three years of his ministry were spent in his home Province in Belgium, working in Bruxelles (Brussels), Nieuwenhove, and Anvers. In 1911 he received an obedience for Natal where his first assignment was to Oakford, in order to learn the Zulu language and acquaint himself with local conditions. From there he went to Durban. Between 1912 and 1914 he served at Bellair, then Kokstad and Dundee. In 1914 he was at Entumeni in Zululand for a number of years but by 1920 he was back at Bellair for a short time and then again at Oakford. The following year he was posted to Greytown (1921), Pietermaritzburg (1922), and finally to Estcourt in 1923. He remained there for many years and was well-known and respected for his missionary endeavours and devotion. On 3 October 1945 he died at Estcourt where he had spent most of his missionary life. He was 65 years of age at the time of his death.



VERNHET, Peter (Pierre)



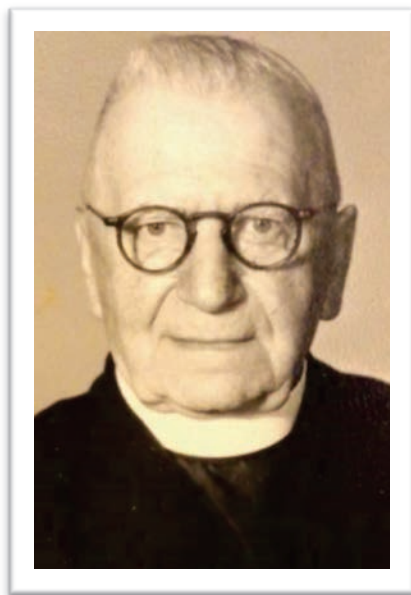
Pierre Vernhet, was born at Trelans in the diocese of Mende, France, on 17 January 1859. After making his novitiate year with the Oblates at N.D. de Lumières he made his first vows in 1878 and his final vows on 9 October 1879 at Autun. While still a scholastic he came to Natal with several others who had to leave France when religious orders and congregations came under attack there. He was ordained priest by Bishop Jolivet in Pietermaritzburg on Holy Saturday, 8 April 1882, together with Frs Louis Mathieu and William Murray.

On 16 May 1883, Bishop Jolivet wrote in his Journal: "...A letter from Fr Baudry informed me that Fr Vernhet arrived at Umtata on the 9th. The post cart overturned near the Umkomazi and the Father was nearly killed. However, he was able to say Mass at Kokstad."

In 1884 he was serving at Umtata and then in 1886 he was at Kimberley. He also worked at Clocolan in the Orange Free State in 1895. According to Fr Ademmer OMI, Vernhet returned to France in 1893 and remained there till 1903 when he came back to Natal. In 1904 he was back at Umtata, and in 1907 at Kokstad. He returned to Durban in 1911, and then served as the first parish priest of Pinetown from 1919 until 1921 when he was posted to Greytown where he remained until 1927. He returned again to Durban in 1933, and finally Oakford in 1939. He died in Durban on the 14 May 1941, aged 83.



VIALARD, (VIALARD) Gabriel

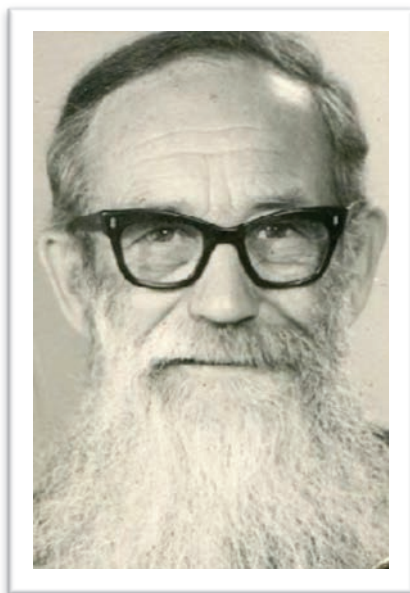


Gabriel was born on 9 August 1883 at Arpagon, in the diocese of St Flour, France, of Raymond and Thérèse (born Rosignod). At 19 years of age he decided to join the Oblate Congregation and received the habit on 20 September 1902 at N.D. de L'Osier, making his first vows on 21 September 1903, and his final vows on 1 October 1905. He was ordained to the priesthood on 2 April 1907 at Liège. After working for some years in Bloemfontein, he went to Lesotho. Later he requested to come to Natal. Gabriel was somewhat of an orator and was appreciated for his sermons and speeches. He was loved by his confreres. He had a quiet sense of humour which added interest to his speeches. His confreres were always received with sympathy and fraternal charity. In his later years he did valuable work as hospital chaplain. He died in Durban on 16 March 1958 in Durban at the age of 75 years.

VOGT, Wilfred. *(See Necrology part 2)*



WAGNER, Henry



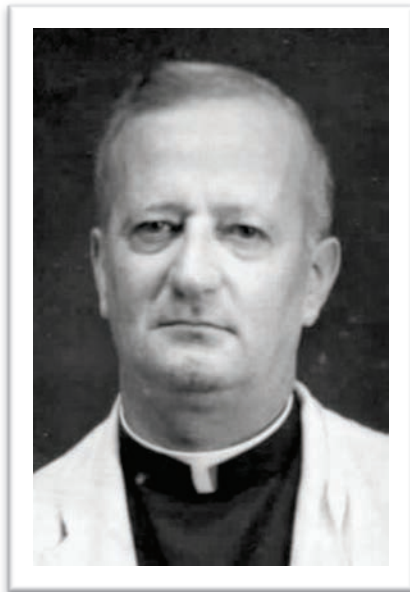
Henry was born on 4 February 1907 at Romelfing, in the Diocese of Metz–Moselle, France. He completed his early schooling at Sherbourg, Augny, and then entered the Oblate novitiate of St Ulrich in 1926 where he made his first vows on 15 August 1927, after which he went to begin his scholastic training at Liège and then at Burthécourt, where he made his final profession on 25 January 1932. He was ordained at Burthécourt on 9 July 1933 and received his first obedience for Natal on 4 June 1934, and was sent to Inchanga to learn English and isiZulu. He stayed there for 8 years ministering to the Zulu people in the Valley, and then in January 1942 he was sent to Ntshongweni where he remained for the rest of his life, apart from the time he spent serving in the French army during World War II. Henry became identified with Ntshongweni. He lived in the poorest conditions, without concern for his personal comfort. His home was a small rondavel (hut) which served as bedroom, washroom, office, and store room – all in one room! He was responsible for building Ntshongweni into a thriving mission station.

After the war, he returned to his missionary work with renewed zeal. Today Ntshongweni is known in Natal and beyond as a great shrine to Our Lady. Busses carry thousands of people there every year on 31 May from as far afield as Johannesburg and Bloemfontein. They spend the night in prayer at the shrine, where Mass is celebrated from midnight to dawn. Confessions begin as soon as the pilgrims arrive, and continue throughout the night. Henry took no credit for the founding or the success of the shrine and pilgrimage. He stated that it began with a small group of faithful who came daily to pray before a statue of Our Lady 'hidden' away behind the altar. In spite of his attempts to stop this 'private pilgrimage', it grew and grew until he felt bound to do something. His confreres among the French missionaries encouraged him to start a pilgrimage shrine in honour of Our Lady, and promised to assist him in every way. The rest is history!

Henry died peacefully in Durban on 11 August 1970 aged 63.



WEBER, Francois Antoine



Anton was born on 28 February 1910 at Leutenheim, Lower Rhine (*Bas Rhin*), Alsace-Lorraine, France, of Joseph Weber and Louise (born Sieffert). After completing his primary and secondary education at the Juniorate in Strasbourg and Augny, he entered the Oblate Novitiate of St Ulrich in 1929, making his first vows on 15 August 1930. He then went to the Scholasticate at Burthécourt to begin his studies for the priesthood. He made his final profession there on 15 August 1933, and was ordained to the priesthood on 11 July 1935. He received his first obedience for Natal, arriving on the 4 November 1936 and was assigned to Newcastle where he set about learning the Zulu and English languages. In 1937 he was sent to Mielietuin (which later became an outstation of Estcourt) till 1941, and then to Maria Ratschitz to take charge of the mission and farm. He remained there from 1941 to 1948 and then was appointed priest-in-charge of St Joan of Arc, Pietermaritzburg from 1948 to 1952. During this time he was also chaplain to Pietermaritzburg gaol and was a member of the social welfare organisation in the City. His next move was as parish priest of

Machibisa from 1952 till 1959, followed by six years as parish priest of Stanger (KwaDukuza) from 1959 – 1964, where he also was involved in social welfare work in the town. It was during his stay at Stanger that the beautiful new church and priest's house were built. From Stanger Toni went to be the first resident parish priest of Shaka's Kraal from 1964 till 1975. His final move was to Howick (1975–1983). Whilst he was there he was responsible for the building of the new large church at Mphophomeni township on the outskirts of Howick. On the 8 December he joined all his Oblate confreres in Durban for the annual celebration of the Immaculate Conception, and then drove back the 100 kilometres to Howick. The next morning he was found dead in his bed. All indications were that he died quietly and peacefully of a myocardial infarction on 9 December 1983, aged 73 years.

Toni was a lovable character, always smiling. He loved to be at gatherings of fellow priests and enjoyed the conversation and banter which accompanied such meetings. He was loyal to his Church and faithful to his religious Congregation; he never missed a meeting. It was fitting that he should die after having gathered with

his confreres on the patronal feast of the Congregation, and celebration of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, to whom the Congregation is dedicated, and for whom Toni had a fervent devotion. His funeral was attended by hundreds of the faithful to whom he had given his time and life. His body was laid to rest at the Oblate cemetery at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara.



WEINRICH, Franz. *(See Necrology part 2)*

WILLIAMSON, Julian David



Julian was born in Durban on 23 July 1938 of William Allan Williamson and Muriel Penelope (born Edwards). He was educated at St Henry's College, Durban, which was then run by the Marist Brothers, and matriculated there in 1955. The following year he went to the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston and made his first vows on 17 February 1957. He then came down to pursue his priestly studies at St Joseph's Scholasticate, Cedara where he made his final profession on 17 February 1960 after which he was sent to complete his theological studies in Rome. He was ordained on 11 July 1963 at Roviano, Tivoli. On his return to Natal he was placed at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, as assistant priest for two years (1965–67), and then at the Bluff, also as assistant, for the next seven years (1967–74). His next move was to Sacred Heart, Woodlands/Montclair as parish priest (1974–1983), after which he was assigned to Margate in the Diocese of Umzimkulu, from 1983 to 1992. His final appointment was as parish priest at the Bluff from 1992 till his death four years later.

In between his moves from parish to parish Julian managed to study for and obtain a BA degree from UNISA. On his return to the Bluff in 1992 he had Fr Christopher Senechal as companion and assistant. Fr Senechal developed cancer, and Julian nursed him day and night, together with a dedicated band of helpers, until he died on the 6 June 1993. Soon afterwards Julian himself was diagnosed with cancer. He underwent several months of treatment, but to no avail. Towards the end, he was operated upon at one of Durban's well-known hospitals. While recuperating in the ward, the nursing staff came around with a portable X-ray machine, photographing all the patients who had been operated upon that morning. It appeared that a certain surgical instrument was unaccounted for in the operating theatre. The X-ray showed it to be still in Julian's abdomen! He was taken back to theatre, and was operated upon again to remove the instrument. The hospital staff apologized profusely, but, unfortunately, that did not make matters any better! Some weeks later Julian went to the oncologist for his check up, and he was given the news that he was clear. When he announced it to the congregation on Sunday, the congregation broke into a spontaneous applause. But a sad blow was to fall on him, for the medical practitioner



phoned him a few days later to tell him that a terrible mistake had been made by mis-identifying him for another patient, and that he himself had developed a further cancer. When Julian announced this news to the congregation the following Sunday, many sighs of sorrow were heard, and many silent tears were shed. Towards the end, he was lovingly cared for by some of his parishioners until he finally succumbed to the dreaded disease, and on the 13 April 1996 he handed himself over to his Creator whom he had served so faithfully during his priestly life. He was 58 years of age. During all his illness, Julian was never known to have complained or shown distress. His spirit of acceptance and resignation was remarkable.

Julian was firm but gentle of character, and people took easily to him. He had a good sense of humour, and was a good singer. In all the parishes he served he was loved by his parishioners.

Unfortunately, Archbishop Denis Hurley was leaving for overseas and had to miss the Requiem Mass and funeral, so he wrote a letter to the Provincial, which was read out to the congregation who had filled the church and overflowed to the grounds outside, and the sixty priests who had come to pay their respects for their brother priest. The Archbishop wrote: "My last recollection of Fr Julian is of a brave smiling face three days before his death...Julian was the 'littlest' altar boy serving at my episcopal ordination on 19 March 1947. We remember him for his good-natured, kindly and affectionate spirit, gifts that he placed unreservedly at the service of the Good Shepherd and the fulfilment of his vocation as a priest in the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. May he rest in peace, enjoying the reward of a good and faithful servant and interceding for us...Sharing the admiration of those who knew what a burden of suffering Fr Julian bore so cheerfully and heroically, sharing too the sorrow of all who knew and loved him but not begrudging the rest and reward that are now his."

Julian was buried at Cedara where he lies in peace among his fellow Oblates.



YOUNG, Brother Geoffrey



Geoffrey Anthony Young was born in Durban on the 16 September 1945, and was baptised at the Cathedral in Durban on 21 October 1945 by Fr Joseph L'Henoret OMI. He was educated at Pinetown Convent School and Glenwood High School in Durban, where he matriculated in 1963. The following year he did his compulsory military training in the Natal Carbineers, and during 1965 and 1966 he attended the University of Natal (Durban) where he began his studies for BA and LLB degrees. During this period he was actively involved in the lay apostolate in Durban and was a keen member of the YCW movement. In February 1967 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston where he made his first vows on 17 February 1968. He then went to Cedara to begin his studies for the priesthood. He was a keen student and an exemplary community man. Sadly, his desire to be a priest was not to be fulfilled. On the afternoon of 5 November 1968, Geoff went for a swim in the dam on the Scholasticate farm, a hundred metres from the student house. No one knows what happened, but Geoff drowned in the dam. He was alone at the time.

After his tragic death, a co-student wrote: "Geoff, our brother and companion, was a full and integrated person, his pleasant and friendly manner endeared him to all. Seldom was there a day without fun; entertaining and full of practical jokes was Geoff. When low in spirit, he was there to dispel the gloom. His abundant humour and frank manner were the wonderful treasures of his companionship. Light-hearted and constantly cheerful, he was always ready with a smile so full of mirth and mischief. His outward casualness hid a depth of understanding and warm friendship. Deep love and sincere devotion were sides of his personality which few were able to fully understand. Nothing ever got him down. Geoff had a brilliant mind – keen, alive and alert...The Scriptures which he studied with enthusiasm and interest, were his great love...These were among the many sides of his extraordinary personality." What a magnificent tribute!

His Requiem Mass took place in the packed Scholasticate chapel at Cedara on 8 November 1968, the main celebrant being Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI. The Provincial, Fr John Patterson preached a moving sermon in which he compared the death of Geoff to that of Jesus Christ, expressing the elements of sorrow, separation, and yet victory and glory. He concluded by saying: "Today we celebrate the Priesthood of Geoff. He is a Priest by Baptism. He is also a Priest of Orders – by desire. He looked forward to the Priesthood, and God will take the desire he had for fact. Those who are following Geoff must fulfil his desires. Today, in sorrow, we celebrate Geoff's great triumph!"



Geoff left a book filled with poems which he had composed. Here we quote the last two verses of a poem he wrote in his Novitiate year dedicated to Mary Immaculate:

*Mother blest in Heav'n above,
You know that we are weak.
Shine on us your peace and love
Alone our future is bleak.*

*Mary sweet, our hope so dear,
Who never sin did know,
Stay with us and still our fear,
Through you all graces flow.*

Geoff was only 23 years of age at the time of his death. He was probably the only Oblate to die so young in the Oblate history of Natal.



PART 2

NECROLOGY OF OBLATES WHO WORKED
IN NATAL BUT DIED ELSEWHERE, OR WHO
WORKED ELSEWHERE AND DIED IN NATAL



ST MARY'S CHURCH AND HOLY FAMILY CONVENT,
LOOP STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG, IN 1879



WE REMEMBER THEM

ALLAERT, Charles. *(See Necrology part 1)*

ALLARD, Jean-François. *(See Necrology part 1)*

BERNARD, Brother Pierre



Pierre Bernard was born at St Damien (Agnin [Isère]) in the diocese of Grenoble on 2 (or ?25) August 1827. At about 18 years of age, Peter underwent a conversion. He made a bargain with God to become either a soldier or a catechist. He would have become a soldier except that his father hired someone else to go to the army in place of his son. Peter then wanted to become a digger on the Californian goldfields, but his father refused to pay the fare for his passage; so he was given permission to enter a monastery to go to a mission territory as a catechist. First he tried the Christian brothers in Caluire near Lyon, then the Jesuits, but finally he joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Lyon in 1852. He took the habit at N.D. de l'Osier on 16 September 1852 and made his first oblation six months later on 19 March 1853. The notes from his novice master were very positive: "He is a model for the lay brothers, always very hard-working, very open to instruction, he understands the religious spirit, has an authentic prayer life..." Peter was sent to Natal together with Fr Justin Barret, and Fr Joseph Gerard (then still a deacon) in January 1854. In early 1855 Bishop

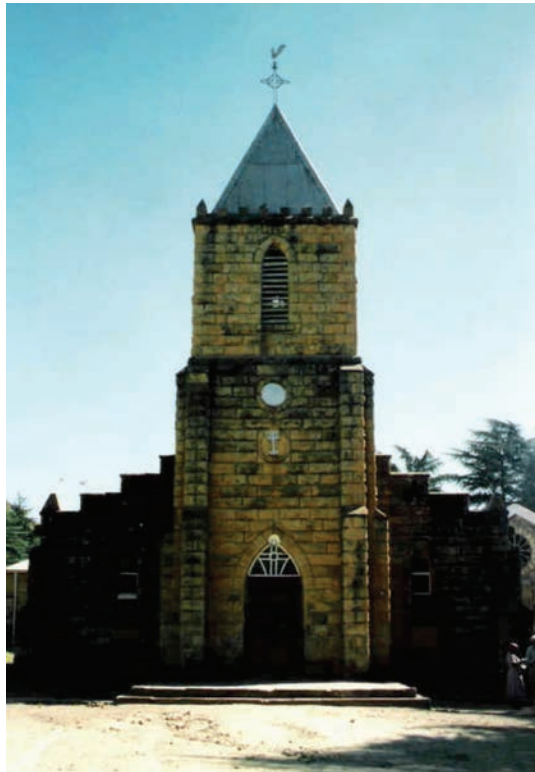
Allard sent him to help Frs Barret and Gerard build a dwelling at their very first missionary expedition among the Zulu-speaking people, the Amacele tribe. This mission (St Michael's) unfortunately ended in failure but three years later Gerard and Bompert tried to re-open the mission, and once again Bro. Bernard was sent to help them build the necessary accommodation-huts and chapel.

On 17 July 1860, Bernard accompanied the bishop, Fr Gerard and Bro. Terpend to the Umzimkulu region. Bro.



Terpend was injured in an accident on this trip and Bernard accompanied Fr Gerard with the injured Terpend back to Pietermaritzburg. He later rejoined Frs Gerard, Bompert and Le Bihan at St Michael's mission and got embroiled in the bishop's disputes with the local people over boundaries. Unfortunately Bro. Bernard's poor knowledge of English resulted in the case being dismissed by the Upper Umkomanzi resident magistrate, Captain Walter Lloyd.

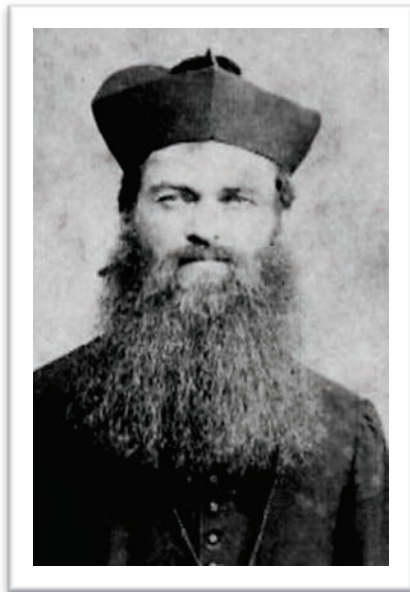
On 19 August 1862, Bernard accompanied Bishop Allard and Fr Gerard as they set out to establish a mission in Basutoland (Lesotho). Bro. Bernard remained in Basutoland for the rest of his life. Bernard was an industrious person who put his talents to good use: teaching catechism, handling of oxen, agriculture and animal husbandry, wood cutting, building and engineering. In Roma he constructed a mill for the production of bread flour. Among his many good points was the ability to live in harmony with others. He lived as a poor man among the poor. He took pride in his work and improved the life of the locals. He had a quiet and unassuming manner and a genuine religious conviction. He worked with Fr (Blessed) Joseph Gerard as his companion. He died in Roma, Basutoland on the 15 January 1889, aged 62. Fr Frederic Porte later wrote to Fr Soullier, the assistant general, in glowing terms of the person and life of Bro. Bernard, saying that his dedication to his vocation as a missionary brother and to his work was nothing less than heroic.



JOSEPH GERARD CHURCH, ROMA, LESOTHO



BAUDRY, Alexander



Alexander was born in Montigny-sur-Maine, in the diocese of Angers, France, in 1846. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1869, and made his final profession in the Oblate Congregation on 15 August 1870 with Oblate number 765. He was ordained in May 1872 at Autun and received his obedience for South Africa. After ordination, he spent some time in England learning to speak English, while awaiting a passage to South Africa. He arrived in Natal in September 1874, and together with Fr Monginoux was sent to Basutoland (Lesotho) to learn Sesotho and to help on the mission stations there and he also spent a few months in Kimberley. Thereafter he returned to Durban and, on 4 March 1875, when Bishop Jolivet, accompanied by six Oblates and the Holy Family Sisters, arrived in Durban, Frs Sabon and Baudry were at the Point to welcome them.

In 1879 Frs Baudry and Walsh were appointed military chaplains in the Anglo-Zulu War (January to August 1879) and served at the Battle of Ulundi on the 4 July 1879. After the death of the Prince Imperial of France, Louis Napoleon, at the hands of the Zulus on 1 June 1879, his

body was brought to Pietermaritzburg for embalming and Frs De Lacey and Baudrey accompanied the body as it was carried through the streets of Pietermaritzburg on a gun carriage. It should be noted that Fr Baudry was the one who later recognized the Prince Imperial's sword which had been taken by the Zulus at the time of his death. Fr Baudry handed the sword over to the General in charge.

In 1878 a new mission had been opened at the Bluff where a number of liberated slaves from Zanzibar and other labourers had settled and in 1880 Fr Baudry was influential in persuading Bishop Jolivet to buy 55 hectares of land there. With the help of the Catholics at the Bluff, Baudry cleared the land so that the parishioners could farm the plots allotted to them. He soon erected a small chapel. In all this work Baudry was assisted by the intrepid Saturnino, catechist to the Portuguese-speaking settlers. "The official opening of the chapel took place in July 1880 and the mission was named St Francis Xavier." This was the first church at the Bluff, and "...stood on the highest point of the property overlooking the sea." Baudry turned out to be an



excellent missionary and administrator. At the Bluff today there is a short road adjoining the Church property which bears the name Baudry in his memory. Unfortunately in February 1881 he had to leave the Bluff to go and serve as military chaplain once more, this time in the Transvaal War of Independence between Boer and British, but later in the year he returned to the Bluff where he was enthusiastically received by the people and the Holy Family Sisters.

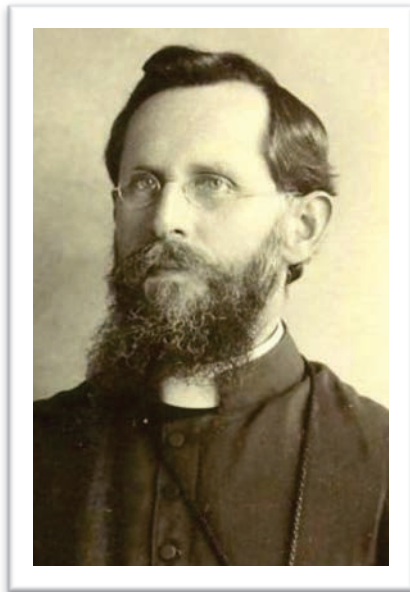
In 1882 Frs Baudry and Mathieu were sent to St Michael's with a view to re-opening the mission and in April 1883 Bishop Jolivet sent Baudry to Umtata to explore Kaffraria (Transkei) with the possibility of establishing missions there. In March 1884, Jolivet being indisposed because of his chronic liver trouble, authorised Baudry to lay and bless the foundation stone of St Patrick's church in Kokstad. Six months later in October 1884 he was back in Durban and was appointed parish priest to replace Fr Sabon. In January 1894 Bishop Jolivet dedicated a new church at the Bluff built by Fr Baudry with the help of Brother Boudon. This was on the same site as the original chapel and was built according to plans drawn up by Bishop Jolivet.

From 1895–1897 Baudry succeeded Fr Monginoux as vicar-apostolic of Basutoland and then served for a while in Johannesburg during the second Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902). He remained in the Transvaal from 1904–1907 and from 1908–1910 he ministered at Kerk Street Cathedral, Johannesburg, and for a short while served as chaplain to the Good Shepherd Sisters.

Alexander Baudry died in Johannesburg on the 15 October 1910. He was 64 years of age, having had a full and active life as a missionary to the poor and most abandoned, fulfilling the motto of the Oblate Congregation, *"Evangelizare pauperibus misit me..."* *"He sent me to evangelize the Poor."*



BOLD, Hermann



Hermann was born on 26 April 1879 in Landstuhl, Bavaria, Germany. He made his first vows on 15 August 1898 at St Gerlach and final oblation on 15 August 1899 at Hünfeld, where he was ordained on 21 May 1903. He came out to Natal the following year. Between 1904 and 1907 he worked for a year or so at the following places: Entabeni, Mount Sergeant, Port Shepstone and Verulam. On the 13 June 1907 he was posted to Estcourt and the Drakensberg area where he made great progress among the black African missions. At the time Bishop Delalle was experiencing difficulty in financially supporting the work of his missionaries among the Zulus. The financial reserves of the Vicariate were practically nil, and the Bishop was not keen to let his priests found new missions. Despite this Fr Bold managed to open several new mission stations such as Weenen, Mooi River, Nottingham Road, Colenso, Loskop, and Bergville – a huge expanse of territory to cover. All of this was done on horseback or on foot. There were no motor cars in the missions in those days. For this work, Bold employed catechists from the beginning. "In the Estcourt region he appointed one of his

converts, Paul Gaduba, who, living as he did in the location outside the town, was able to reach the people and introduce them to the Christian faith. After a few months he would arrange for those showing sustained interest to be interviewed by Bold and formal instruction would begin. ... At Weenen he was successful in converting a local chief, Abraham Mpele, and his entire family. Later one of the chief's daughters, Priska Mpele, was to help Bold for many years working as a catechist among her own people and in the surrounding villages. Bold gave an excellent example to his converts, living in extreme poverty and using every penny he received to pay his catechists; only the shortage of money prevented him from appointing more helpers for his huge district."

At Estcourt he built a mud and thatch chapel on a piece of land owned by the church, and he encouraged a few African families to settle there. At Weenen he bought land from the town board, and there he built St Philip's chapel-school in 1920. At Mooi River Mr James Piccione donated a site which Bold used as a meeting place for the African Christians.



Because he was a German national, Bold was in great danger of being interned during the 1914–18 War. Bishop Delalle had to guarantee the large sum of £2,000 as surety that Bold would 'behave' himself. Unfortunately in 1918 Bold was interned because of an indiscreet letter he had written. After the war he returned to his work in Estcourt "... but his period of

internment and his German nationality made him unacceptable at Mooi River, where there were a number of ex-servicemen in the congregation, and after 1919 the parish was served from Pietermaritzburg.” On the mission site at Estcourt he opened a school for Zulu children, and later St Gerard Majella church was built there in 1926.

“There were about thirty groups of Zulu Catholics living in villages about 15 km apart, many having a large hut that was used as a chapel-school,” and Fr Bold visited each one regularly either on horseback or on bicycle. He was also responsible for building many other mission churches in the area: “Tugela Ferry in 1920, Karkloof in 1921, Muden in 1922, Loskop in 1922, Egomba near Colenso in 1923 and Nottingham Road in 1923.” In 1922 the Oblate Superior General, Archbishop Dontenwill, visited Estcourt and praised the work done by Fr Bold. Bishop Delalle wrote that Bold “... was doing very well and very unostentatiously”.

Shortly after this, in 1923, Bold was transferred to Pietermaritzburg, at first against his will, but later he submitted, and there he continued his apostolate among the black African population in the outlying areas. He opened a small school at Henley which also served as a chapel until a proper church was built in 1926. He reopened the school at Taylor's, and built school-chapels at Gezubuso, Henley, Imbubu, KwaNoshezi, Edendale, Machibisa (Sutherlands), KwaDulela, Emafakathini, Embumbane and Merrivale. All of these are vibrant parishes today. In most of these stations, Bold was greatly assisted by 4 Holy Family Sisters who did sterling work in this work of evangelization.

In April 1925 Bold was given an extended holiday in Germany. He wrote to the Superior General to thank him for allowing him to visit Rome, and to attend the canonization of St John Vianney, the Curé of Ars. He also wrote: “This trip which you allowed me is not a luxury, but a necessity, because I really wanted it; after 21 years of hard work and struggling I needed a rest.” Then in May he again wrote: “Before I left Natal I was so tired, that it was quite evident that I had to take a long holiday or to be very soon unfit for all work.”

On his return to Natal, he continued his apostolate in the Pietermaritzburg area, assisted by Fr Anton Pfister OMI. Bold gave himself unstintingly to his work with no consideration for his own personal health. In the end this affected his nerves, especially after being attacked and seriously injured by a madman. As a result he had to spend some time in an institution to regain his equilibrium and health. In 1939 he returned to Germany and, for the duration of the Second World War, worked in the parish of St Joseph at St Ingbert till his death on the 24 December 1944. He was then 65 years of age.

Bold was a zealous missionary to the most abandoned and a lover of the Zulu people.



BOMPART, Victor



Victor Bompert was born in Rochefourchat (Drôme) in the diocese of Valence, France, on 15 January 1830. He entered the Oblate novitiate at Notre-Dame de l'Osier on 1 September 1851. His novice master gave him a glowing report, but mentioned that he was very shy by nature. On 8 September 1852 Bompert made his final profession. For the next two years he studied philosophy and theology at the major seminary of Marseilles, and then at Montolivet for the following two years. Again he received an excellent report, and once again his shyness was mentioned. On 8 June 1856, Bompert was ordained priest by Bishop de Mazenod at Marseilles.

He received his obedience for Natal and spent a few months in England learning to speak English. He arrived in Durban in December 1856 together with Bro. Ferdinand Manuel.

He accompanied Fr Gerard when the two set out on 15 February 1858, to re-establish St Michael's, almost exactly three years after Fathers Gerard and Barret had left the mission. The following year a chapel was built there and officially blessed and opened by Bishop Allard after

which Bompert and Gerard immediately set about visiting the homesteads in the area. However, once again this venture failed due to lack of response on the part of the local people.

In 1863 Bishop Allard decided to send Fr Bompert to Delagoa Bay (Lourenço Marques now Maputo) in Mozambique, to minister to the Catholics there. As the sea route was closed, Bompert had to walk all the way from Durban to Delagoa. "He was fully aware of the dangers which the traveller would have to face, chiefly from hostile tribes, wild animals, wide and crocodile infested rivers, and most of all from fever ridden swamps..." Bompert set off from Durban on the 18 May 1864, and took a month and two days to complete the journey, arriving in Delagoa Bay on about 20 June. He stayed there for the rest of the year, and "...in January 1865 the unfortunate young priest became seriously ill with dysentery, falling, he said, 'into an indescribable lethargy – no strength, no taste, no sleep. After that, until my departure on May 2nd, I simply crawled along'. Realising that his health was being jeopardised and he was achieving nothing in Mozambique, he decided to return home. His

weakness made the going slow and this was not helped by a painful in-growing toenail. He had another bout of fever when he was about 30 miles (48 kms) from Durban, but finally reached Father Sabon's house and received '... the best paternal care'. Bompert's health took many months to improve and his painful toe had to be surgically treated." Such was the courage and zeal of these early missionaries. Later Bompert was sent to work in Basutoland



(Lesotho), and when Bishop Allard had to go to Rome in 1873, he left Frs Gerard and Bompert in charge of the territory west of the Drakensberg.

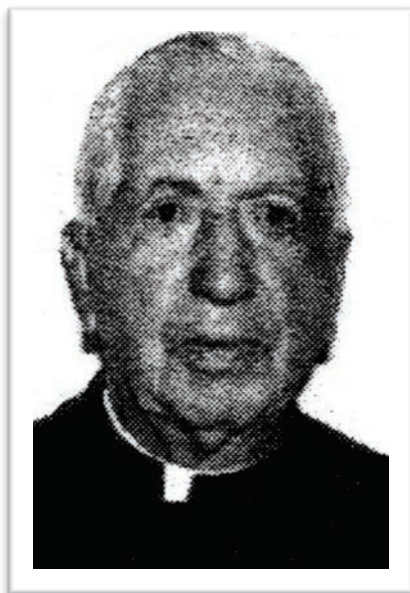
In 1869, when Fr Hoendervangers, the pioneer priest of Bloemfontein, left to return to his home monastery at Grimbergen in Belgium, Fr Bompert was sent to replace him in Bloemfontein together with Fr Hidien as his assistant. When Hidien fell victim to the disease that killed many of the diamond diggers in Bultfontein (Beaconsfield), Bompert rushed from Bloemfontein to Kimberley to be with him at his death bed.

Bompert continued to minister in the Orange Free State, mainly in Bloemfontein, building up the Catholic community which would later become the Cathedral parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was at that time that diamonds were found, and many diggers arrived in Barkly West. The first mass on the 'Diamond Fields' was said by Fr Bompert on 2 October 1870 at Klipdrift. As a result of the official visitation of Fr Martinet from the General Administration in 1871, Bompert was appointed superior of the Bloemfontein district. In 1874 Bishop Jolivet was appointed to replace Allard. Shortly after his arrival in Natal in March 1875, he left by postcart on the first visit of his Vicariate and arrived in Bloemfontein on the evening of the 4 June. Frs Bompert and Weber met the Bishop with a mounted escort. Bompert remained in Bloemfontein from 1870 to 1903 when he was sent to Kimberley because of ill health and he died there the following year on the 24 September 1904, aged 74.

"The grave of Fr Bompert was discovered (by chance), when the earthly remains of the two Gaughren bishops were transferred from the mausoleum on West End graveyard by Fr Dunkel OMI to St Mary's Cathedral. His remains are now buried with the two bishops in St Mary's Cathedral, Kimberley." (Ademmer).



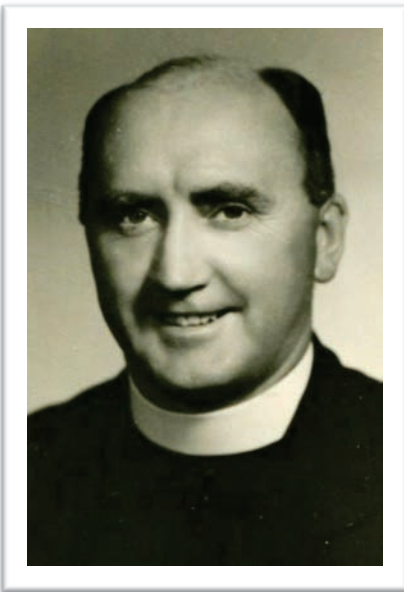
BOYCE, Bernard



Bernard Boyce was born on 25 July 1909 in Donegal, Northern Ireland. He joined the Oblate Congregation at the age of 24 in 1933, making his first profession on the 8 September 1934 at Cahermoyle, and his final profession in 1938. He did his studies for the priesthood at Daingean and was ordained on the 23 June 1940. Soon after this he received his obedience for Natal, and his first appointment was to Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban where he ministered from 1942–1947. From there he was sent to Estcourt for a year and while there he learned the Zulu language and gained a love for the missions and for the Zulu people. He had a strong missionary spirit which he never lost and was well loved by the people he served. In 1948 he was appointed Vicar of Missions to replace Fr Joseph Kerautret. Although he was not happy with the decision he obeyed the wish of the General Council. Barny (as he was affectionately called by his Oblate brothers) was of a retiring and shy nature and found it difficult to be at the head of the Vicariate and having to issue orders to others, especially those senior to him, and at the end of his first term of office in 1951 he asked to be relieved of his duties. The General Council acceded to his request, and Fr Maurice Lener took over the reins of office. Fr Boyce later (in 1962) requested to be transferred to the Transvaal Province, and was posted to Dube where he could put his missionary zeal to use. The following year he was transferred to Pimville, and then in 1990 to Malvern, where he remained for the next 9 years. In 1999 he retired to Victory Park. Finally, in 2001 he was transferred to Nazareth House as he had become very frail, and it was there that, after a long and fruitful life, he died at the ripe old age of 93 on the 30 August 2002.



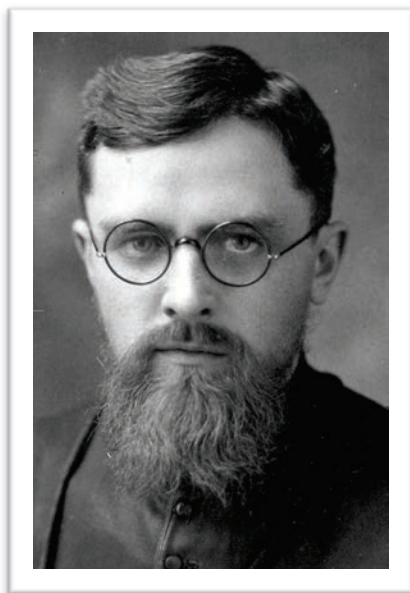
BURKE, Joseph



Joseph was born on the 16 January 1908 in Co. Cork, Ireland (Eire). He completed his early schooling with the Irish Christian Brothers, after which he worked for a few years in the Ford factory in Cork. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1932, making his first vows on the 8 September 1938 at Cahermoyle, and his final profession at Daingean on the 29 September 1936. He was ordained to the priesthood on the 26 June 1938 at Daingean and received his first obedience for Natal, arriving in Durban on 19 September 1939. After spending a year at Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban and another year at St Joseph's, Greyville, he was transferred to St Mary's in Pietermaritzburg in February 1942 as assistant priest and as chaplain to St Charles' College. In March 1947 he was sent to Umbilo, Durban, to take charge of the new parish of the Assumption where he was responsible for the construction of the hall which also served as the church. A bedroom and office were added on at the entrance. Later he decided to leave the Natal Province and join the Australian Province where he worked till his death on the 5 December 1977 at Springvale.



CABON, Henry



Henry Cabon was born on the 14 July 1905 at Juch, in the diocese of Quimper, Brittany, France. His parents were Yves and Marie (born Gourmelen). He did his secondary schooling at the Minor Seminary of Pont-Croix, and then went on to the Major Seminary of Quimper where he spent a year. In 1923 he entered the Oblate Novitiate on the 11 September at Thy-le-Château and made his first vows the following year on 12 September 1924. We quote here from an article that was printed in French at the time of his death.

"In 1925 he did his compulsory military service for one year, after which he went to Liège for his priestly studies. He made his final profession on the 8 September 1928, and was ordained priest on the 23 February 1929. He lectured at the Scholasticate at Liège where he was in charge of the faculty of Canon Law for two years. However it became apparent that the climate at Liège was unhealthy and caused tuberculosis. Henry, among others, contracted the dreaded disease, and so in June of 1931 he received an obedience for sunny Natal. He was sent to Inchanga to learn the English and Zulu languages. But there

again the frequent rains and mist aggravated his poor health and so he was sent to Ladysmith to be treated in the hospital in the care of the Augustinian Sisters. Apparently his condition was so poor that there was talk of preparing a place for him in the cemetery! A novena to St Therese of the Child Jesus, patroness of missions, was begun for Henry's complete recovery and for a further 50 years of apostolic missionary work. That prayer was heard! He was healed at 26 years of age, and given charge of the Ladysmith parish [in 1931]. In order to be of use to the Catholic mission schools, he registered with the University of South Africa and obtained his MA in sociology. When World War II broke out in 1939, Henry was exempt from military service because of his previous illness, so he offered his services as a military chaplain for a while. In 1945 the Canadian Oblates opened the Pius XII University College in Roma, Lesotho. Cabon was asked to join the staff of lecturers, but it was not till sometime later that he would do so. In 1946 he went on holiday to France...For whatever reason, Fr Cabon decided to remain in France, and joined the staff of the Scholasticate where he had studied for the

priesthood, now moved to Solignac. Whilst there he furthered his studies in sociology at the Catholic Institute of Paris where he obtained a doctorate in 1952. For the next three years he assisted the Pontifical Department for the Propagation of the faith by touring France showing the then famous film called 'Thokozile' [which was made in South Africa]."

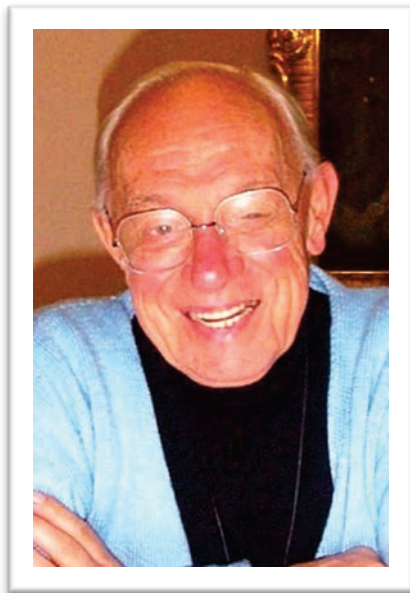


Whilst he was in Ladysmith he built the church and also served Bergville, Mhlumayo and Colenso. It was about that time too, that a rumour arose claiming that the Vicariate of Natal would be divided in two, possibly with Ladysmith as the centre of a new vicariate in northern Natal. Cabon was strongly favoured by a fair-sized group of French missionaries in the Vicariate to be the first Vicar of the new Vicariate; but there was also a group who vehemently opposed such a division. In the meantime Denis Hurley OMI had been appointed to succeed Bishop Delalle as Vicar Apostolic of Natal at the end of 1946, and the Vicariate remained undivided for a few more years. When the Vicariate was eventually divided by the Holy See in 1958, a new Prefecture was established with its headquarters at Volksrust (later to become the Diocese of Dundee) and placed in the care of the Order of Franciscan Minors.

In 1955 he returned to Lesotho where he occupied the Chair of Sociology at the Regional University of Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. Later he would be appointed to head the French faculty. For all his services to his fatherland, the Republic of France successively decorated Cabon with the National Order of Merit, the Academic Palms, and the Legion of Honour in 1983. Henry continued to lecture at the university and the seminary in Lesotho till the end of his life. He was happy to have participated in the human and Christian development of his adopted country, and proud to have had among his students future priests, bishops and ministers. Eventually his health began to deteriorate and the question of his retirement cropped up. Where should he retire? To Brittany? France? In the end he chose to remain in Lesotho to be near the University where he had worked for almost 30 years. And it was there, on 28 October 1984, at the age of 79, at Roma, Lesotho, that Henry Cabon yielded his spirit to his heavenly Master. It was there that the life of a missionary ended, a life great in many ways: physical stature, intelligence, strong faith, all connected to a simple but faithful devotion to the rosary, a true Oblate of Mary Immaculate." (*Acknowledgement to the OMI General Archives.*)



CIZKOVSKY, Zdenek



Zdenek was born in Brno in what was known then as Czechoslovakia on 22 February 1921. His parents were Anthony and Maria (born Kolarova). As a young man in 1943 he escaped from his homeland after being harassed by the occupying German forces and forced to labour in Germany, but was caught and placed in a Nazi concentration camp for more than a year. However, Zdenek was to suffer even more after the so-called 'Liberation' by the Communist regime in 1946. He took a militant Catholic stand on the school question and in the Catholic Youth Organization. He spent a year in Berlin, and on his return he decided to leave his homeland in 1948, working his way through Europe to Paris where he remained for 18 months as a refugee. While there he earned some money by playing the piano in night clubs and by putting his artistic talent to work. Whatever prompted him to come to South Africa is not known, but he arrived in Durban on 27 March 1951, knowing very little English. He was sent to a Lutheran family in the German settlement of Marburg near Port Shepstone. Realizing he was not comfortable in the Lutheran environment, the family arranged

with friends in the Wartburg area to give him a home until they could introduce him to Mother Euphemia OP, Mother General of the Montebello Sisters, who then gave him protection and a warm reception. Whilst under her care he learned English and Zulu. He endeared himself to the Sisters who gave him his Zulu name, 'Sipho' (Gift). Mother Euphemia, recognised that Zdenek had a vocation, and took him to see Fr Maurice Lener, the Provincial of Natal. He also visited the Scholasticate at Cleland where he got to know something of the Oblate way of life. As a result he decided to become an Oblate priest, and went to Germiston to do his Novitiate in 1953, together with a large group of candidates. In 1954 he pronounced his first vows, after which he and his confreres went to Cedara to begin their clerical studies. Zdenek had a good sense of humour, and he was also a gifted artist. He was well-liked by his fellow scholastics, although much older and more mature than most of them. He pronounced his final vows on 17 February 1957. On 6 December of that year (1957) he was ordained priest at Montebello, his adopted home in South Africa. After that he spent the next three years improving his



Zulu language skills whilst doing pastoral work at Esigodini and outstations. Then on 24 January 1961 he was appointed parish priest of Mbava, a very difficult mission in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. He is remembered for building shrines to Our Lady at every outstation. He stayed there for 8 years and after a short spell of relieving at St Joan of Arc and St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, he was appointed chaplain to King Edward VIII Hospital and

also helped at Assumption Parish. He succeeded in having a permanent ecumenical chapel built near the Nurses' accommodation at the hospital.

In 1969 he was appointed national chaplain to the Czech community in South Africa and took up residence in Johannesburg. This involved travelling between Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. On these long trips he broke up the journeys by painting several landscapes many of which are still in South Africa.

In October 1978 he was appointed parish priest of Immaculate Conception parish in Pinetown where he was responsible for the construction of a new church, largely designed by himself, and based somewhat on the basilica style of architecture, with a large enclosed 'piazza' for the gathering of the people at the entrance of the church. In 1988 the church was honoured by a visit from Mother Theresa.

In 1989 the parish paid for him to visit Prague on the occasion of the canonization of St Agnes of Prague. Legend had it that when the blessed Agnes became a full saint the Czech people would be free. As Pope John Paul II concluded the canonization in Rome the Berlin Wall came down, and for the first time in centuries the Czech people were indeed free.

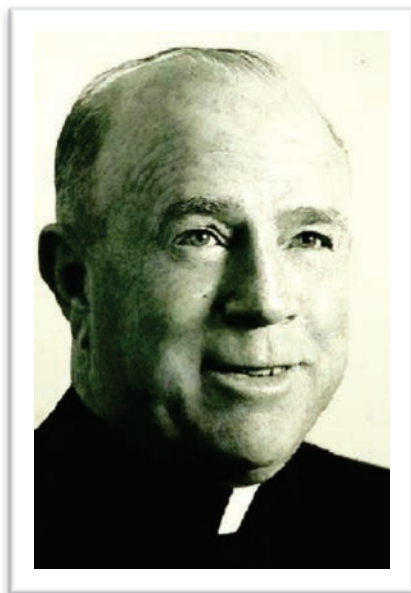
Although he had endeared himself to his congregation in Pinetown, he yearned to return to his home country, which was now free from communistic oppression and enjoying liberty and independence. As he was the only Czech speaking Oblate in the world Zdenek's strongest urge was to go and re-evangelize the people of the Czech Republic who had suffered persecution for so long. After an absence of 43 years he finally returned to the Czech Republic in 1991. At his final mass at the Immaculate Conception Church in Pinetown before leaving, the church was full to overflowing and it was a very emotional occasion.

His first parish in the Czech Republic was the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Kromeriz where he was joined by two other Oblates from Austria. He quickly endeared himself to his new parishioners although he did find it confusing at first to be speaking Czech instead of English! After successfully reviving a traditional pilgrimage to the Church of St Anne in Stara Voda he moved on to re-establish the parish of Klokoty near Tabor where there had been an apparition of Our Lady. The beautiful church was restored to its former glory and has become a pilgrimage site and retreat. It is now the centre of Oblate activity in the Czech Republic.

Zdenek managed to return to South Africa on a few occasions to visit his many friends. The last visit was in 2001. Thereafter his health began a steady decline and he died peacefully in Kromeriz on the 26 November 2004, aged 83. *(Thanks to Mr Michael Rogers for much of the above information.)*



CONLEY, Harold Thomas (“Brick”)



Harold Conley was born on 31 January 1909 at Lowell, MA, USA, and was ordained on 13 June 1933 at Washington, DC. He received his first obedience for Natal, South Africa, arriving in Durban in 1933. At the end of 1942 he requested permission from the Natal Provincial, Fr Joseph Kerautret, and Bishop Delalle, to be allowed to join the American forces up north as a military chaplain. This caused some displeasure to the Bishop and Provincial who refused to acquiesce to his request because of the shortage of clergy in the Vicariate. Many of the French Oblates had been recalled by France at the outbreak of the war and this left the Vicariate rather depleted of its missionaries. After correspondence and some misunderstandings, Conley was given permission to join the South African Defence Force as a chaplain in January 1943. He was demobilized at the end of the war in 1945 while he was on holiday in the United States. In 1946 he was given permission to leave Natal and return to his home Province in the USA. There he was posted to Holy Angels parish, Buffalo, NY as assistant pastor and remained there from 1946–1948, after which he went to Fayetteville, NC, to St Patrick's parish, again as assistant, and was there for the next two years. In 1950 he was in the Western Province of the OMI at Seattle where he served as assistant in St Benedict's parish from 1950–1954. From there he went to St Ferdinand's parish in San Fernando, CA as assistant in 1954. He died in Seattle, WA, on 23 Feb 1972 aged 63.



CONTER, Emile



Emile was born on the 1 September 1908 at Differdange in the diocese of Luxembourg. At the age of 19 he decided to join the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and entered the novitiate at St Ulrich, Lorraine, France on the 14 August 1927. He made his first vows the following year on 15 August 1928 at St Ulrich and pronounced his final vows on the 15 August 1931 at Burthécourt. He did his scholastic studies at Liège, then N.D.de Sion and finally at Burthécourt where he was ordained to the priesthood on the 9 July 1933. The following year he received his first obedience for Natal, and arrived at Durban on the 11 October 1934. He immediately began learning the Zulu language under the direction of Fr Anton Pfister at Mbava mission in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. In 1935 he was assigned to take charge of the extensive district of Howick– Lions River–Nottingham Road. There he spent the next 11 years, during which time he built with his own hands the very large church at Howick and the adjoining presbytery. He even transformed an old pedal harmonium into a wind-blown instrument by somehow adapting it to a vacuum cleaner as a blower! He was an

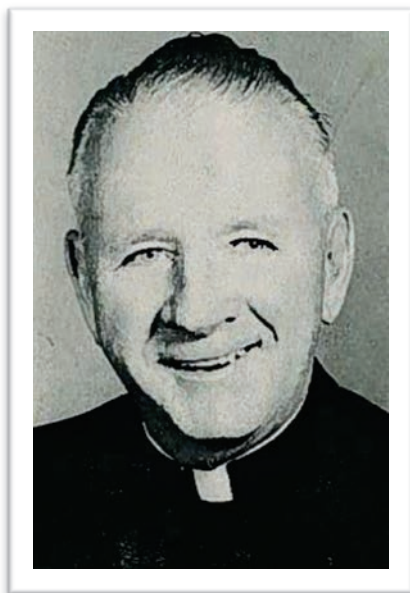
electrical engineer by profession, with a diploma recognized in South Africa and was responsible for installing electricity and water-pumps in several mission stations, notably at Montebello. During that time he also spent some time rewiring the whole of the Scholasticate building at Cleland. Besides being gifted as a builder and architect, he was also very good at woodwork and joinery. In 1946 he was transferred to Inchanga where he concentrated on the Camperdown outstation.

In June of 1951 he fell gravely ill, and was diagnosed as having leukaemia, and in December of that year he was sent to France to be treated at Strasbourg, Friburg in Germany, and Differdange in Luxembourg. He was more or less bed-ridden for two years while undergoing treatment. While he was at Differdange, he was seemingly 'miraculously' cured. His one desire was to return to his beloved mission, but the good Lord decided otherwise, and called him home while he was still in hospital on the 27 July 1954. He was only 46 years old.

During his life time, Emile was known for his amiability and patience towards all those who came to ask his help. As he was so gifted in all kinds of manual work, many poor people would come to him to seek his advice and help.



COPPENS, William (“Bud”)



William was born on 20 June, 1907 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. At 21 years of age he decided to join the Oblate Congregation and did his novitiate in Tewksbury, MA where he made his first vows on the 8 September 1929. He went to Washington, DC for his priestly studies, and it was there that he made his final vows on 8 September 1932 and was ordained on 11 June 1935. He received his first obedience for Natal and arrived on 1 October 1935.

He was appointed to Greytown from where he also served Seven Oaks and was responsible for the building of the church at Seven Oaks. He recalled the day, after he had just placed the roof on the church, when there was an unearthly silence in the area. He suspected something drastic was about to happen, when he heard a noise coming from the valley below. The next thing a minor tornado came up the cliff from the valley below, and took the church roof right off, landing it about a kilometre away in a sugar cane field.

In 1942 he volunteered to serve as an army chaplain to the South African Forces, and saw action in the desert campaign in North Africa

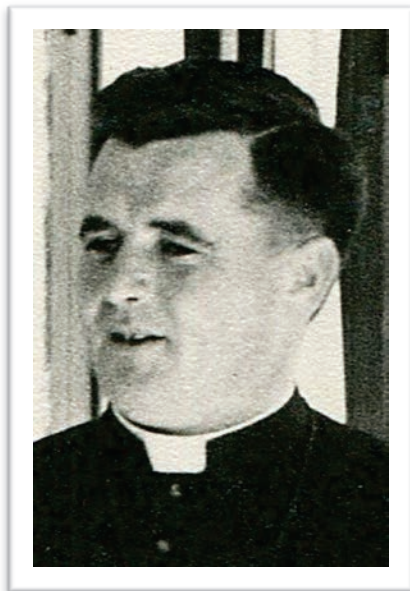
and then in Italy. In 1945/6 he was demobilised, and returned to his missionary apostolate in Natal. He was placed at Estcourt from 1947 to 1948, then went to Durban where he ministered from 1948 to 1958. During that time he served as Archdiocesan Bursar or Treasurer under Archbishop Hurley. In 1958 he was posted as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Oakford, the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters, where he also had the spiritual care of the children in three different schools: St Mary's, Sacred Heart, and St Anthony's.

In 1962 he returned to the USA, where he was appointed assistant pastor at St William's parish, Tewksbury, MA from 1962–1966, then at Sts Simon & Jude, West Jefferson, Ohio for two years, again as assistant. From there he was posted to St Patrick's parish, Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1968 where he remained for a year. His next appointment was as Bursar at Provincial House, Boston from 1969–1983. In 1972/3 he paid a short visit to Natal with Fr Sheldon Kelly, where they were warmly welcomed by their confreres in Durban.

Bud died on the 23 May 1983, in Boston, MA, at the age of 76.



CORCORAN, Diarmuid (Dermot)



Diarmuid was born in Cork, Ireland on 6 July 1918. After completing his schooling with the Presentation Brothers in Cork, he decided to join the Oblate Congregation and entered the novitiate at Cahermoyle in 1936, making his first vows on 30 September 1937. He then began his priestly studies which he completed at Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. Whilst there he made his final vows on 30 September 1940, and was ordained to the priesthood on 29 June 1942. As this was at the height of World War II travel was very limited, so he served in the Anglo-Irish Province for almost four years, ministering at Crewe, Holyhead and Coleford. He arrived in South Africa on 26 October 1946. His first assignment was at St Peter's parish, Point, for a month, after which he was sent to St Michael's, Redhill, for two months and then to Bellair from February to April 1947. At this point St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cleland was looking for a lecturer, and so Diarmuid was sent there for three months in 1947 (April to July). He then supplied in Bellair for a few days, after which he received his first permanent assignment to Montebello. Whilst there 'Corky' (as he was affectionately called by his confreres)

learned the Zulu language. Although he spoke with a slight lisp, he became very proficient in his knowledge of the grammar.

Once again St Joseph's Scholasticate needed his expertise, and so in October 1951 he was assigned to Cleland, and at the end of 1952 he moved to the new building at Cedara with the rest of the community. From 1956 to 1962 Diarmuid served as the Superior of the Scholasticate. In December of 1963 he was posted to Estcourt for a month and then he was assigned to Escombe as priest in charge, which included taking care of Edwaleni and Emolweni. In February 1964 he took over as parish priest of KwaMashu where he remained till 1976, and from there he was sent to Mooi River for a year till March 1977, after which he served as parish priest of Lamontville until April 1986. His last posting was at Oakford for two years, from April 1986 to December 1988. It was then that he fell ill and was diagnosed with cancer.

He left for Ireland, hoping to be treated there, but on 2 December 1986 he died peacefully in the Cork regional hospital at 6.30 a.m. A letter from Fr John McGrath states: "We buried Dermot quietly in St Finbarr's Cemetery, Cork city in the grave of his Mother and Father...I had visited him a few weeks previously with Fr Mick Hennessy and found him well prepared to die. He also had visits from Fr Denis O'Sullivan, Fr Peter Paul Daly, Fr John Patterson and his friends and family, and Dermot himself was thrilled with the visit of the Archbishop [Hurley] the week

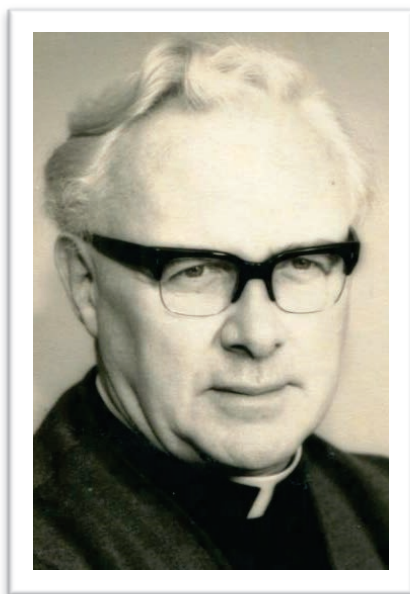


before he died. He died very peacefully and quietly, no fuss, no bother.” The Requiem Mass took place on 5 December in St Vincent's Church, Sunday's Well, Cork. He was 68 years of age at the time of his death. Dermot was somewhat of a 'laid-back' character. It took a lot to upset him or annoy him; but behind that façade lay a keen intelligence and a generous heart. He was a good listener, and he also had a great sense of humour. He had a gift of putting another at ease in his presence, while at the same time he was very perceptive of what was going on around him.



DE LACY, John Mary. *(See Necrology part 1)*

DETREMMERIE, Albert

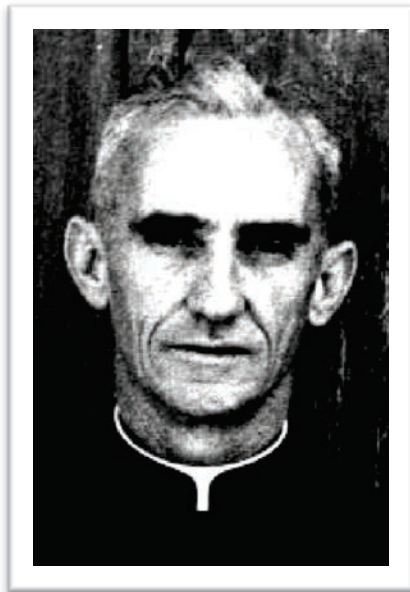


Albert was born on 4 June 1916 at Courtrai, Belgium, of Arthur and Alice (born Librecht). As a youngster he attended the Juniorate at Waregem, Belgium, after which he entered the Oblate Novitiate at Nieuwenhove in 1933. He made his first vows on the 15 August 1934 at Velaines, his final vows in 1937, and was ordained priest there on 6 June 1939. His older brother, Joseph, was also an Oblate priest. After ordination, Albert was a Mission Preacher in Belgium for a few years. After the Second World War he received an obedience for South Africa and arrived on 5 February 1947, and was in the Transvaal for a few months. In 1948 he was sent to Bloemfontein where he worked for many years until the death of Archbishop Patrick Whelan OMI (10 February 1966). Shortly after this he requested a transfer to Natal, where he worked in several parishes for short periods, viz. St Joseph's, Greyville; Pinetown, and back again at Greyville until, in November 1968, he was appointed to St Peter's, Point where he worked for almost two years. After that he was sent once more to St Joseph's, Greyville, from September 1970 to February 1975. His next move was to Queensburgh in March 1975. Albert decided to retire to his homeland, and he returned to Belgium. He died at Kortrijk on the 28 January 2002 aged 86.

Albert, like some of his other Belgian confreres in South Africa, was an artist, with somewhat of a flamboyant and cheerful disposition. He loved painting, especially landscapes and portraits. He was also a very good photographer.



DEVITT, Brian



Brian Devitt was born in Johannesburg on the 10 August 1916. In 1937 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Germiston, made his first profession in 1938, and his final vows in 1941. As there was no Oblate Scholasticate in South Africa at the time, Brian, together with his co-novices, Raymond Coates and Cyril Hayward, went to the Oblate Scholasticate in Lumières, France, to do their clerical studies. There they met a fellow South African, Wilfred Vogt, who had preceded them by two years. Brian and his companions were ordained to the priesthood in 1943. As they were approaching the end of their studies, they were caught up in the events of World War II and were interned by the German occupying forces together with the Oblate staff and scholastics. They spent several months in the concentration camp until they were eventually freed by the advancing Allied forces in 1944. Soon after this they returned to South Africa. Devitt was assigned to the Transvaal Province, but was loaned to St Joseph's Scholasticate where he served as bursar from 1946 to 1953. His sense of humour endeared him to everyone.

After the Oblates acquired the farm at Cedara, in 1951/2, Fr Brian left Cleland and with Brother Benedict Dupr e (who later left the Congregation), went to live on the newly acquired farm in order to start developing the land and supervise the building of the new Scholasticate. They shared a small one roomed wooden hut and together began to cultivate the land and started acquiring cattle. In December 1952 the Scholasticate community left Cleland and gradually moved to the new premises at Cedara. Shortly afterwards, Fr Devitt left the Scholasticate and returned to his home Province in the Transvaal (now Northern Province) where he spent his last years as a teacher at St Benedict's College, Bedfordview. He died on the 30 July 1968.

Fr Wilfred Vogt, Brian's contemporary, wrote an article in memory of Brian. Amongst other things he wrote: "There was never any outward show about Brian Devitt. He would shun the merest hint of anything smacking of the sentimental, of 'wearing one's heart on one's sleeve.' A keen intelligence, alert, alive, witty...A tenacious, dedicated reader, devouring as many as five books at a time...a man of almost ruthless logic, his mathematical mind pursuing its course to its logical end with utter tenacity, even to extremes...A character straightforward to a fault...As a priest and religious he was dedicated to the point of scrupulous fidelity to what he saw as his duty... Unfortunately Brian suffered from an interior turmoil which led to depression ...dragging him down deeper and deeper into the darkness, so that he must live his life in the austere and agonizing depths of pure faith, with no light, right to the very breaking-point."



Fr Vogt ended his article with these stirring words: “Rest in peace, Brian. You are not forgotten by us your friends. You are not forgotten by the Lord you strove to serve in pure faith, with scarcely a glimmer of that ease and comfort he gives to us, who could never make it down to the grim depths you plumbed. Rest in Christ and in the hope of resurrection.”



DUBIEN, John (Jean)

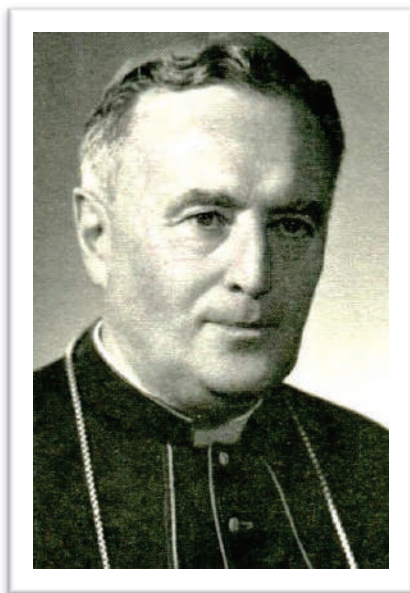


John was born at Palogneux, Loire, France, on 24 June 1911. He entered the Oblate Novitiate when he was 20 years of age, and made his first vows on the 8 September 1932. His priestly studies were undergone at Francheville, Lyon, and N.D. de Lumières, where he made his final vows on the 13 April 1935 and was ordained priest on 30 June 1935. His first obedience was for Natal, and he arrived in Durban on 4 November 1936. He was sent to Inchanga for a few months to learn the Zulu language, after which he was sent to Newcastle from February to July 1937. From there he went to Ladysmith until June 1939 and served at Mhlumayo from then until September 1942. From 1942 to 1945 he was back at Newcastle, and then at Estcourt for a year. At the end of that year he fell ill and returned to France for the next two years, returning in 1949, when he was posted to Esigodini. The following year (1950) he was back at Newcastle as priest-in-charge, and in 1955 he took charge of the growing outstation of Blaauwbosch till 1957, when he was sent to Machibisa near Pietermaritzburg for the next three years.

In 1963 Dubien did not enjoy good health and his nervous temperament did not help him to deal with his physical ills. Finally he decided to return to his homeland, and in 1968 he was placed at Aix-les-Bains, France, where he retired, whilst serving as chaplain to the Sisters and a retirement home. He died at Lyon on the 25 October 1986.



FITZGERALD, Joseph



Joseph, born on 7 January 1914, was from Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick in Ireland. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in 1933, and made his first vows the following year on 8 September 1934. He was sent to study in Rome where he made his final vows on 8 September 1937. He was a fellow student of Denis Hurley and Patrick Holland. Joseph attended both the Angelicum and Gregorian Universities where he obtained degrees in Philosophy and Theology. After his ordination on 25 May 1940 he taught at the Oblate Scholasticate of N.D. de Lumières in France for just over seven years. He spoke Italian and French fluently. In 1947/48 he received an obedience for Natal to the staff of St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cleland as Lecturer in Dogmatic Theology. When Fr Lener, the Superior at St Joseph's, was appointed Provincial in 1951, Fr Fitzgerald replaced him as Superior of the Scholasticate. At the same time, he served as National Chaplain to the National Catholic Federation of University Students and also served as local chaplain to the Durban and Pietermaritzburg branches. In 1953 he was elected as the Natal delegate to accompany Fr Lener to the General Chapter of

the Oblate Congregation. When Fr Lener resigned as Provincial in 1956 due to ill-health, Fr Fitzgerald was appointed as his successor. However, he served in this post for only 3 years, because in 1959 he was called to Rome to head the Oblate International Scholasticate and the following year, at the General Chapter of 1960, he was elected Assistant General of the Congregation, whose task it was to visit the Oblate Houses in South Africa, Australia, Canada, England and Ireland.

Six years later, on the 18 October 1966, he was appointed Archbishop of Bloemfontein to succeed Archbishop Patrick Whelan OMI who had died on the 10 February 1966. Archbishop Denis Hurley wrote in *The Southern Cross*: "Bloemfontein will love him! ...We saw a lot of each other in Rome. The fury of the football field often broke through in our philosophical and theological debates. I found Bro. Fitzgerald a hard man to shift in an argument. But his stubbornness in debate was matched by a deep, warm-hearted charity that always noticed when help was needed – the friendly word in time of depression, taking over a knapsack to lighten another's burden on a long hike. I cannot remember anyone who did not take to his strong, warm, communicative personality. He is like the Rock of Gibraltar with a deep rug spread all over it – strength, reliability, affection, piety, humour – with an occasional – very occasional – flash of fire that used to make a footballer one treated with respect....He will bring to his episcopal charge a deep understanding and tolerance and a resolute pursuit of charity and justice.



Bloemfontein will love him!”

After ten years in Bloemfontein he was transferred to Johannesburg on the 24 January 1976 to replace Bishop Boyle, who had resigned. He served as President of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference for six and a half years and as vice president for seven years. He played a vital role in the establishment of IMBISA – the Inter-Regional Meeting of bishops of Southern Africa, which brings together the hierarchies of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe and became its first Chairman. Fitzgerald was also a respected member of SECAM – the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar. His mastery of the French language was a great help in these Conferences. “His expertise in French took my breath away...” wrote Archbishop Hurley.

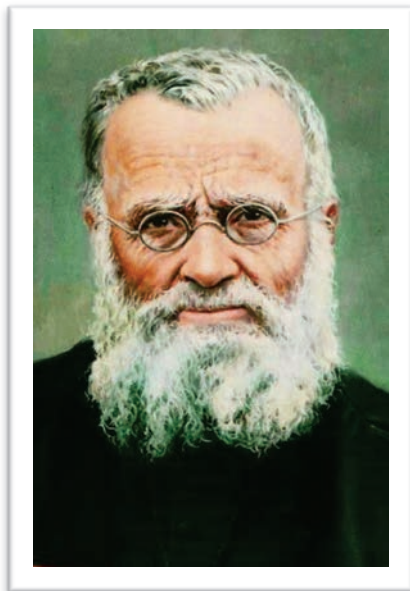
In 1982 Archbishop Fitzgerald suffered a stroke which left him somewhat debilitated in the years to come, a cross which he bore with patience and perseverance, great courage and cheerfulness. Archbishop Hurley said: “The concentrated service that Archbishop Fitzgerald had hoped to give to Johannesburg after relinquishing the presidency of the Bishops' Conference was to become a service of the cross. The Holy See reluctantly accepted his resignation with effect from 4 November 1983. The remainder of his life was a long, hard purgatory, courageously and cheerfully borne that came to an end when he finally surrendered his life into the hands of God nine days ago, on Sunday morning, 16 February.”

In his homily at Fitzgerald's funeral, Hurley said that he wanted to emphasize two outstanding qualities which characterized Fitzgerald. The first was his catholicity which showed itself in his love for the Church and for the poor and underprivileged; and the second was his unbending sense of justice for the upliftment of the oppressed.

Fitzgerald was also gifted with a very good memory for names and faces. Fr Ludger Ademmer OMI writes: “Archbishop Fitzgerald was an outstanding man. He combined in one person a high intellect, a clear vision, above normal administrative abilities and never lost his ability to remain a human being, eager to encounter other human beings and to enrich their lives with the good news of Jesus Christ.” Joseph Fitzgerald died in Johannesburg on 16 February 1986, aged 72.



GERARD, Joseph



Joseph Gerard was born on 12 March 1831 at Bouxières-aux-Chênes, in the diocese of Nancy, and was baptized the following day. He made his final profession as an Oblate on 10 May 1852, the year Bishop Allard and his small band of missionaries arrived in Natal. The following year, while still a scholastic, Gerard received his obedience for the Vicariate of Natal. The journey to South Africa was interrupted by two months spent in Mauritius where Gerard had the good fortune to be initiated in missionary work by the revered Fr Jacques Désiré Laval CSSP (Congregation of the Holy Spirit. Fr Laval was beatified by Pope John Paul II in April 1979). Gerard would use Laval's missionary method in his future work among the Zulus and Basotho. In 1854 he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Allard in the newly built St Mary's Church, Pietermaritzburg, on the 19 February. He and Fr Barret were sent to learn English, and then went to live in a Zulu homestead in order to learn isiZulu. They both became fluent in the Zulu language, so that in 1855, they were ready to be sent out to establish the first Zulu mission of the Oblates in Natal. The mission was named St Michael's, in honour

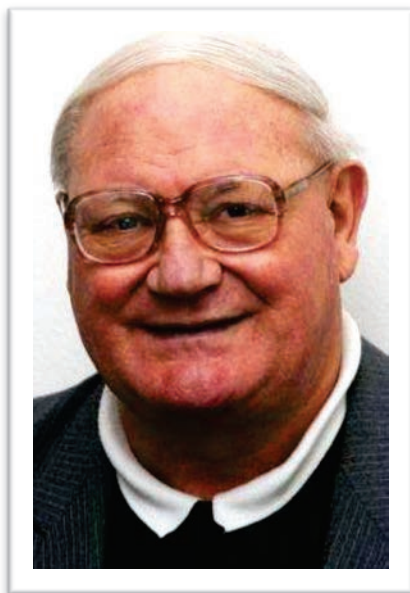
of the archangel. Unfortunately, this first missionary endeavour was a dismal failure, as was the second, not through any fault of the intrepid missionaries, but rather because of circumstances beyond the control of the Oblates. Much later, on the 12 November 1861, Bishop Allard and Fr Gerard left for Basutoland (Lesotho) to begin a Catholic missionary outreach in that country. Gerard remained there for the rest of his life, and became known as the 'apostle of Basutoland'. Joseph Gerard remained in charge of the Roma mission (*Motse-oa-'m'a-Jesu*) for 13 years (1862–1875). In 1876 he was asked by Bishop Jolivet to found a new mission in the northwest of the country, which Gerard then named St Monica, near Tsekoane. There he laboured under very great difficulties, especially of poverty, solitude and paganism, for the next 21 years. During that time he was caught in the local wars, especially in the War of the Guns (1880–1884). In 1897 Fr Gerard was asked to make another great sacrifice by leaving his beloved mission of St Monica, and to return to the Roma mission as its Superior. There he remained till his death on the 29 May 1914, having spent over fifty years as a missionary among the Basotho.

Joseph Gerard was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Lesotho on the 15 September 1988.

(Information taken from JB1 and JB 2, and **Blessed Joseph Gerard OMI** by Y. Beaudoin OMI.)



HAHN, Albin



Albin was born of Alwin Hahn and Sofia (born Giebel) on the 9 December 1930 at Geismar/Röhn in the Diocese of Fulda. He entered the Oblate novitiate at Maria Engelport on the 24 April 1951, and made his first profession on the 25 April 1952, and his final vows at Hünfeld in 1955. He was ordained to the priesthood at Hünfeld by Bishop O'Grady of Canada, on the 7 April 1957. His formators described him as: "impulsive, energetic and a good organiser". On 31 March 1958 he was sent to South Africa together with Fr Albert Kreuz. Albin had been unable to visit his family before coming to South Africa, because his home was located close to the Iron Curtain, in the so called 'Sperrzone', where visitors were not allowed.

His missionary activities began in Kimberley. From there he went to Tweespruit to learn Sesotho, and then to Jagersfontein to replace a priest, and finally to Bloemfontein where he was the 'travelling priest', taking care of the outstations. In 1963 he established a church at Brandfort, and in 1969 a church and presbytery in Bultfontein.

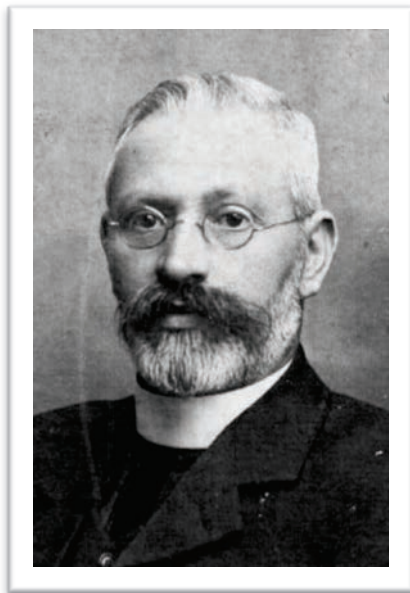
In 1979 he was sent to Durban to take over the prison Chaplaincy and thus joined the Natal Oblate Province. In September 1979 he was invited by the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference to be the Catholic Church's national representative in prison ministry. This was an especially difficult task as it required him to wear a military uniform and because he was in the service of a racist government during a time when many good people were being detained without any justification. Yet he fulfilled this ministry with dignity and dedication towards all.

In 1991 Hahn returned to Kimberley/Bloemfontein and worked first in Heidedal and then in Bloemside. There he opened a new church, 'Christ the King', on 1 June 1997.

Finally, in 1999, Albin returned to Hünfeld, Germany where the Iron Curtain and the 'Sperrzone' had disappeared. During those years he worked again as a prison chaplain and parish priest until he died peacefully in his sleep at Hünfeld on 9 April 2013.



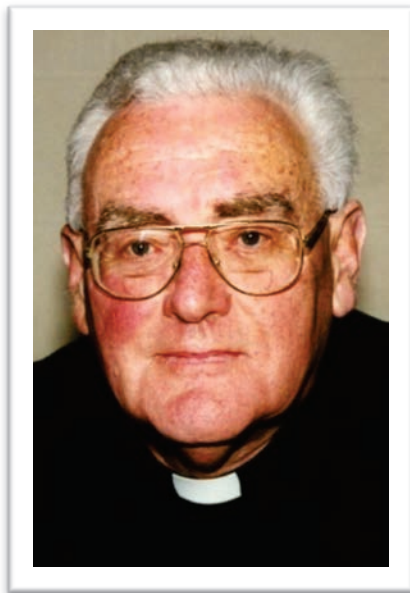
HAMMER, Stephan



Stephan Hammer was born on the 23 May 1855 at Stein in the Diocese of Spir (Speyer), Switzerland, according to Bishop Jolivet's Journal. His parents were Johann Adam and Maria Anna (born Ehrnstein). After studying at the gymnasium in Speyer and the Jesuit College in Innsbruck, he entered the Oblate novitiate in Nancy, France, in 1879, making his first vows the following year in March 1880. He and Francis Howlett arrived in South Africa at the beginning of 1881 as scholastics in temporary vows. He made his final profession with Howlett on the 11 March 1881 in Pietermaritzburg. After his ordination, on the 16 April 1881, he spent most, if not all, of his priestly life outside the Province of Natal working both in the Orange Free State and in the Transvaal. In 1886 he was at Jagersfontein. In 1895 he served as the first parish priest of Johannesburg, then in Klerksdorp in 1896, after which he was back in Johannesburg from 1889 to 1906. After that he spent 14 days in Pietersburg, where he died on 9 February 1906, aged 51. "[His] name is inseparably connected with Catholic Choirs. In Umtata, Kimberley, Johannesburg and Pretoria – wherever he went, musicians and vocalists responded to his call." (*Trekking for Souls* by Fr J.E. Brady, p.184). He was only 51 years of age at his death.



HENNESSY, Michael



Michael was born on 18 April 1926 at Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland. His father was Martin Hennessy and his mother Brigid Hennessy née Fitzgerald. The family moved soon after his birth to Dublin, and Michael attended Fairview National School from 1932 to 1937. From 1937 to 1939 he attended the Irish Christian Brothers School at Fairview and then went on to the Oblate Juniorate at Belcamp Hall, Raheny, Dublin where he completed his secondary studies and then entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Ardagh, Co. Limerick on 23 September 1943. He made his first profession of vows there on 24 September 1944 and went for philosophy studies to Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin. Unfortunately, during his second year of philosophy, he contracted tuberculosis and spent two years in a sanatorium to regain his health. In September 1948 he went for theology studies to Our Ladies Scholasticate, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, where he made his final profession of vows on 24 September 1950. He was ordained to the priesthood on 26 June 1952 at St Ciaran's Cathedral, Kilkenny. Michael then received his obedience for the

Oblate mission in Natal, South Africa, and arrived on 5 November 1952.

He was sent to Oakford to learn the Zulu language, and in April 1953 he went to Ekukhanyeni, Inanda, as *locum tenens* till September, when he was posted to Newcastle for a month. From there he was sent to supply at Estcourt from October 1953 to January 1954, after which he was appointed assistant at St Michael's, Redhill, for the next two years. In January 1959 he was assigned to Stanger (KwaDukuza) as parish priest and remained there till March 1961. In October of that year he was appointed parish priest of the Cathedral from 1961 to 1968. During that time Mike led the Cathedral 'team' with a firm but kind heart. His assistants, at different times, were Frs Joe Theobald, Howard St George who took care of the Zulu parishioners, and Pat Holland, followed at different times by Henry Daub, Charles Hennessey, Julian Williamson, Noel Coughlan, Martin Moore-Corry, Henry McCabe and Albert Detremmerie, and Brothers Paul Goudot and Stephen Muthen. Fr St George wrote: "It was during Father Hennessy's term as Administrator that the reforms of the Second Vatican

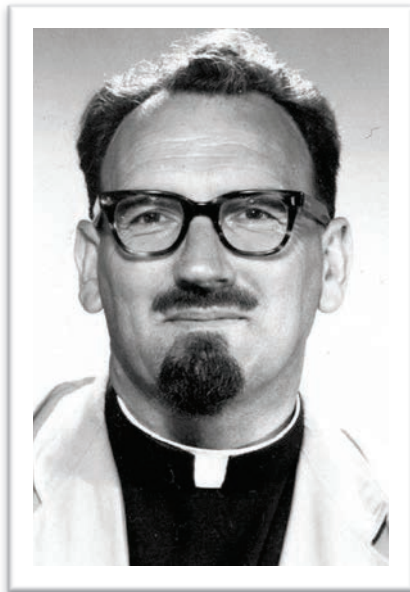
Council were being put into effect, resulting among other things, in the placing of a temporary altar in the sanctuary for Mass to be said facing the people, and in the formation of a Parish Council." In February 1968 Mike was appointed Diocesan Bursar, and he held that post till 1975. He fulfilled this function of Diocesan treasurer very successfully. In January of 1975 he was appointed parish priest of St Joseph's parish which had then moved to Morningside from Greyville.



In 1979, Mike decided to return to his home Province. During his fairly long stay in Natal, Mike had endeared himself to many people. In stature Mike was a big man, and he also had a big heart. He gave the impression of being rather rough and off-hand in his mannerisms and voice, but that was really a façade to hide his shy nature. Back in the Anglo-Irish Province, Mike was assigned to the parish of the Sacred Heart, St Aubin, Jersey, Channel Islands. From 1982 until 1986 he was parish priest at Corpus Christi parish, Leeds, Yorkshire and then went to St Peter's parish, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex as assistant until 1993. From 1994 to 2003 he was parish priest at Our Lady and St Winefride parish, Amlwch, North Wales. He remained in residence at Amlwch until 2007, when he entered the Nursing Home of the Sisters of Mercy at Colwyn Bay, North Wales. He died there on 25 June 2008 at the age of 82. He is buried in the Oblate Cemetery at Inchicore, Dublin.



HENRY, Yves



Yves was born on 10 March 1916 in Plogonnec in the Diocese of Quimper, France. His father was René, and his mother Jeanne (born Philippe). He entered the Oblate Novitiate in Berder on 7 September 1936, making his first vows there the following year on 8 September. From there he went to the Scholasticate at La Brosse-Montceaux to begin his studies for the priesthood, and made his final profession there on 8 September 1941. He was ordained priest at La Brosse on 9 May 1942. Because World War II was still going on and France was under Nazi rule, it was only in 1947 that Yves received his obedience for Natal. In the meantime, he served at Notre-Dame de Sion as a mobile missionary from 1944–1947.

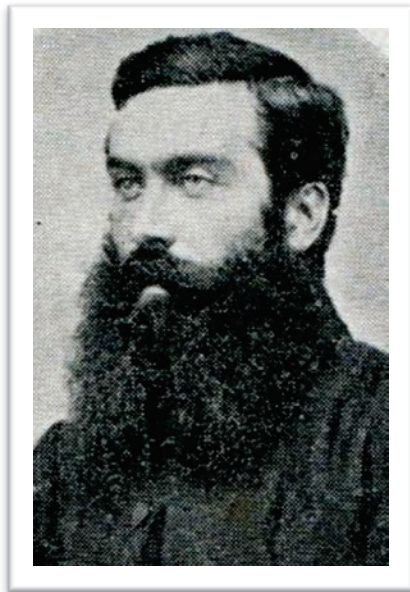
His first posting in Natal was as priest-in-charge of Bergville mission (1947–1956), after which he was assigned to Machibisa for a year (1957) and then for two years at Seven Oaks (1957–59). That year he was appointed parish priest of Henley where he remained from 1959 to 1966. At that time the Diocese of Umzimkulu was under the curatorship of Archbishop Hurley, who generously allowed some of his

priests to help out in various missions of the Umzimkulu diocese. Yves Henry was sent to Izingolweni where he spent the next five years (1966–71), and then he returned to the Archdiocese of Durban and was assigned to Matikwe, Inanda, for a year (1972–73), followed by a long spell at Corpus Christi, Upper Tongaat from 1973 to 2002.

Soon after this, in 2003, he decided to return to his homeland as his health was giving him problems. Once there he had difficulty in adapting himself to a new life style in the Oblate community of Choulans, after spending '58 years among the Zulus' as he loved to tell people. In August 2004 he was placed in the care of the *Petites Soeurs des Pauvres* (Little Sisters of the Poor) in Lyon where he was well cared for and was happy. He died there on 8 February 2005 at the age of 89 and was buried at Sainte Foy les Lyon.



HIDIEN, John-Baptist Anatole



Anatole was born at Délos (Indre), France on 2 July 1840 in the diocese of Bourges. It was said of him that he was bursting with life from a very young age, and that he was no plaster saint. He decided to use his energy in being a missionary. At school he had received a good education in music and was an outstanding musician and played several instruments. He decided to join the Oblates and entered the novitiate in N.D. de l'Osier in October 1859, making his first vows the following year and his final vows on 17 February 1861 (Oblate Number 532) at Montolivet in the presence of Archbishop Guibert OMI of Tours. It seems that the Founder was impressed by the young man's youthful and pugnacious ardour. Hidien had the privilege and consolation of being close to his superior general and Founder during the latter's last illness, and kept vigil over his mortal remains on the night of 22 to 23 May 1861. He did his studies at the new scholasticate at Autun, where he was ordained on 5 July 1863.

Hidien had a fine singing voice and seemed, from his letters, to have been a light-hearted young Frenchman who made friends easily. After

receiving his obedience for the South African mission field in 1864 he sailed on the *Nereide*, which took over six months to arrive in Durban on 27 May 1865. Also with him came Fr Barthélemy and Brothers Moran and Tivenan together with the first party of Holy Family Sisters from Bordeaux who were destined to work in Basutoland (Lesotho). Hidien was sent to assist Fr Joseph Gerard and Bro. Pierre Bernard in Basutoland and arrived there on Christmas Day 1865. A day later he visited King Moshoeshoe and became a good friend of the monarch. He became a fluent Sesotho speaker and spent most of his time as a teacher and carpenter. Unfortunately Hidien's outgoing and ebullient character clashed with Bishop Allard's austerity.

In 1870 Hidien was sent to assist Fr Bompert in Bloemfontein. "When diamonds were discovered in the areas along the Vaal River, many diggers from all over the world came to the area. Fr Bompert celebrated the first Holy Mass on the Diamond Fields in Klipdrift (Barkly West) in 1870. When most of the Catholics of Bloemfontein joined the diamond rush, Anatole decided to abandon his post in Bloemfontein and follow them to Bultfontein (Beaconsfield) in July 1871" (L.Ademmer OMI).

On 19 September 1871 Hidien wrote: "I am in a new world, and a world which requires all my time and all my strength. Three priests would scarcely be enough for the work I have to do. My hope is that I shall soon be worn out and ready for the next life." Little did he realize that these words would prove to be prophetic. The conditions in which the miners lived, and



where Hidien had to work, were unhygienic and primitive, and it was hardly surprising that he himself caught the dreaded disease of typhoid. He had opened a field hospital and had devotedly nursed the diggers until the disease incapacitated him. Fr Bompert, hearing of his illness, rushed to the diamond fields and was in time to give him the last sacraments before he died on 19 November 1871, aged only 31 years. He was the first Oblate to die in South Africa (JB1 pp.119n, 133).

A tribute to him quoted by Fr F.J. Hagel OMI, states: "Those who were at Dutoitspan and Bultfontein in 1871 must remember a certain priest who was unremitting in his endeavours to alleviate the sufferings of those who were sick and in need of temporal as well as spiritual comfort. Although I have forgotten the name of the Reverend Gentleman, I have not forgotten that he was regarded as a ministering angel who went about the camps doing whatever he could in comforting the sick and dying. On one occasion, however, that kind Father was missed, and someone going to his tent one morning found him lying on his stretcher. On examination it was discovered that he had been dead for some time, having been claimed a victim by the enemy he fought against so bravely in the case of others... In this way was started the Catholic Mission on the Diamond Fields. In 1873 the township was proclaimed and was named after the Earl of Kimberley, then Secretary of State for the Colonies. The heraldic motto of the new city was '*Spero meliora*' (I hope for better days). The same hope also animated the first missionaries of the olden days of the diamond fields."

Anatole Hidien "...was buried in Kimberley, then transferred to Bloemfontein, first in the 'old cemetery' Bloemfontein, later in the present grave" (L.Ademmer). Such was the life and death of one of the many pioneering Oblate missionaries who gave up their home, country, and life itself that others may have life in Christ.



HILL, Francis



Francis was born on the 22 September 1906 at Woonsocket, Rhode Island, USA. He did preliminary studies at the Sulpician Preparatory Seminary, Montreal, and at the age of 22 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Tewksbury, making his first profession on 8 September 1930. From there he went to Washington to do his priestly studies, and made his final vows in 1933. He obtained a Baccalaureate of Theology at the Catholic University of Washington and was ordained to the priesthood in Washington, DC, on 12 June 1934. After ordination he was placed at the Oblate Juniorate in Buffalo, NY, where he taught. He requested to be sent to South Africa, received his obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban on 30 October 1937. He was sent to St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, where he was appointed parish priest (1937–1940). From there he was posted to Bellair from 1940–44. His next move was to St Michael's, Red Hill as parish priest (1944–47), and then as parish priest and administrator of Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban for the next three years (1947–51). In 1951 he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor to Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI, and went to live at Archbishop's House for the next three years (1951–54). He remained Vicar General till 1961 when he

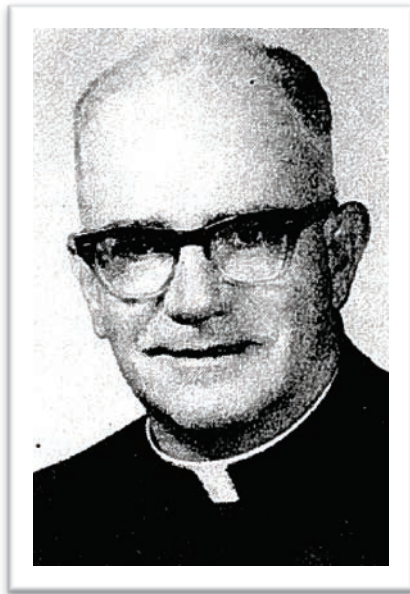
suffered a severe heart attack from which he never fully recovered and was also affected by a poor circulatory problem in his legs. He went to the USA for medical consultations but showed little improvement in his health. He then asked for a transfer of obedience to the USA which was granted.

Back in the States he taught at the Oblate College, Washington, DC from 1962–68, then was appointed assistant to Holy Angels parish in Buffalo, NY where he served from 1968–70. That year he was sent to Dallastown, PA as pastor from 1970–72, after which, in the same year, he went as assistant to Fort Lauderdale, FL. He died on 16 April 1973 at Fort Lauderdale, aged 67.

Francis (or Frank as he was known by his confreres) was a very likeable person, patient, easy to approach, kind and hospitable. He was very well-known and loved by his parishioners wherever he served. Archbishop Hurley had this to say about him: "His outstanding qualities are his kindness, patience and never-failing cheerfulness. I have never seen him angry or ill-tempered. He has the ability to create a happy spirit among confreres with whom he lives and works; is gifted with an extraordinary buoyancy of character. He cooperates easily with others and is always ready to discuss methods and ideas and accept sound suggestions...He enjoys an excellent reputation...He always bore himself with becoming dignity in dress, conduct and speech." Indeed, Frank's death was a huge loss to the Church in general, but in particular to Natal, where he is lovingly remembered by all those who knew him.



KELLEY, Joseph



Joseph John Kelley was born on 27 May 1911 in Cambridge, MA in the Diocese of Boston, USA, of William and Annie (born Goodwin). At 20 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Tewksbury, MA on 7 September 1931. He made his first vows there the following year on 8 September 1932, after which he began his priestly studies at Washington, DC. He made his final profession in Essex on 8 September 1935, and was ordained to the priesthood on 7 June 1938 in Washington, DC. His first obedience was for Natal on 24 May 1938 and he spent most of his ministry in Durban, especially at St Peter's, Point, where he also served as Chaplain to the Apostleship of the Sea. On 17 August 1951 he returned to the USA, and was placed at Our Lady of Hope Minor Seminary in Newburgh, NY where he served as Public Relations Director. On 1 August 1967 he was appointed Pastor and Director of Residence at Holy Family Parish in Pearisburg, Virginia. He died in Tewksbury on 6 October 1982.



KELLY, Sheldon



Sheldon was born on the 23 February 1909 at Wetherbee, NY, USA. He was ordained on 12 June 1934 at Washington, DC. His first obedience was for Natal, where he arrived in 1934. Sheldon was a charismatic character. He quickly fitted in to the South African way of life and became very popular, especially among the youth. He was seldom seen without a pipe or cigar in his mouth. He was a gifted jazz pianist, and was therefore easily able to entertain people with his ability to play, even the latest melodies, without the use of sheet music. Above all Fr Sheldon was known as an excellent preacher with a strong devotion to Our Lady.

At his appointment as pastor of St Joseph's parish, Greyville, Durban, in 1936, Sheldon soon became the worthy successor of his predecessors, especially Fr James O'Donnell OMI, who had died that year. Like him, Sheldon was looked upon as a sort of icon in the parish.

At the end of 1946 Fr Sheldon organized a Youth Congress which was a great success. From that Congress emanated the very popular *Catholic Youth and Family* edited by Mr Carthew-Gabriel, which continued to

inspire many young people for several years until its demise in the 1960's. Three young people from the parish who attended that Congress later became Oblate priests, viz. Basil Miller, Vic Whelan and Eric Boule.

In May 1952 the Church and the City of Durban hosted the South African National Marian Congress commemorating the centenary of the arrival of the first Oblate missionaries in South Africa under the leadership of Bishop Allard. The Congress turned out to be an outstanding success which attracted thousands of Catholics from all over South Africa and the then Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Who can forget the magic of that Congress, with its altar and liturgical ceremonies held on the Greyville Race Course! The highlight of the week was the Youth Mass celebrated by Archbishop Martin Lucas SVD, Apostolic Delegate and Papal Legate, assisted by the Bishops of the Southern African Hierarchy and other neighbouring sees. At this Mass Fr Desmond Cavanagh OMI was ordained to the priesthood, being the first and probably the last to be ordained on a Race Course! Fr Sheldon Kelly, on the stage of the sanctuary, directed the choir and the singing of the huge congregation, with the towering statue of our Blessed Lady high above him overlooking the whole Congress. We mention all these details because Fr Sheldon had been the organizing manager of the Congress from its planning to its conclusion.

In the 1960's Frs Sheldon and Joe McCartin formed part of the Oblate Mission Band which conducted many successful parish missions throughout South Africa. Unfortunately it was



at that time that Sheldon had a bad attack of 'Meuniere's Syndrome' which affected his hearing and balance. Eventually he left Natal in 1966 to return to his homeland in the USA to be treated for this illness. There he was appointed as assistant pastor at St William's parish, Tewksbury, MA where he remained from 1966–1973. In 1972 he paid a fleeting visit to Natal together with Fr 'Bud' William Coppens OMI who both received a rousing welcome from their confreres. He was then appointed pastor of the parish of Sts Simon and Jude, West Jefferson, OH, from 1973 to 1984. He died on the 23 October 1984, aged 75.



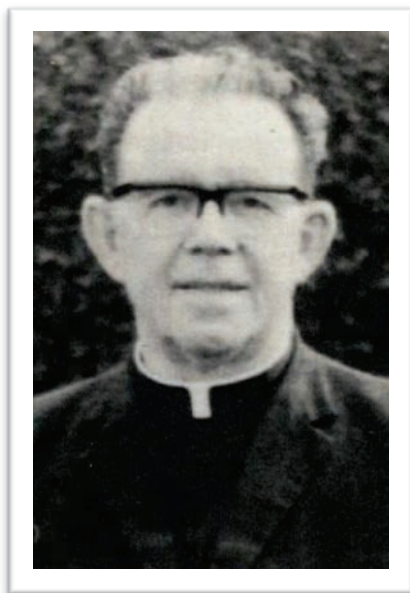
KELLY, Thomas

Thomas was born on 7 July 1918 in Red Hills, Co. Cavan, Ireland. His parents were John and Ellen (born McNerney). He attended the Oblate Juniorate at Belcamp Hall, Raheny, Dublin from 1932 to 1937 and was received as a novice at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick, on 16 September 1937. He pronounced his first vows there on 17 September 1938 after which he went to the Scholasticate at Daingean, Co. Offaly to begin his studies for the priesthood. Whilst he was there the Scholasticate moved to Piltown, Co. Kilkenny in 1940 and he made his final vows there on 17 September 1941 and was ordained priest in Piltown parish church on 29 June 1944. He received his obedience for Natal where he ministered for 15 years. His first assignment in 1945 was to Esigodini, outside Pietermaritzburg, in order to learn isiZulu. The following year (1946) he went to Ekukhanyeni, Inanda, where he ministered for three years and in 1949 he was posted to Stanger (KwaDukuza). As parish priest of Stanger he was well loved by his parishioners.

In 1959 he returned to Ireland where he spent a year at the House of Retreat, Inchicore, Dublin, then went to Sacred Heart parish, Kilburn, London until 1962. From then until 1975 he was at St Joseph parish, Colwyn Bay, N. Wales, and then went to St Michael's parish, Inchicore, Dublin. He died in Dublin on 26 August 1976, aged 58, and is buried in the Oblate cemetery at Inchicore.



KENNEDY, Gerard



Gerard was born in Thurles, Co. Tipperary on 12 November 1910. His parents were Patrick and Annie Kennedy (born Maher). His secondary schooling was done at the Irish Christian Brothers, Thurles, and he was received as a novice in the Oblate Congregation at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick, on 7 September 1929. He made his first vows the following year on 8 September 1930, and went to Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin, to begin his priestly studies making his final profession there on 29 September 1933. He spent a year as a scholastic in Jersey, Channel Islands, and then returned to Ireland and completed his studies at Daingean, Co. Offaly where he was ordained on 31 May 1936 and, in June 1937, received his obedience for Natal together with Fr John Gannon. He arrived in Durban on 24 October 1937. His first assignment was to Dundee in northern Natal for a month and from there he was sent to the Bluff in Durban for a year (December 1937–1938). In 1939 he was stationed in Durban but served the south coast of Natal, especially Umbogintwini. In 1940 he was back in the north, at Newcastle where he remained for four years and from there he was appointed to Greytown (1944) and Dundee (1945).

On 17 July 1947 he received an obedience to Texas, USA, apparently at his request, since his brother was there and had written in glowing terms to Gerard about Texas. (*Information from Fr John McGrath.*) However, in 1956, he returned to his home Province in Ireland and spent 3 years at Cinderford, England, and four years at Rock Ferry. He then spent the next four years at Kilburn, London, 3 years at Amlwch, N. Wales, and then went to the mission house at Crewe, England. He died in London on 31 August 1973.



KENNY, James J.

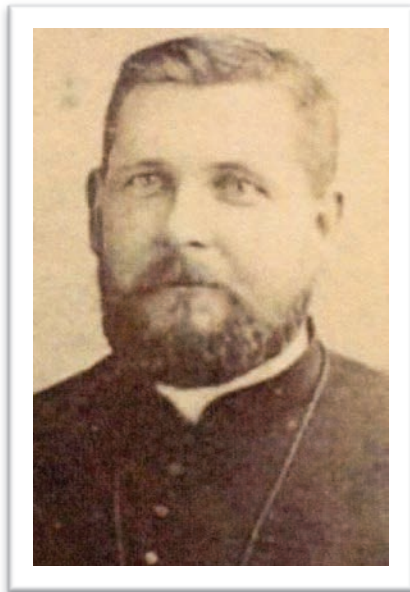
James was born on 9 May 1923 in Killeedy, Co. Limerick, the son of Bryan and Alice Kenny (born Noonan.) He attended Blackrock College, Dublin from 1937 to 1940, and St Ita's College, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick from 1940 to 1942. He then entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick on 14 September 1942, making his first vows there on 15 September 1943. From there he went to Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin to begin his studies for the priesthood, and in 1945 he went to the Scholasticate at Piltown, Co. Kilkenny and made his final vows there on 15 September 1946. He was ordained to the priesthood at Piltown on 29 June 1949 and received his obedience for Natal, arriving in Durban on 22 September 1949. In the few years he spent in Natal, he was known for his cheerful manner. He was appointed Director for the Holy Childhood Society and went about preaching to raise money for this Society in the various parishes of the Diocese. He was remembered for one particular gaffe while preaching at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg. Fr Raymond Coates OMI was the parish priest, and he was seated in the sanctuary during the sermon. J.J. (as he was known among his confreres) was preaching rather eloquently and said that if he were to be asked if he had any regrets about his choice of vocation, declared: "I would not change coats with any one!" He was slightly baffled when the congregation burst into laughter.

Unfortunately ill health forced him to return to Ireland in 1958. In May 1958 two of his former confreres from Natal, Frs Patrick Holland and Eric Boulle, on a short visit to Ireland, called in to visit J.J. at his home and found him his usual jovial self but, unfortunately, his chronic rheumatic heart condition was worsening. He died in Limerick Regional Hospital on 2 January 1959 and is buried in his home parish of Killeedy, Co. Limerick. He was only 34 years of age.

(Acknowledgement to OMI General Archives and Fr Richard Haslam OMI "Biographical Sketches")



KREMER, Michael



Michael was born in 1872 in the diocese of Metz, Lorraine, France. At the age of 21 he entered the Oblate Novitiate and made his first vows in 1893 and final vows in 1894. Four years later in 1898 he was ordained to the priesthood and received his first obedience for Natal. He sailed from Liverpool on the 8 April 1899 together with Mother Saint-Pierre Lemius who was going to Natal to make a visitation of the Holy Family Sisters, and 8 other Holy Family Sisters. Fr Le Texier in an undated letter to the Superior General of the Oblates, mentioned that during the second Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902) Fr Kremer together with Fr Gourlay visited the hospitals. On 1 January 1902 Kremer was present, together with other priests, at the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban by Bishop Jolivet; but it seems his health was already giving cause for concern because, in a report to the General Chapter by Bishop Delalle in 1904, he said that Fr Kremer had fallen ill 18 months previously, and was due to leave Durban for a drier climate, but that there was very little hope that he would take up his priestly duties again soon. A later report in 1908 to

the General Chapter from the bishop stated that "... Fr Kremer, suffering from tuberculosis which the Natal climate was not able to cure, had very recently died after having spent a few years in the bosom of his family. He had requested to go to Europe for treatment, hoping that he would be able to resume his work. In spite of his desire to return to Natal, he was never strong and well enough to undertake the voyage. The Mauritians of Durban [French-speaking people who had come to Natal from Mauritius] to whom he had very generously given of himself, speak of him only in terms of affection and gratitude. For them he is 'saintly' Father Kremer." He died at Nelling in Lorraine, on the 12/13 January 1908, at the very young age of 36 years, having spent only 14 years in the religious life. (*Acknowledgement to Oblate General Archives*).



LE BERRE, Michel



Michel René Marie was born in Quimper, Brittany, France on 28 May 1916 of Yves and Marie (born Boucher). At 18 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate on 28 September 1934, making his first vows there the following year, after which he began his priestly studies at La Brosse-Montceaux, where he made his final profession on 19 March 1942. He was ordained to the priesthood on 5 July 1942 at the height of World War II when France was under Nazi control. Because of this he remained in his home Province ministering at Angers for three years, till 30 May 1946 when he received an obedience to go to Cameroon-Chad as one of the founding missionaries in that country. He ministered there for 17 years until 10 October 1963 when he returned to France-Nord to take charge of the *Foyer de jeunes de La Brosse-St Gregoire* (The movement/apostolate of young people) at Rennes.

At this time there were large numbers of French-speaking people, mainly of Mauritian descent, living in Natal, principally in Durban and on the north coast. In the past their needs had been catered for by the French Oblate missionaries who had come to Natal to evangelize the

local people but these missionaries naturally concentrated on the Zulu-speaking population.

In the early 1960's a French diocesan priest, Fr Jean Bouthier, had come on an extended visit to Natal in order to establish Lay Apostolate groups. He succeeded in creating many of these groups which brought together French-speaking people in order to make them aware of their apostolate as lay Catholics. But Fr Bouthier had to move on to other countries, and so the request was made for a French Oblate to come and take over as chaplain to the French-speaking community and it was then that Fr Michel Le Berre OMI in 1968 was sent to undertake this work. He was tasked with the spiritual welfare of the French-speaking people, with a special emphasis on the Lay Apostolate, particularly by creating active apostolic groups, such as the ACI (Independent Catholic Action) which promoted healthy dialogue and reflection among the laity.

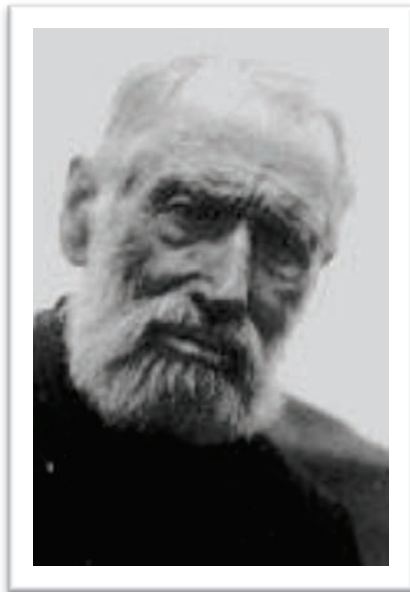
Michel resided at Emmanuel Cathedral where he soon became a well-loved member of the community. He was a big man with a big heart and a great sense of humour. He could read English and understand what he was reading, but his ability to speak the language was virtually nil. What he could not express in words he made up in gestures! He was a no-nonsense man. He was not one to compromise on, or water down, doctrinal or moral principles and teachings. He was direct in what he had to say, but always with love and respect for the other. Michel also had the great gift of being able to laugh at himself. His Oblate confreres were saddened when he decided to return to



France on 7 April 1977, having spent nine very fruitful years in Natal in loving service to the French-speaking people and to the Church in general. He died in Pontmain on 3 August 2004 at the age of 88.



LE BIHAN, François



Francis Marie William Le Bihan was from the same diocese of origin as Bishop Jolivet, viz. Quimper, and was born on 10 October 1833. He made his profession as an Oblate on 3 May 1858 and was ordained priest by Bishop de Mazenod on 23 June 1859. He arrived in Natal with Brother Terpent in February 1860. He began by learning the Zulu language at the kraal of Chief Xabashe, after which he spent some time at St Michael's Mission in Natal. In 1864 he went to assist Fr Joseph Gerard in Basutoland (Lesotho) and spent the remainder of his life there apart from the many business trips he had to make to Natal on behalf of Bishop Allard, and to transport staff to or from the colony.

Joy Brain relates an incident which occurred in the life of Le Bihan in 1864, which showed that Bishop Allard had little understanding of the physical weaknesses of his clergy. "After an exhausting journey to Basutoland, during which he was forced to act as *voorloper* [leader of the oxen] to a Boer farmer who travelled via the O.F.S. and the Transvaal, [Le Bihan] became exhausted and ill, yet was sent the day after his arrival to collect a large quantity of thatching grass from the

top of the Maluti Mountains." (*Catholic Beginnings in Natal and beyond* p.107n)

In 1869 Le Bihan arrived in Bloemfontein to replace Fr Hoendervangers who was returning to Europe. However, due to illness, he had to return to Basutoland to recuperate, and later, on regaining his health, he paid a visit to the Transvaal. He was the "...first Oblate priest to make a successful visit to the Republic [Transvaal]." He arrived in Potchefstroom in 1869 thanks to an official visit of a Portuguese delegation led by the Governor of Quelimane, who was indirectly instrumental in preventing the expulsion of the Catholic missionary. A Mr Henry Donaghue received Fr Le Bihan and welcomed him most heartily. Whilst there Le Bihan blessed Donaghue's daughter's marriage and baptized a number of children. He even managed to obtain a site from President Pretorius on which to build a church. Le Bihan stayed in Potchefstroom for a short time after which he returned to Basutoland. When Fr Hidien died in November 1871, Fr Le Bihan was sent to replace him in Kimberley where he continued Hidien's work of building a church, school and hospital. He also visited the sick miners who lived in deplorable conditions of hygiene. Shortly after this Bishop Jolivet appointed Le Bihan Superior in Roma. During the infamous 'War of the Guns', which "...became in effect a Basuto civil war, Le Bihan ...was credited with helping to achieve an armistice. Le Bihan used his influence to persuade Letsie to open negotiations and as a result Lerotholi met Colonel Griffith near Maseru on April 27, 1881, to discuss terms...Agreement was reached." In 1883



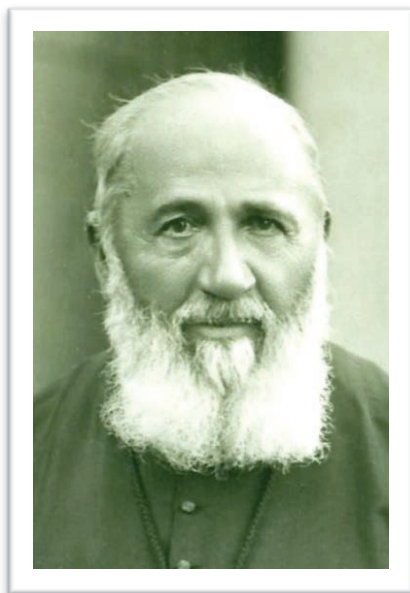
Le Bihan started the Montolivet mission in Basutoland about 100 kms south of Roma. On his travels throughout Lesotho he discovered the Moletsunyane Falls (also called the 'Le Bihan Falls'). He died at the mission of Montolivet on 8 September 1916, and was buried near his friend, Fr Joseph Gerard, two of the greatest missionaries of Southern Africa.



MOLETSUNYANE (LE BIHAN) FALLS, LESOTHO



LENOIR, Hilaire (Hilary)



Hilaire Lenoir was born of Claude and Jeanne Lenoir (born Rippard) in Boichot, near Dôle in France on 30 April 1836. On 31 October 1855, at the age of 19, he entered the Oblate novitiate at Notre-Dame de l'Osier. He received an excellent report from his novice master, who remarked that he had a good sense of humour. He made his final profession as an Oblate on 2 November 1856 at Montolivet (Oblate No.426) and was ordained by Bishop de Mazenod at Marseille on 24 June 1860. He received his obedience for England and served in Inchicore, Ireland (1860), and Liverpool, England (1862) where he assisted Fr Charles Jolivet who was the superior at the time, and then succeeded him when Jolivet left to become Vicar Apostolic of Natal. Whereas Jolivet was responsible for the building of the nave and side aisles of the church in Liverpool, Lenoir further increased the accommodation by buying several houses near the church for the purposes of building a sanctuary and a sacristy. On the 26 November 1882, the altar was finally completed. "The altar was a veritable poem in stone and marble; the green marble of Connemara, the red of

Derbyshire, the white stone of Caen, all blended into one harmonious whole. No wonder that Bishop Jolivet of Natal, revisiting the scenes of his labour, declared that he had never seen a more fitting place for the celebration of the Divine Sacrifice." (*The Story of Holy Cross* by Daniel Murray: 1849–1949, in a brochure compiled by Fr Christopher Dunne OMI, entitled *Holy Cross Church: Celebrating 150 years: 1849–1999*.) A replica of this altar was installed in Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban in 1924 which, I was led to believe, was erected in honour of those who died in the 1914–18 World War.

From Liverpool, Fr Lenoir went to Sicklinghall in 1873 and from there he went to Leeds, and whilst there he received a new obedience for Natal. He was sent to replace Fr Bompert in Bloemfontein in November 1876, and Fr Walsh in Kimberley when the latter left to serve as chaplain in the Zulu War in 1879. According to Fr J.E. Brady in *Trekking for Souls*, Lenoir was an accomplished builder, and it was he who built the lovely church in Kimberley in 1880. From there he went to Basutoland (Lesotho) from 1888 to 1890. When Fr Soullier came as Visitor, he appointed Lenoir as superior of the district, but the Oblates were not happy with him and asked that he be removed. According to L. Ademmer OMI, the reason why he was not wanted in Basutoland, was that he wanted to charge school fees to support the struggling mission schools. Lenoir wrote that he left Basutoland 'without regret'. From then on he served in various places: Bloemfontein (1890), Kimberley (1892), Harrismith (1893),



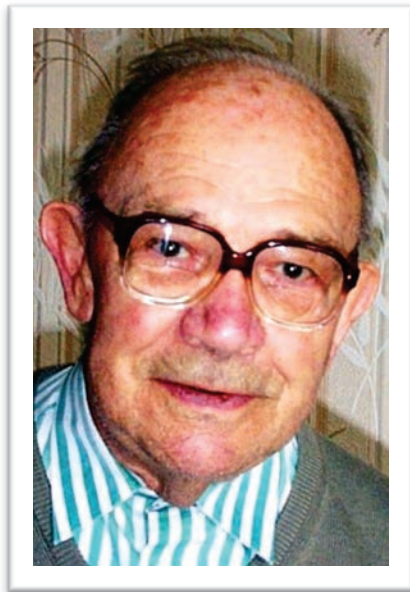
Mafeking (1896), Kimberley again in 1897, Barkly West (1905), Harrismith once more (1911), Smithfield (1913) and finally in Kimberley (1914).

On the death of Bishop Matthew Gaughren in 1914, the Congregation of Propaganda appointed Fr Lenoir administrator of the vicariate of Kimberley, an office which he held for a very short time, until the arrival in September 1914 of Bishop Charles Cox, Vicar Apostolic of the Transvaal and administrator of the vicariate of Kimberley. Bishop Cox appointed Lenoir as his Vicar General, responsible for the temporal goods of Kimberley until 1916. From 1916 he worked in Jagersfontein and Bloemfontein. He was instrumental in the building of the Holy Family Convent and St Mary's Cathedral in Kimberley, St Augustine's in Beaconsfield, the convent in Mafikeng, the church in Harrismith, St Joseph's in Barkly West, St Francis Xavier school for the Indians in Kimberley and St Anthony's in Mafikeng. He celebrated his diamond priestly jubilee in 1920. Hilaire is well remembered for his love of the poor and of children. (Fr Ludger Ademmer OMI)

In late 1921 he began experiencing ill health which affected his limbs and walking ability and Fr Porte, who was religious superior at the time, sent him to retire to Bloemfontein in January 1922. Lenoir wrote in his memoirs: "I hope to take advantage of my last years to prepare for the solemn moment of final departure, when the Lord will call me. So be it!" (*Historical Dictionary of the OMI*, p.375). Fr Lenoir never lost his good sense of humour. He seems to have been a jovial character, and he was a popular entertainer at festivities with his conjuring tricks. According to the Oblate Necrology, Fr Lenoir died in Johannesburg on the 12 May 1926 at the ripe old age of 90.



LE VAILLANT, Pierre



Pierre was born at Muzillac (diocese of Vannes), Brittany, France, on 13 August 1921. One of his confreres wrote that Pierre grew up in a very strong Catholic family of 3 boys and 2 girls. From a young age, Pierre felt called to be a priest. He went to the Minor Seminary at Plonmel, and after matriculating he went to the Major Seminary of Vannes. In his second year of theology he decided to join the Oblates and entered the Oblate novitiate at Pontmain in 1942 where he made his first vows on 8 September 1943. From there he went to the Scholasticate at La Brosse-Montceaux, also in Vannes, where he made his final vows on 27 May 1945. After his ordination to the priesthood on 29 June 1945 in the basilica of N.D. de Pontmain, he received his first obedience for the Natal Province and arrived in April 1947. Here he ministered for the next 52 years. His first assignment was to learn the Zulu language, after which he was appointed parish priest of Elandskop and KwaMadlala (January 1948 to 1956), then to Seven Oaks (February to October 1956). Then followed a move to Stanger (KwaDukuza) as assistant for a year and a half (August 1957 to January 1959), Verulam

as pastor (January 1959 to February 1962), Greytown again as pastor (February 1962 to July 1970), and Nottingham Road and Mooi River also as pastor (January 1971 to October 1975). After this he did a short stint as *locum tenens* in Harding, Diocese of Umzimkulu, from September to December 1975. His last assignment in Natal was as pastor of Wartburg from January 1977 until his departure in 1999.

In the latter part of the 90's, Pierre had begun to suffer from memory loss. Eventually, on 10 September 1999, he returned to his home Province in France where full-blown Alzheimer's took hold of him. He was cared for in the Oblate House at Pontmain, until he had to be admitted to the hospital of Ernée, where he finally died. After a long missionary life of self-sacrifice, he handed himself over to his Lord and Saviour on 24 September 2004. The Requiem Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Missions, Pontmain on the 27 September.

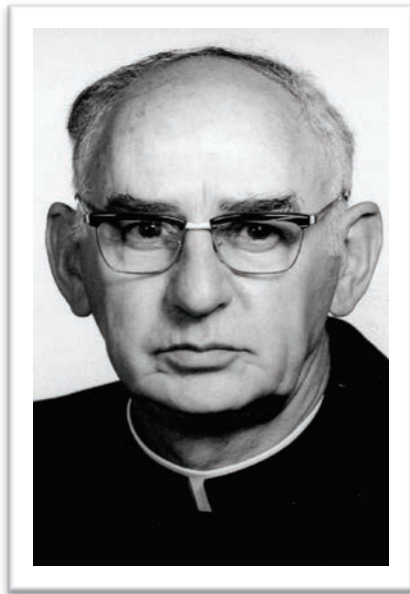
An incident in his life that had greatly affected him, and which he could not forget, happened while he was at the Scholasticate of La Brosse during World War II, while France was under the domination of the Nazi military force. Some of the Oblates on the staff, and possibly a few students, were cooperating with the French Underground or Resistance, hiding ammunition and passing it on. The Nazi occupation force was aware of this and waited for an opportunity to trap these Oblates. After the Allied landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944 the Allied forces were moving rapidly through France and on 24 July the Nazi Gestapo arrived at the Scholasticate and ordered the



whole community out of the chapel, "... and two by two line up in front of the portico of the cloister. Wilhelm Korf, head of the Gestapo at Melun, was looking for weapons parachuted a few days earlier by the allies. After gathering the entire community in a clearing of the park, the Gestapo took five of the confreres to the basement of the chateau...and were then tortured...In spite of the brutality and the torture, the Oblates did not talk. Finally, they were gunned down in front of the whole community gathered there and the bodies were thrown into a well...At 4 in the afternoon, two more trucks arrived and the 86 priests and brothers were ordered to pile in. The religious were taken to Fontainebleau. Then they were transferred from Fontainebleau to Compiègne, except for Father Louis, who was considered too old and left to his fate. The Oblates were shipped to Germany on 25 August [1944], but the train carrying them could not get past Peronne. Settled down in a makeshift camp, on the 31st, they could watch the collapse of the Germans. At three in the afternoon, the Red Cross replaced the Nazi authorities and evacuated the camp. At six in the afternoon of 1 September, the bells rang out the liberation of the city. One after another, the Oblates returned to their Scholasticate at La Brosse-Montceaux which they found thoroughly wrecked." (Acknowledgement to *Oblate Communications* of 01/09/2014). Pierre Le Vaillant was among those who were in line to be tortured and shot when a German colonel arrived on the scene and immediately stopped the shooting. There is no wonder that this incident marked Pierre all his life. In the Natal Oblate newsletter, Fr George Purves wrote, "He [Pierre] had given 52 years of his life to the missions of KwaZulu-Natal where he endeared himself to the people. Fr Le Vaillant was a hard worker who was able to make a little stretch a long way. He was neat, tidy and very economical and was able to erect good buildings with limited funds. In the last letter he wrote from Pontmain to Father Provincial, before he got really frail, he said, 'I shall never forget those happy days I spent in South Africa.' And neither will Pierre be forgotten in KwaZulu-Natal."



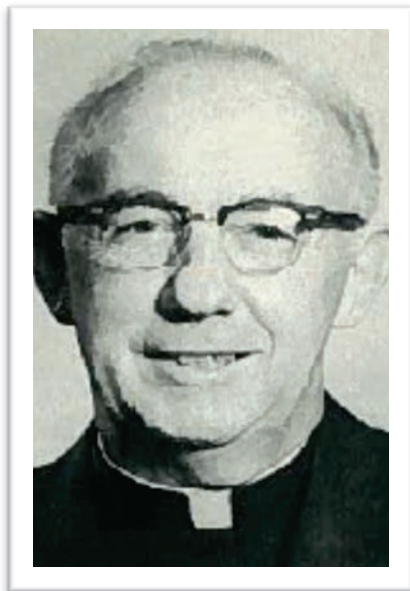
MARIEN, Jerome



Jerome Edward was born in Buffalo, NY, USA, on 10 October 1907. He completed his primary education at Holy Angels, Buffalo, and then attended Canisius College. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in Tewksbury, Mass. in 1926, making his first vows on 8 September 1928. He then went to Newburgh for two years where he studied philosophy, after which he did his theological studies at Washington Major Seminary and obtained his Bachelor of Sacred Theology. He pronounced his final vows on 8 September 1930, and was ordained to the priesthood on 13 June 1933 at Washington, DC. He received his obedience for Natal where he arrived on 29 October 1933. He began his missionary apostolate in Greytown in November of that year as an assistant, at the same time learning the Zulu language; then he was appointed pastor, from March 1935 to 1938. For a short while (seven months) he came back to Durban (Congella) to replace Fr Kerautret as chaplain to Maris Stella, and from December 1938 to March 1947 he served at Oakford as parish priest until once again he returned to Congella to replace Fr Kerautret for ten months, till December 1947. In August 1948 he was assigned to Estcourt as pastor, and remained there till November 1953. His next move was as pastor of Dundee, from November 1953 to January 1959 when he was appointed pastor of St Michael's, Redhill, where he remained for almost ten years till August 1968. After that he was requested to help out at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg, as assistant for a year, February 1969 to March 1970. His penultimate assignment was as pastor to Sacred Heart, Woodlands/Montclair from March 1970 to April 1974 and his last move was to Port Shepstone as pastor in September 1974. Shortly after that he requested to return to the USA. He died at Tewksbury on the 25 December 1995.



McCABE, Henry



Henry was born on 9 August 1912 in Lowell, MA, USA. He was ordained on 9 June 1938 in Washington, DC. His first obedience sent him to Natal in 1938. Henry was a likeable character, very friendly and welcoming. He had a pleasant tenor voice and a good musical ear. He was parish priest of St Joseph's, Greyville, Durban, for a number of years.

Unfortunately, while he was parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima, Durban North, Henry developed vocal problems which led to an almost entire loss of voice. He went to the USA for treatment, and returned to Durban with hardly any improvement. Since he was no longer able to speak in public or to preach, he was sent to the Emmanuel Cathedral as an assistant, and was given the task of visiting the homes of parishioners in the city centre. Henry had a good sense of humour and was always cheerful and willing to help wherever he could. He would regale the community with stories of things that happened while he was on his rounds of visits – stories that left us wondering whether they were true or the fruit of his imagination! Eventually he returned to the States at the beginning of 1970. In a letter to Archbishop Hurley (which

only reached the Archbishop after Henry had died) he stated: "My appointment came not long ago and I am happy about it and now quite settled indeed. I am living at the above address [Immaculate Conception Rectory, 3 Fayette Street, Lowell, Mass.], an Oblate house of course. Right across the street is St John's hospital, run by Catholic Sisters of St Martha, quite a large hospital indeed. This is where I am operating. It is good work, but only half of it. I also care for a Convent of old Nuns." The Provincial of the OMI, Thomas Reddy, wrote to Archbishop Hurley: "Henry complained of terrible stomach pains and he was taken to the hospital from which he was released after observation. Later that night he returned to the hospital and was kept in the emergency room until they admitted him at 7.15 a.m. on Tuesday. They thought that it might be stone in the kidney but after many tests, this was ruled out. Wednesday evening Henry took a turn and remained critical, placed in the ICU at 9 p.m. where he remained until 12.27 a.m. when he passed away. He went to the Lord very peacefully...Henry died of a ruptured aneurysm in the abdomen which would have been inoperable had he

lived. He also had extensive damage to the heart. Thus, God was good to take him without too much pain and suffering." Henry died on 16 November 1972 in Lowell, MA, aged 60.

Fr Thomas Reddy wrote further ... "We have all kinds of documents, speeches and papers on Missionary Outlook, but here was a man to my way of thinking who had it. He had given over 34 years of his life to this mission outside of his country. When he came home sick, and



to a degree incapacitated, he immediately came looking for some work. He has taught us all that 'mission' and 'missionary' are as close as the person and place next to us. Henry worked only a short while in the hospital but he was dearly loved. His gentle, kind and considerate way made him dearly appreciated by staff and patients.”



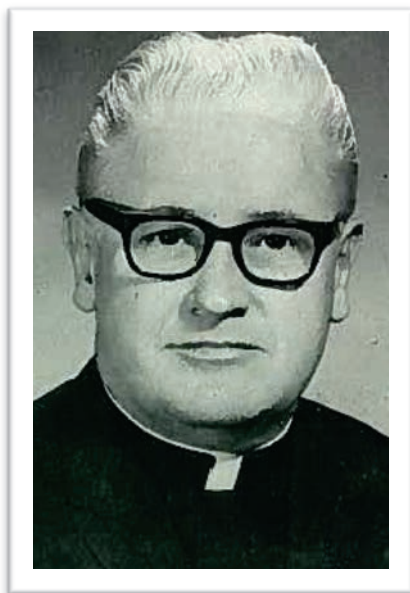
Mc CARTEN, Allan



Allan was born on 27 January 1910 in South Boston, MA, USA. He entered the Oblate novitiate in 1929 and made his first vows in 1930 and final vows three years later. He was ordained to the priesthood on 9 June 1936 in Washington, DC. In the same year he received his first obedience for Natal where he worked for the next ten years, beginning his ministry in Ladysmith. In 1946 he returned to the States and was posted to Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton, WVA, as assistant (1947–8), St Joseph's, Essex, NY (1948), and Toledo, OH from 1948–50, where he was in charge of the Propagation of the Faith ministry. In 1951 he was assigned to Indianapolis, IN, as assistant pastor; St Ann's parish, Florence, SC as Pastor (1953–58); West Jefferson, OH, as chaplain (1958); Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Rapids, MI, as assistant (1958–62); St Joseph's parish, Essex, NY, (1962–64); St Williams' parish, Tewksbury, as hospital chaplain (1964–73); St George's parish, Jenkins, KY as pastor (1971–74); Ashland, VA as assistant (1974–75); Washington, DC, as assistant at the National Shrine (1975–81); St Joseph's parish, Dallastown, PA, as assistant (1981–84); back to Washington Shrine (1984–85); and finally to the Oblate Residence in Tewksbury, MA where he retired in 1985. Three years later, Allan completed his life's work in Lowell, MA, on 5 April 1988 at the age of 75.



McCARTIN, Joseph



Joe was born on 25 August 1919 in Lowell, MA, USA. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at the age of 18 in 1937, making his first vows the following year, and his final profession in 1941. He was ordained to the priesthood on 5 June 1944 in Washington, DC. He received his first obedience for Natal in that year and served in several places in the midlands and northern Natal for short periods, as well as at Estcourt as parish priest.

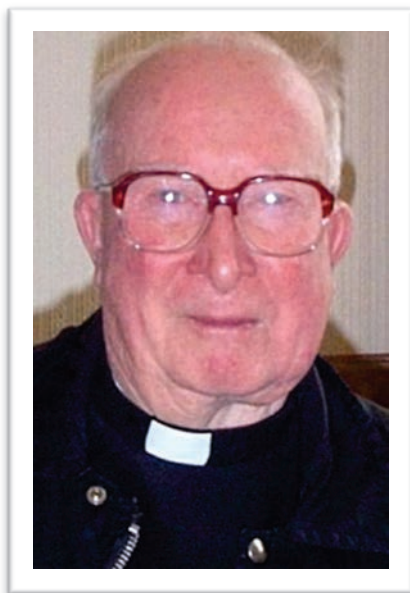
In the early part of the 1960s Fr Joe served at Mooi River and in 1961 at Congella and in 1963 he was one of the assistants at Emmanuel Cathedral. Also during the 60s, Joe assisted Fr Sheldon Kelly on the Oblate Mission Band which successfully conducted parish missions in several parishes throughout South Africa. During that time he helped in one or two parishes in Johannesburg as well, and in 1966 he was at Yeoville for a few months. Then in 1967 he was asked by Archbishop Hurley and the Oblate Administration to return to the USA in order to establish a permanent fund-raising drive for the missions in Natal, and for the training of Oblate Scholastics at Cedara. This endeavour proved

to be very successful and for many years it provided much-needed funds to the OMI and Archdiocese and helped to build many churches in the rural areas as well as helping St Joseph's Scholasticate to survive. During the years that Fr Joe was in the States, he was stationed at the Mission House, Toledo, OH (1967), St Michael's parish, Brattleboro, VT (1968–1973), Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Grand Rapids, MI (1973–1979). On his return to Natal in 1979 Joe was engaged in parish ministry both in Durban and Pietermaritzburg (Woodlands). Then in 1985 he returned permanently to the USA and was placed at the Oblate College, Washington, DC in 1985. In 1986 he retired to Tewksbury, MA. On 7 January 1988 he had a heart attack and died of cardiac failure in Boston, aged 69. He had been afflicted with asthma all his life.

Joe was a likeable character who made friends easily. He loved the company of people, especially his confreres, and enjoyed laughter with them. But Joe also had a serious side to him, and he would willingly join in discussions with his fellow priests. He was much appreciated as a preacher.



McGRATH, John



John Mc Grath was born in Fermoy, Co. Cork, on 14 February 1916, son of Jeremiah McGrath and Josephine neé Twomey. He attended the Presentation Convent Primary School from 1920 to 1923, then the Irish Christian Brothers until 1932. He then entered the Oblate Juniorate at Belcamp Hall, Raheny, Dublin, and completed his secondary studies there in 1934 after which he entered the Oblate novitiate at Cahermoyle, Ardagh, Co. Limerick on 28 September 1934 where he took his first vows on 29 September 1935. He then went to the Oblate Scholasticate at Daingean, Co. Offaly and made his final vows there on 29 September 1938. He was ordained a priest at Daingean on 23 June 1940 and spent his last year in the Scholasticate at Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. He received his obedience for the Vicariate of Natal, in 1941. He and fellow Oblate, Fr John Benson, left for South Africa by cargo boat, in convoy, during World War II, and sailed down the west coast of Africa, arriving in Cape Town on 22 December 1941, after seven tense weeks at sea.

John administered several parishes in Durban and in other places in Natal until ill health forced him to return to Ireland in 1973. He then spent two years at Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin, after which he was assigned to Sacred Heart parish, Kilburn, London, where he ministered until 2002 when he retired to the House of Retreat, Inchicore, Dublin. In early 2007 he entered a nursing home at Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, and on 16 October of that year he was taken to Tallaght General Hospital, Dublin, where he died peacefully on 17 October 2007. He is buried in the Oblate Cemetery at Inchicore, Dublin.

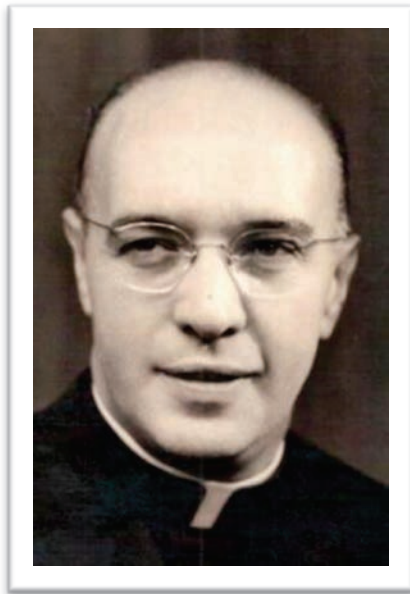


MULLIGAN, Brother Philip

Philip Mulligan was born in County Meath, Ireland, in 1837. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin, in 1865, and made his first vows there in 1867. He was then assigned to the Reformatory School at Glencree, Co. Wicklow, where he took his final vows on 18 January 1871 and received an obedience for Natal. He accompanied Bishop Allard to Natal, when the bishop returned after the Vatican Council. He first spent a short time in Basutoland (Lesotho) before being sent to help in Fr Sabon's school in Durban until the Holy Family Sisters took over. In 1872 he was sent to the Transvaal and worked with Fr Andrew Walsh OMI amongst the gold miners in Lydenberg and Pilgrim's Rest until 1877 when he returned to Basutoland, and taught there for a number of years. Despite Sabon's remark that Mulligan's vocation did not seem to be very firm, he spent the remainder of his life in the South African missions and died in Basutoland on the 11 June 1915.



NEVILLE, Emmet

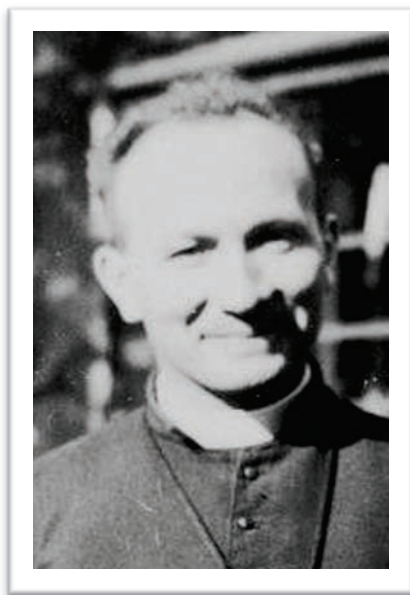


Emmet was born on 15 July 1911 at Billings, Montana, USA, and was ordained to the priesthood on 15 June 1937 in Washington, DC. He received his first obedience for Natal the same year. Emmet was a fairly big man, and did not like to be contradicted or disobeyed. He was stationed at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg as assistant, and whilst there also served as chaplain to St Charles' College, run by the Marist Brothers. In 1946 he was assistant to Fr Sheldon Kelly at St Joseph's, Greyville, and was partially involved in the organization of the first Catholic Youth Congress.

In 1954 Emmet returned to the States where he served in St Benedict's parish, Seattle, WA, for a short while, then Little Flower parish, Billings, Montana as assistant, also in 1954. Two years later he became the pastor at Little Flower. He died at Billings on 4 June 1964.



NICOL, John (Jean) Julian



John was born on 8 February 1903 at Guerlesquin, Finistere, in the diocese of Quimper, Brittany, France. He did his schooling at N.D. du Kreisker, St Pol de Leon, in Finistere and then did his Novitiate at Thy le Chateau where he made his first vows on 15 August 1927. He made his final vows on 8 September 1928 at La Panscherelle, Belgium, and then completed his clerical studies at Liège, Belgium, where he was ordained on 7 July 1929. He then received his first obedience for Natal, arriving in Durban on 3 October 1930. His immediate assignment was to Montebello, presumably to learn isiZulu, and stayed there for five months after which, in February 1931, he was sent to Newcastle. Having spent five years there he was transferred to the Bluff in April 1936 until, in April 1937, he returned to Europe. There he worked for a time at St Thomas' parish, Jersey, Channel Isles till August 1937, and then in Autun, France till July 1938. From October 1939 to 1940 he taught English in the Minor Seminary of Autun. He then left the Oblate Congregation and was incardinated as a diocesan priest in the diocese of Autun in February 1940, and was appointed assistant at St Henry, Le Creusot in September 1940. He was parish priest at St Forgeot, near Autun from August to December 1950. He must have applied to rejoin the Oblate Congregation after this because he made his first vows again at Korbeek, Belgium on the 19 March 1953 and was sent back to South Africa as an Oblate arriving on 7 September 1953. He was appointed to St Augustine's parish, Machibisa as an assistant. But he did not remain long in Natal and returned to France after a few years and ministered there. He died on 20 Oct 1982 at Bordeaux.



NOLAN, William

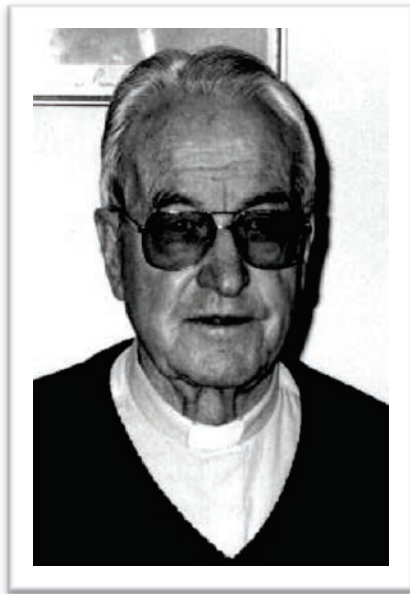
William Nolan was born in Athy, Ireland on 8 January 1913. At the age of 20 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Cahermoyle in 1933, followed by his first profession the following year. In 1938 he made his final vows, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1940. He received his obedience for the then Vicariate of the Transvaal. However, his first ministry was in Kokstad. When the Oblates decided to open a Scholasticate for students to the priesthood during World War II, Fr Nolan was appointed on 1 January 1943 to be one of the skeleton staff at Prestbury. At the time the staff consisted of Fr Gabriel Viallard (superior); Fr Patrick Holland (due to return to South Africa from Ireland at the end of March), lecturer in philosophy; Fr William Nolan (lecturer in Holy Scripture); and Brother Paul Goudot (general factotum). Fr Denis Hurley arrived on 5 March to join the staff as lecturer in theology.

Fr Nolan taught for a year at Prestbury, and then returned to the Transvaal. At this point it should be noted that St Joseph's Scholasticate owes a great debt of gratitude to the Transvaal Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Fr Nolan was the first of many priests from that Province to be appointed to the staff of St Joseph's viz. Frs Wilfred Vogt, Brian Devitt, John (Jack) O'Brien, Karl Struve, Peter Haskins, Garth Michelson, Chris Langeveld, Peter Galloway, and very recently Frank McGreal.

Fr Nolan returned to his home Province (Anglo-Irish) in 1985 as chaplain to the Little Sisters of the Poor. He died in the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Stoke, Newington, London, on the 2 November 1992.



O'BRIEN, John “Jack”



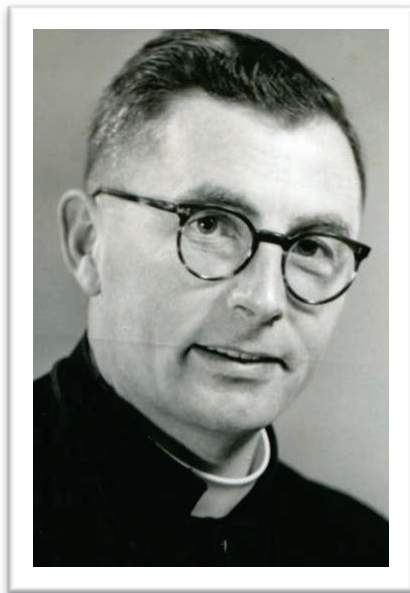
John O'Brien was born in Johannesburg on 21 December 1919. After completing his novitiate year in Germiston in 1938, he and co-novice, Gerard Coleman, made their first profession in 1939. They were then sent to Roma, Lesotho, for their clerical studies, as St Joseph's Scholasticate had not yet opened. They made their final vows there in 1942. At the beginning of 1945 Brothers Coleman and O'Brien joined the Prestbury community to complete their last two years of theology. Their ordination to the priesthood on 21 December 1945 in the Pro-Cathedral in Kerk Street, Johannesburg by Bishop David O'Leary OMI, made them the first priests to be ordained from St Joseph's Scholasticate.

When Fr Denis Hurley was named Vicar Apostolic of Natal in succession to Bishop Henry Delalle on the 22 December 1946, a vacancy was created among the struggling staff of St Joseph's at Prestbury. A letter from the Vicar General of the Congregation authorized the Vicar of Missions (Fr Kerautret) to request Fr Patrick Whelan (Vicar of the Transvaal) to release Fr John O'Brien so that he could join the Prestbury staff as lecturer and he was appointed on the 21 January 1947.

In 1963 he returned to his home Province and was appointed to St Benedict's College as chaplain and teacher and remained there till 1982. Eventually he retired from active ministry and settled in at Victory Park, but he continued to help in Rosebank parish. For several years he wrote a column in the *Southern Cross* on various topics, particularly Holy Scripture. Fr Jack died in Johannesburg on the 19 May 2009 aged 90.



O'HARA, Gerard



Gerard (or Gerry, as he was better known) was born in Sheffield, England on 5 September 1926. He attended the De La Salle High School in Ireland. At the age of 18, he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Cahermoyle, Ireland, making his first vows there on 29 September 1945, and then went to Belmont to begin his priestly studies. After making his final profession there on 29 September 1948, he went on to Piltown to complete his theology. He also attended the University College in Dublin where he obtained his MA. He returned to England for his ordination which took place at Mt St Mary's, Leeds on the 21 September 1952. After receiving his obedience for Natal, he arrived in Durban on 16 February 1954 and was appointed as lecturer at St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara. Unfortunately his stay there was short lived as he suffered a severe attack of depression. After being hospitalised, he was sent as assistant priest to the Bluff parish of St Francis Xavier from June 1954 to March 1956. During this time his health improved considerably and he returned to the Scholasticate as lecturer.

During his long stay at Cedara (1956 to 1971) he served as Provincial Director of the MAMI. He also attended the University and Training College in Pietermaritzburg from March 1956 to June 1971, during which time he obtained his Doctorate in Philosophy. At the same time he acted as chaplain to St Charles' College. Unfortunately he then suffered another serious attack of depression for which he was treated, first in Durban and then in Johannesburg. Whilst recuperating after treatment, he did a spell of assisting in one or two parishes in Johannesburg, and then returned to Natal. He was appointed as *locum tenens* in Mayville, Assumption, Greyville, Montclair, Port Shepstone, back again at Greyville, and finally at Osindisweni hospital, Oakford. Next followed a short spell at Shaka's Kraal from June to December 1976, then as parish priest to Bellair (June 1977–1979), Oakford (1980–1988) and finally to Maphumulo (1988–1994). He did very well indeed at Maphumulo, with his typical zeal and exuberant energy and became quite fluent in the Zulu language.

Gerry had a very sharp intelligence, being able to grasp concepts quickly and concisely. He was a prolific reader and had a deep spirituality. He also had a sharp and quick sense of humour. He wrote a booklet on the life of Blessed Joseph Gerard, and various articles on philosophy and theology.

Sadly, in 1994, Gerry once again succumbed to a serious attack of his illness, and this time it seemed he did not show any improvement. He was sent to Ireland for further treatment, but



whilst in hospital, he suffered a massive heart attack and died on 26 November 1995. The Requiem Mass and burial took place at the Oblate church in Inchicore, Dublin, where his body lies among his Irish Oblate confreres. Although Gerry was born in England, most of his early life was spent in Ireland, and he retained a deep love for the Irish, although in his heart he became a true South African to the end. A Requiem Mass was held for him at Cedara, attended by a great number of his Oblate brother-priests and scholastics.



O'SULLIVAN, Denis



Denis Vincent O'Sullivan was born on 2 November 1909 in Ennismore, Listowel, Co. Kerry, son of Michael O'Sullivan and Sarah neé Lavery. He attended the Technical School at Listowel from 1922 to 1924, worked for some years, and then went to the Oblate Late Vocations College at Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin, from 1934 to 1937. He entered the novitiate at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick on 14 September 1937 and took his first vows there on 15 September 1938. He then went to the scholasticate at Daingean, Co. Offaly, and moved with it in 1940 to Piltown, Co. Kilkenny where he took his final vows on 15 September 1941 and was ordained in Piltown parish church on 29 June 1943. From 1944 to 1948 he was at Wistaston Hall, Crewe.

In 1948 he moved to the Vicariate of Natal, South Africa and remained there until 1971. During these years he served in various places, notably Stanger, Newcastle, and St Anthony's in Pietermaritzburg.

After his return to England in 1971 he was at Star of the Sea parish, Leith, Scotland until 1990 and then went to St Anne parish, Birmingham until 1998 when he entered a nursing home at Tralee, Co. Kerry. He died there on 2 September 2001 and is buried in the family grave at Ballybunion, Co. Kerry.



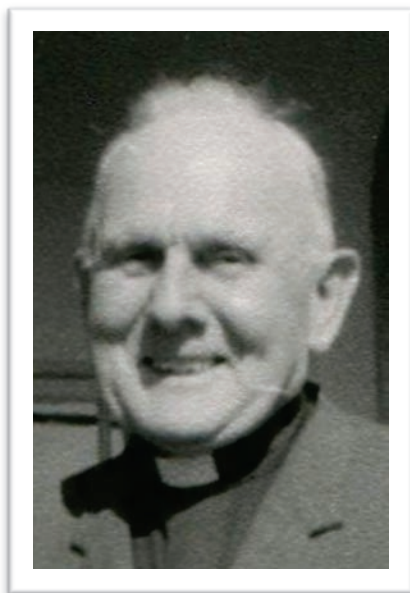
O'SULLIVAN, Edward



Ed was born on 14 September 1910 in Lowell MA, USA. He was ordained to the priesthood on 13 June 1934 in Washington, DC and he received his obedience for Natal, South Africa the same year. During World War II he served in the South African Forces as army chaplain, and became Principal Catholic Chaplain with the rank of Lt Colonel. After the war he came back to Natal for a short time but returned to the USA in 1948, and was posted to the Oblate Juniorate in Newburgh, NY as a lecturer, and remained there till 1955. He was then posted to St Patrick's parish, Fayetteville, NC (1955–62) as pastor; St Joseph's parish, Essex, NY (1962–66) as pastor; Holy Angels parish, Buffalo, NY (1966) as assistant; Immaculate Conception parish, Lowell, MA (1966–73) as assistant and bursar; and finally to St William's parish, Tewksbury, MA (1973–76). He retired in Tewksbury in 1976 and remained there till his death on 25 May 1985 in Lowell, MA, aged 75.



PFISTER, Anton (Antoine)



Antoine was born at Brumath, Alsace, Lorraine, France on 15 January 1902. In 1920 he entered the Oblate Novitiate, making his first vows the following year, and his final profession in 1924. He was ordained to the priesthood in July 1926 at Liège, Belgium, by Bishop Henry Delalle of Durban, who himself was born in Lorraine. The next year Antoine arrived in Durban to begin his long and fruitful missionary life in Natal. To say that Fr Pfister was a zealous priest is an understatement. He was always on the move, full of energy, so much so that he was nicknamed *Mashushu* by the Zulu people, a name meaning 'a restless person'. His first assignment was to Montebello to help Fr L'Hote in 1928. It was there that he began his zealous missionary life. One must take into consideration the very difficult terrain in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. In the 1920's and early 30's the only means of travel was on horseback or on foot. Despite this, Pfister erected school and church buildings in six outstations: Emaphephetheni; Immaculata; Mbava; Emalangen; Ensuta; and Noodsberg. The materials had to be carried on the heads of Zulu women, and Antoine did the building with

his own hands. In April 1932 Pfister was transferred to Inchanga, another mission with a difficult terrain. There too Antoine put his building expertise to work constructing a large presbytery in brick with six rooms at Inchanga itself; a church-school at Botha's Hill (Bethlehem) and at KwaMemfu; obtained a site at Table Mountain where he built a large church in sandstone; a church-school at Entweka (Bethany); obtained another site at Hillcrest; and at Hammarsdale a church of wood and iron. More importantly, Pfister obtained the site at Ntshongweni on which his successor, Fr Henry Wagner OMI, would later build a great mission and begin the now well-known and very popular pilgrimage shrine of 'Our Lady of Ntshongweni'. All this Antoine accomplished in two years. From 1934 to 1941 he was at Mbava and from there he developed the stations which he had previously served from Montebello. Mbava is situated in the very heart of the Valley, and has probably one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult, approach to the mission.

From 1941 to 1956 Pfister was stationed at Besters in northern Natal. This was a mission founded by the Trappists of Mariannhill and comprised a large farm with a large stock of cattle. There he built a school out of granite, and with the aid of Italian prisoners-of-war, he also built a beautiful church seating about 800 people. In the outlying districts he developed the outstations of Khumaloville with a large brick hut seating about 150 people; Driefontein (a church in granite) and Watermeet (a large church in stone).



In 1956 Pfister was transferred to Elandskop where he ministered till 1974. Whilst there, not only did he develop the main mission itself by building a church in cement blocks and a school of five classrooms, but he also built churches, a convent and schoolrooms at KwaMadlala, Emafakathini and Emvelweni. From Elandskop Pfister was transferred to Henley, where he built a convent for the sisters, and a church in cement blocks seating about 600 people and in the outstations of KwaDindi, KwaNgubeni, Gezubuso and KwaShange he built churches. Then in 1974 he was transferred to Ekukhanyeni (Inanda) on the north coast of Natal. He was then 74 years of age, but still full of energy, and still building. In less than a year he obtained three new sites for churches.

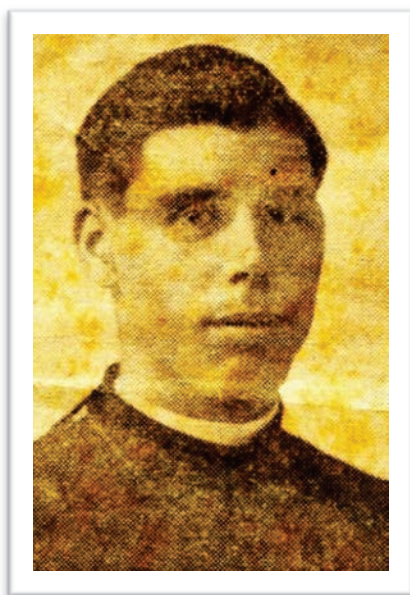
This long list of material activity and progress may give the impression that Antoine Pfister did not give much time to his spiritual life. On the contrary, every day, morning and evening, he spent about an hour before the Blessed Sacrament in deep prayer. He never relegated his spiritual exercises to second place. By temperament, Antoine was short-tempered, but his charity and his willingness to help others overcame these faults of human nature. He had a profound devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin. He was a powerful preacher who was able to move the hearts of his hearers. He was a great promoter of vocations to the religious life, especially of women religious. One of his confreres stated that he was responsible for introducing at least 40 young ladies to the different women Congregations.

Fr Pierre Freoux wrote an article on the occasion of Fr Pfister's Golden Jubilee of Ordination in 1976, in which he stated: "Fr Antoine Pfister will remain in the religious history of Natal with the prestige of a pioneer of indomitable courage, a zealous priest after the example of the Good Shepherd, a religious of deep interior life, a Missionary in the footsteps of St Paul, the great apostle of the Gentiles. So, dear Fr Antoine, thank you for all this on behalf of Natal, of the whole Church, and...of Alsace...*Ad multos faustissimos annos,..ad maiorem gloriam Dei.*"

In the early part of 1980, Antoine Pfister retired to his home in Alsace, to N.D. de Neunkirch where he remained till his death. At the end he underwent three operations within one month. On 21 February 1987, at the age of 85, he died peacefully, offering his life over to the Lord for his beloved missions of Natal.



PORSMOQUER, François (Francis)



Francis was born on 15 March 1911 at Ile de Sein in the Diocese of Quimper, France. His parents were Jean and Marie (born Fouquet). At 18 years of age he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Berder on 14 August 1929, making his first vows there on 15 August 1930. He then went to the Oblate Scholasticate at La Brosse-Montceaux to pursue his priestly studies, made his final profession there on 11 October 1934, and was ordained priest on 5 July 1936. The following year he received his obedience for Natal. His missionary life was cut short by World War II when he was called up to serve in the French army. Sadly, he was killed in action on 8 June 1940 at Rocquencourt, Belgium at the young age of 29.

An article in the *Southern Cross* states: "News has been received of the death of Fr Porsmoguer OMI, who with other priests of the Natal Vicariate left Durban in October, 1939, in response to the call of his motherland – France. In his last letter to his Provincial, he asked permission to volunteer for a dangerous post. A reply in the affirmative was sent to him. 'If the priestly ministrations were required.' He was killed in Belgium in June, 1940. Only two years ago he arrived in Natal from his home (Ile de Sein, France) and began his missionary labours in the missions at Inanda and Ladysmith... R.I.P."



PORTE, Frederick



Frederick Porte was born on 11 April 1856 in Gould in the diocese of Avignon, France. He joined the Oblate Congregation at N.D. de l'Osier on the 9 August 1875, making his first vows there the following year, and his final vows on the 15 August 1877 at Autun, with the Oblate number 950. He received an obedience for Natal, and arrived in Durban in 1881 at the age of 25 as a scholastic deacon. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jolivet in Pietermaritzburg on the 12 March 1881 and then worked in and around Durban. Bishop Jolivet remarked in his journal in April 1881 that that he was very pleased with Porte's work at the Bluff. In 1884 Fr Porte was sent to Basutoland (Lesotho) where in 1886 he founded the mission of Sion. From there he also worked in the Orange Free State and Transvaal for some years. It would seem that he was a zealous and successful missionary.

In June 1907 the General Council of the Oblates decided to unite the missionaries working in the Transvaal under Bishop William Miller, with those in the Orange River Colony, which included Kimberley and outlying areas, under Bishop Matthew Gaughren. These were then

placed under one religious superior with the title Vicar of Missions and Frederick Porte was appointed to the position. Considering the vast area for which Porte was now responsible and the lack of transport and means of communication in those days, it is not surprising that in no time difficulties arose between the two bishops and Fr Porte. In the main these difficulties were of a financial nature, and Fr Porte was caught in the middle and found himself in an impossible situation not of his making. This led to disputes which eventually caused Bishop Miller to hand in his resignation and he retired to the Oblate House in Belmont, Ireland. Fortunately his successor, Bishop Charles Cox got on very well with Fr Porte.

Fr Porte's missionary efforts also extended into Bechuanaland, now Botswana, where his establishment of the St Paul's mission among the Batlhaping at Taung, although unsuccessful at first, bore long term fruit and a catechist school there became an important training ground for future evangelism. (*Builders of Botswana-Bakatolike MO Botswana*, 23 January 2004). Porte was fluent in Sesotho, and "... he introduced the orthography used in Catholic publications even today. He was able to learn Setswana very quickly, and also very well indeed. He found the Bible translated already by Robert Moffat and concentrated on the translation of a Catholic Catechism and the texts of the Sacred Liturgy...He related well to the chiefs as in Basutoland. During the time of military conflict between the British and the Boers, the French flag was shown as a sign of neutrality in



Taung. This neutrality was respected by the Boers and by the English" (L. Ademmer OMI).

Porte was far-seeing in his missionary approach. He encouraged lay participation as much as possible. "He trained local people to lead Sunday services and to help in the instruction of catechumens" (*ibid*). He opened many outstations which also served as schools.

Porte served as Vicar of Missions (Provincial Superior) for the Oblates serving in the Kimberley and Transvaal Vicariates, from 1907 till 1926. During this time in addition to financial problems, he suffered from a lack of personnel as many French priests were called up by France during the First World War. After the War "... a new start was made when the German Province was entrusted with the mission work on the Diamond Fields" and this valiant and tireless missionary returned to Durban where he finally died on 9 August 1926. His remains were buried "... in Taung in a mausoleum constructed by him, built using 4 columns left over from the building of the church." (Ademmer)



RAPHALEN, Michel

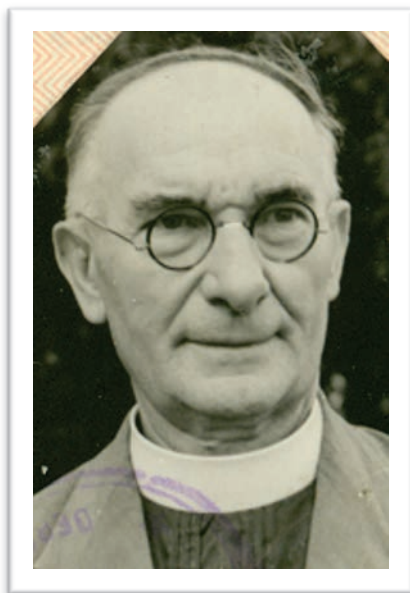


Michel was born on 9 July 1908 at Germain, Finistère, France. At the age of 19 he entered the Oblate Novitiate and made his first vows at Coigny, Normandie on 15 August 1928. From there he began his clerical studies at the Oblate Scholasticate at Liège where he made his final profession on 15 August 1932. He continued his studies at La Brosse-Montceaux, where he was ordained to the priesthood on 25 July 1934. He received his first obedience for the missions of Natal, and arrived in Durban on 8 November 1935. He began his missionary apostolate at Oakford where he learned the Zulu language and eventually became very proficient in it. He made a special study of Zulu proverbs, and used these extensively in his preaching. Often the people did not understand him because they were not accustomed to the proverbs! From February 1936 to July 1939 he was at Montebello, then at Ekukhanyeni (Inanda) from July 1939 to February 1945 and from there he was assigned to Newcastle where he ministered up to March 1948. From October 1949 to August 1950 he served at Mhlumayo and then moved back to Newcastle from 1950 to 1952. In May 1952 he was transferred to St Joan of Arc, Pietermaritzburg.

Michel had a rather fiery temperament. His Zulu nickname was *uMvuthuze* (from 'vutha' which means to blaze, explode, be passionate). On the other hand, this was to his advantage because he preached with great verve to good effect. He also liked to tease his confreres in a friendly manner. In his latter days he became very fixed and 'conservative' in his ways and in his interpretation of the liturgy and could not bring himself to accept the changes brought about by Vatican II in the liturgy. He eventually requested to return to his home Province, and died at Pontmain, France on 23 May 1983.



ROSENTHAL, Joseph (Josef)



Joseph was born in Niederfischbach, diocese of Trier, Germany on 2 August 1883. After entering the Oblate Novitiate at St Gerlach, he made his first vows in 1904, and final vows on 15 August 1905 at Hünfeld with Oblation Number 2570. On the 25 April 1909 he was ordained to the priesthood at Hünfeld. He came to work in Natal the same year and was one of the first German missionaries to work in Zululand. At the outbreak of the First World War he was transferred to Basutoland (Lesotho) to avoid being interned as a German national. After the war he returned to Natal and in 1921 was posted to Greytown and surrounding area, where great progress was made in the five years he spent there. He built a mission school in the town location for the children living in and around Greytown and "... soon had 150 Black Catholics in his congregation and employed two catechists to instruct the 82 catechumens at two centres... Working from Greytown, Rosenthal was able to acquire land at Sevenoaks, and St Joseph's chapel-school was opened there in 1923. He also visited and said Mass at Kranskop, Lilani and Muden." This was an extensive area which the priest covered on horseback.

When Bishop Meysing and the German Oblates took over the Kimberley Vicariate, Rosenthal joined them and worked for many years in Bloemfontein. He loved to work among the black African population in Bochabela. According to his obituary notice, in 1951 he was sent to Europe to regain his strength, energy and health. Unfortunately, whilst there he was struck down by a malignant disease, and on the 4 May 1953 he died in his hometown of Niederfischbach, after a long and successful missionary apostolate.



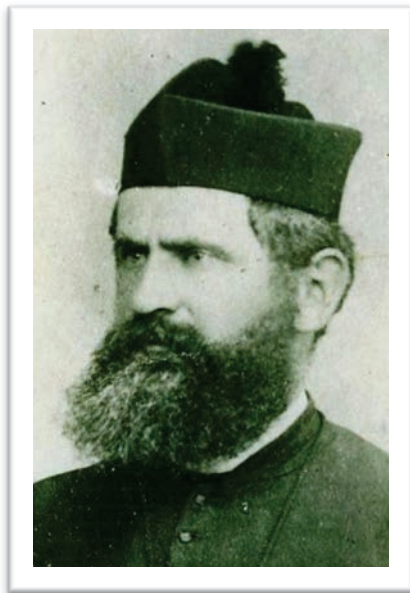
RYAN, Cornelius Anthony



Cornelius ('Con' as he was known by his confreres) was born in Dublin on 6 June 1916 of Thomas and Winifred Ryan. As a youngster he attended Caffrey's College in Dublin for a year (1933–34) and then went to the Oblate Late Vocations College at Belmont House, Stillorgan, Dublin from 1934–37. He entered the Oblate Novitiate in September 1937 and made his first vows there on 22 September 1938. From Belmont he went to begin his priestly studies in Daingean for a year, after which he went to Piltown to complete his philosophy and theology courses and made his final profession there on 22 September 1941. He was ordained in Piltown on 29 June 1943. He received his first obedience for Natal where he worked from 1944 to 1961, serving at Emmanuel Cathedral; Seven Oaks; Greytown; KwaMashu; and Newlands where he founded the church at Emachobeni. In 1961 he requested to be transferred to Texas and remained there for the rest of his life. He died at Houston, Texas, on 10 October 1993 and is buried in the Oblate cemetery at San Antonio, Texas.



SCHOCH, Aloysius

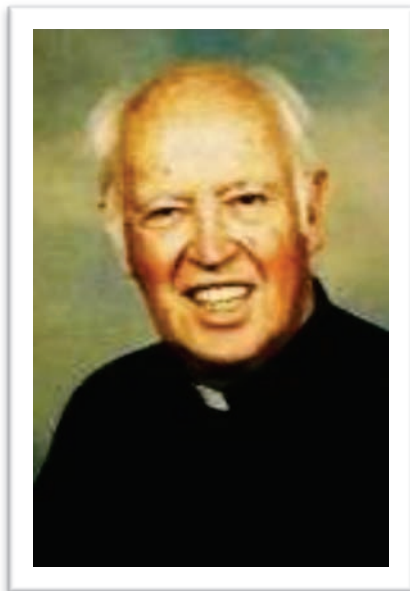


Aloysius Schoch was born at Strasbourg in 1853 and was ordained in 1876. He worked in the diamond fields for some years before going to the Transkei, where he worked most diligently and successfully. Jolivet spoke very highly of this good priest and wrote in his journal in July 1887: "Fr Schoch works a lot and with success. Everywhere he spreads Catholic books and papers. He is loved and respected by everybody."

In 1891 Schoch became the prefect apostolic of the Transvaal Province. According to the Oblate Necrology, Fr Schoch died in the Red Sea on the 13 April 1898, presumably on his way to the Oblate General Chapter.



SMITH, William



Bill was born in Maynard, MA, USA on 7 August 1918, son of William J. and Alice C. (born Raiche) Smith. He was educated in Maynard and attended Boston College. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Tewksbury, MA in 1938 at the age of 20, and made his first vows on 8 September 1939, and final vows in 1942. He was ordained priest on 4 June 1945 in Washington, DC by Bishop Arsene Turquetil OMI, who was well known for the years he had spent in the Far North of Canada. Bill received his first obedience for Natal, South Africa. Whilst awaiting passage on a ship he spent a short time at the Immaculate Heart Novitiate at Tewksbury, MA in 1945–46. He arrived at Durban, Natal, in 1946 and began his ministry in Dundee, northern Natal, (1946–49). From there he was transferred to Maria Ratschitz Mission, Wasbank, founded by the Trappist monks, to take charge of the mission and farm (1949–56). He was then appointed parish priest of Greytown (1956–62), after which he spent a few months at Machibisa during 1962, and from there he went back to the States on home leave.

On his return in 1963 he was appointed parish priest of Estcourt, where he remained till 1973. Whilst there he baptized a baby who was given the name Vusumuzi Mazibuko. This baby was destined to become Provincial of the Natal Oblate Province in 2011, the year in which Bill would give himself up to his heavenly Father.

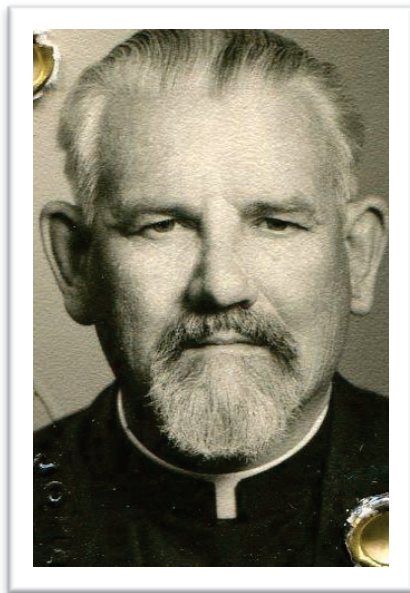
From 1973–83 Bill served as priest in charge of Chatsworth, a burgeoning suburb to the south of Durban. Finally he went to Redhill for a year (1983–84).

In 1984 he returned permanently to the States where he served in St William's parish, Tewksbury, MA from 1984–93. That year he was transferred to the Immaculate Heart Novitiate, Tewksbury, as bursar, and from 1993–2000 served as assistant in the Oblate community in Tewksbury. In 2000 he retired to the IHM residence at Tewksbury and remained there till his death on 15 February 2011, aged 93.

Bill was a big man, both in stature and in heart, who very easily endeared himself to the people he served. He enjoyed company, especially of his confreres, and they in turn welcomed his presence among themselves. His laughter was infectious. Bill had a great devotion to our Immaculate Mother Mary who, no doubt, was there to welcome him into the glory of heaven.



STEPHAN, Joseph



Joseph Stephan was born at Guliers, France on 26 March 1905. He completed his preliminary studies at the Oblate Juniorate in Jersey, after which he entered the Novitiate at Coigny in 1924 at the age of 19. He made his first profession on 15 October 1925, and then went to Liège in Belgium to pursue his priestly studies. He made his final vows there on 1 November 1929 and was ordained to the priesthood on 29 September 1931. Joe, like most of the missionaries of the time, had a strong desire to give himself to the foreign missions. These young men prepared for this offering of themselves both psychologically and physically. At the time, the missions in northern Canada amidst the Eskimos in the bitter climate of the 'Far North', had a strong appeal to the French scholastics. Joseph Stephan recounted how they would sleep out in the open in mid-winter to accustom themselves to the hardships of the Canadian missions! However, instead, Joe received his obedience for the very warm climate of Natal! He arrived in Durban on 29 September 1932, and was immediately placed at Montebello to begin learning the Zulu language. In November 1933 he went to

Maphumulo for a short time and from there to Corpus Christi, Upper Tongaat, where in November 1934 he was appointed parish priest and he remained there for several years, building up a strong mission together with its outstations on the edge of the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

When the Second World War broke out Joe was called up for military service, together with many of his French confreres, who had to leave their missions to go and serve their motherland. Joe was a well-known raconteur of stories, real and imaginary. Later he would regale his brother priests with his stories of the war front and how he began writing his Zulu grammar sitting on the barrel of a cannon!

After the war he returned to his mission at Upper Tongaat where he constructed buildings in the shape of concrete huts. The mission became known as Joe's 'Maginot Line'! (This was the French line of defence against German invasion – a barricade of concrete bunkers stretching almost the length of the eastern frontier of France.)

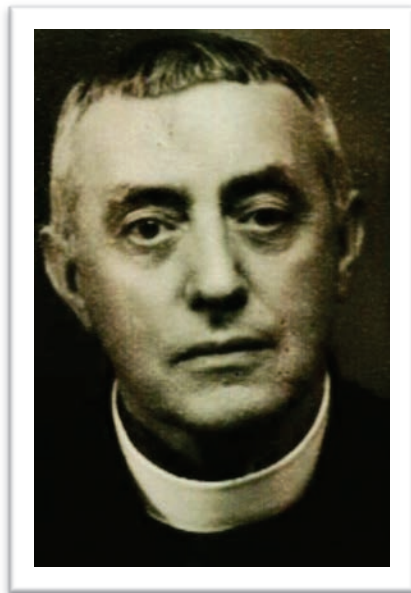


In 1956 he was transferred to Malvern, a suburb of Durban, where the Augustinian Sisters ran an orphanage and, in 1962, he took up residence as parish priest of St Joan of Arc, Maryvale, Pietermaritzburg. During all those years Fr Stephan became fluent in the Zulu language – somewhat of an expert. He wrote a complete Zulu grammar and a Gospel in isiZulu, but in the old orthography which had been officially rejected many years ago. But that did not deter Joe! He was a Breton by birth and by nature!

Finally Joe's health began to deteriorate to the extent that he realized he could not continue his apostolate. It was suggested to him that he take his long leave, and consider retiring to his home province in France where he could be nursed, and where his relatives would be able to visit him and care for him. He agreed to this plan, and in fact, spent nearly his whole long leave in the loving care of his sister and her family at Plouarzel, dying peacefully there on 28 July 1977, at the age of 72. A Mass was celebrated for him on 8 August 1977 at St Joan of Arc, his last residence in the missions to which he had dedicated his whole life.



TANGUY, Alain



Alain Tanguy was born in Brittany in 1882. After completing his schooling he entered the Diocesan Seminary to study for the priesthood, but then decided to join the Oblate Congregation as a missionary. He did his novitiate in 1904 and made his first vows in 1905 and then went to complete his studies at the Oblate Scholasticate at Liège in Belgium. He made his final profession there in 1906 and was ordained in 1907. He received his obedience for Natal and began his ministry at St Anthony's in Durban where he spent a few years and learned to speak Tamil. His next move was to Umtata and later to Kokstad. When the Transkei was made part of the Mariannhill Vicariate, Tanguy came back to Natal and returned to St Anthony's.

During the First World War he, like most of the French Oblates, was called up to serve in the French army. After the War he came back to Natal, and served successfully at Red Hill; Pietermaritzburg; Montebello; Verulam; Stanger (KwaDukuza); and finally Oakford, where his health broke down.

In 1946 he was sent to France for medical treatment and spent most of his remaining years in hospital at Montmorillon where he eventually died at the age of 80 years on 29 March 1962. Tanguy was a great preacher, both in English and in isiZulu and will long be remembered by those with whom he came into contact during his many years as a missionary in South Africa. He was kind and fatherly towards his parishioners who came to love and respect him for his piety and devotion.



TRABAUD, Leopold-Louis



Leopold was born on 11 May 1856, at Entrevaux in the Diocese of Digne, France. His parents were François and Marie-Anne (born Cilly). As a young man, aged 20, he took the habit at the Oblate novitiate of N.D. de l'Osier on 5 August 1876 and made his first vows the following year. He then began his priestly studies at Autun where he made his final vows on the 15 August 1878, receiving the Oblate number 993. He received his obedience for the Natal Vicariate and arrived in Durban in August 1879 as a scholastic. On the 12 March 1881 he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jolivet in Pietermaritzburg together with Fr Frederick Porte. "In 1882 he started a small mission among Indians and Blacks who had settled on the outskirts of the town [Pietermaritzburg]. He found the difficulties insurmountable since he had very little knowledge of English or Zulu and none at all of Tamil, while the people were irregular in attendance and showed little interest. Shortly afterwards his health gave cause for concern and he was transferred to Pretoria." (JBII pp.93,190). In September 1883 he and Bishop Jolivet left for Pretoria, where he was appointed chaplain to

the Loreto Sisters and priest-in-charge of the parish. He was still there in 1886, but in 1887 he was in Johannesburg.

At the end of 1889 Trabaud was in Potchefstroom where he was overseeing the construction of a convent for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Whilst there, in June 1890, he became the victim of a scoundrel named Jack McLoughlin, a 'tramp' to whom he had given shelter when the latter came to his door for help. Unbeknown to Trabaud, Jack had a string of misdemeanours to his name including a recent daring break-in at a store in Rustenberg with his Irish compatriots dubbed the 'Irish Brigade'. While Jack and his friend, John O'Brien, were staying with Trabaud they decided to rob him and waited for the priest to go out, then slipped into his room and went through his belongings. They found 3 boxes – one had personal belongings, the second a small amount of cash and the third about £20 which Trabaud had collected by public subscription for a library. As they were leaving with the boxes Trabaud walked in. He tried to reason with them but eventually left them and ran for help. The two men were found and arrested but a few days later escaped from the flimsy gaol. The guards fired their guns after the fleeing men. O'Brien was killed and McLoughlin was hit by a bullet in his wrist and eventually had to have his lower arm amputated. Some years later, after being a wanted man for many years, Jack McLoughlin was hanged in Pretoria in 1910. (*Showdown at the Red Lion* by Charles van Onselen).



No doubt as a result of these traumatic events, Bishop Jolivet noted in January 1891 that Fr Trabaud was in Pietermaritzburg as an invalid. He was soon back in Pretoria however as Jolivet wrote on 7 August 1892: "I spent some days in Pretoria...the little cemetery where my dear sister rests is well looked after by Fr Trabaud and the Sisters." In 1898 Trabaud went to Europe, probably as the Oblate delegate to the General Chapter. He arrived in Paris exhausted, according to Jolivet's journal.

Shortly afterwards Leopold must have been transferred to Durban because in 1902 he preached the annual retreat first to the Holy Family Sisters and then to the Sisters of Nazareth in Durban. Trabaud was the first to celebrate Holy Mass at Bellair (near Durban) where the Holy Family Sisters had opened a new convent. This took place on 14 December 1902. In January of the following year he went to preach the Sisters' retreat at Umzinto (Kermaria Sisters).

In 1919 Trabaud went back to France where, on 10 August 1937, this valiant missionary returned to his Maker at N.D. de Lumières, at the end of a long life of dedicated service to his Lord and Master. He was 81 years of age.

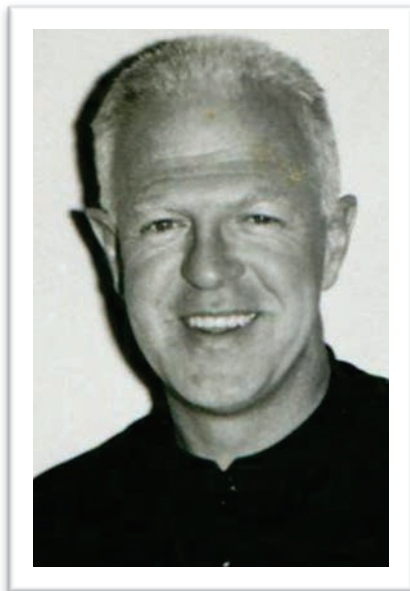


TUITE, Bro. Christopher

Christopher was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1843 of Michael Tuite and Elizabeth (born Tyrell). He took the habit as an Oblate at Belmont on 17 February 1871 and made his first vows in 1872. After his novitiate he was stationed at Philipstown for a while where the Oblates ran a 'Reformatory' for boys. In January 1875 he came to Natal with Bishop Jolivet's party and made his final profession there on 17 February 1879. He worked at Roma, Lesotho, for a few years from 1880 onwards but by 1885 he was in Pietermaritzburg and in 1895 at Kimberley. For unknown reasons Bro. Tuite was transferred to Australia in September 1899. He must have been one of the pioneer Oblates in that country. According to Jolivet's Journal on the 16 October 1901, a Requiem Mass was celebrated in Durban for Bro. Tuite who had died in Australia on 18 September 1901.



VOGT, Wilfred John



Wilfred was born on the 4 May 1917 in Kimberley of William Robert Vogt and Florence Margaret (née Ward). Shortly afterwards his parents moved to Johannesburg where his primary and secondary education were done at Marist Brothers' College in Koch St and Observatory from 1927–1934. After matriculating he decided to join the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was the first novice to enter the newly established Novitiate in Germiston on 5 August 1935 together with Cyril Armstrong (who did not persevere). He made his first vows there on 15 August 1936, after which he was sent to the Oblate Scholasticate first at N.D. de l'Osier, Isere, and then at N.D. des Lumières, France, for his philosophical and theological studies. During that time he was joined by three other South Africans who had entered the Oblates two years after Wilfred, namely: Brian Devitt (from Transvaal), and Raymond Coates and Cyril Hayward (Natal). Wilfred made his final profession on 15 August 1939, and two years later was ordained to the priesthood at Lumières on 6 July 1941. This was in the middle of World War II, and France was occupied by the German forces. During that time the

members of the Scholasticate community at Lumières, including the four South Africans, were interned by the Nazis in a concentration camp for several months until they were liberated by the advancing Allied Forces in 1944. In mid-1945 the four South Africans returned to South Africa.

Fr Vogt was a talented and gifted man. When he had first arrived at Lumières, within a month he could read and speak French fluently. He also became very proficient in Latin. He was a very versatile man: a good musician as well as an excellent lecturer. He remained attached to St Joseph's for the next 28 years and also accompanied Archbishop Hurley to Vatican Council II as English Secretary to the Pan-African Episcopal Secretariate.

In 1974 Wilfred retired from St Joseph's, and spent some time as assistant priest at Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban and at St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg in 1976. He continued to lecture on a part-time basis both at Cedara and Khanyisa Pastoral Institute at Mariannhill. He served on the National and Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and was an indispensable member of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal for over 30 years. Towards the end of June 1978 he moved to Johannesburg to serve the Charismatic Renewal Movement in the Catholic Church, and also to write; but soon after he settled there, he suffered a heart attack and died unexpectedly on the 7 July 1978 while in Roodepoort. His body was transported back to Pietermaritzburg where his Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Mary's. He was laid to rest in the Oblate cemetery at Cedara, where he had spent so many years forming and teaching scholastics prior to their ordination. He was 61 years of age.



A past student of Wilfred's wrote the following after his death: "It would be fitting to close this short and imperfect tribute with a little prayer found on a piece of paper among his belongings, written in his own hand, and which admirably sums up his life, especially his relationship with God, *Lord, I praise and thank you that you have not let me go through this life without knowing a love like this!*"



WALSH, Andrew



Andrew Walsh was born at Tinnekilly, Carrick-on Suir, Co. Tipperary, Ireland on 27 November 1839. At the age of 25 he was ordained as a diocesan priest at Lismore (Ireland) for the diocese of Waterford in 1864. After eight years in the ministry, he decided to join the Oblate Congregation as a missionary. After receiving the habit at Belmont House on 8 August 1871, he made his final vows at Stillorgan on the 8 September 1872. In January 1875 he received his obedience for the mission fields of South Africa and was among the six Oblates who accompanied Bishop Jolivet on his first journey to Natal. Walsh had a rather varied and exciting missionary career spent mainly in the developing towns in the diamond and gold fields. In November 1875 we find him at Pilgrim's Rest in the Transvaal where gold had been discovered in 1873 and here he built a house-school-chapel. He kept in regular contact with the Bishop, mainly through correspondence. By December 1876 he was in Kimberley where he was attending to the growing Catholic population drawn to the 'Diamond Fields'. Jolivet wrote that he had arranged to have the sanctuary, altar and confessional rebuilt in the church there.

In April 1877 Fr Walsh was sent to Pretoria to be its first 'parish priest'.

However, in December 1878, at the outbreak of the Zulu War, Frs Walsh and Baudry were appointed military chaplains to the British Forces in Natal but by August 1880 he was back in Pretoria from where he continued to attend to the needs of soldiers whilst, at the same time, doing missionary work between Pretoria, Lydenburg, and Standerton. In April 1881 the Bishop received a cruel blow in the form of a message stating that Fr Walsh had been killed whilst attending to a wounded soldier. Fortunately this turned out to have been a false announcement.

In September 1881 Jolivet asked Fr Walsh to take charge of the nascent church at Jagersfontein and two years later the Bishop asked him to replace Fr Lenoir at Kimberley. There he ministered to the needs of the diggers, and was loved and revered by everyone, Catholic and Protestant alike. He remained in Kimberley till his death on the 12 September 1885, aged 46. He was greatly revered by the Catholic population and, in March 1886, the Bishop wrote that the local Catholics had ordered a beautiful altar to be erected in memory of Fr Walsh, their first pastor. He was buried in the Pioneers' Cemetery in Kimberley. At his funeral the Anglican dean spoke of Fr Walsh in these terms: "...a man, I believe, who put the glory of God first, the advancement of his peculiar form of faith second, and himself always last. Most Diamond Fields residents will think of him as a personal friend. And all will remember him as a good man, whilst certainly every priest and minister of religion will regard him as a bright example"



WEINRICH, Franz



Franz was born in 1871 at Worbis in the Diocese of Paderborn, Westphalia, Germany. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at St Gerlach on 15 July 1889 at the age of 18, and made his first vows on 16 July 1890. It would seem that he was sent to Rome for his priestly studies, and made his final profession there on 16 July 1891 obtaining Oblate No.1522. He received his first obedience for the South African missions, and Bishop Jolivet mentioned in his Journal in September 1891, that while he was in Paris, he had met Fr Rousset and Brother Weinrich who would be on the same ship returning to South Africa. On their arrival in Durban Weinrich left for Pietermaritzburg, where he taught French and Latin for a short time at St Charles' School. Jolivet mentioned in March 1892 that he had met Weinrich at Estcourt, where he had been sent to recuperate. Franz had rather delicate health, possibly tuberculosis, which plagued him for most of his life. In May of that year Franz came down to Pietermaritzburg. On the 21 September 1893, Jolivet wrote that he had ordained Brother Leonard (Trappist) and Oblates James O'Donnell and Weinrich to the subdiaconate and on

23 December the three were ordained deacons. 18 months later, on 8 June 1895 Jolivet ordained Weinrich and O'Donnell to the priesthood in Pietermaritzburg. He wrote: "Another two priests, young but good. May God preserve them and grant them to grow in fortitude! The young O'Donnell will say his first Mass in Durban, and Fr Weinrich will say his here in PMB on the 9th, tomorrow, Sunday." The last time the Bishop mentions Franz in his Journal is on 18 January 1897 when he remarks that Fr Weinrich is with Fr Meyer at Umtata and receiving good training from the former.

He worked mainly among the Coloured people whom he loved and was loved by them. "... He travelled a lot and was well known in the whole area and among all population groups ... He was also in charge of the mission farm for some time...He was sent home on leave in order to recuperate, but his health did not improve... On his return he attended to the completion of the church at Qumbu, built in real stone, and dedicated to the Queen of Angels. Fr P. Vernhet came to help him in this work." (Ademmer) Shortly afterwards Franz died at Umtata (Mthatha) on 15 June 1912 at the relatively young age of 41. "Fr Weinrich had a feeble body but an iron will. He is well remembered for his well-prepared catechism. He also cared for the sick and the poor." (*ibid*)



WIEST, Theodore

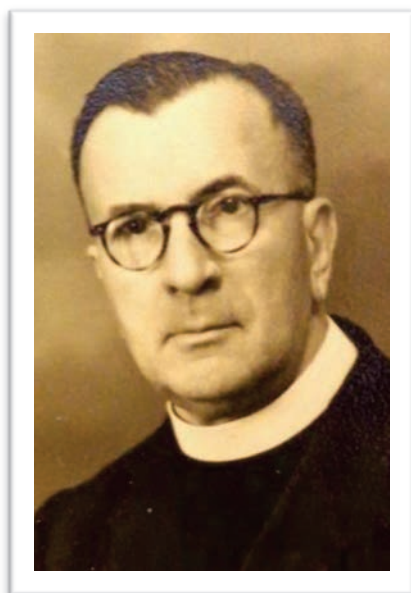


Theodore Wiest was born on 4 May 1900 in Petit-Eich in the Diocese of Metz. His parents were Auguste and Pauline (born Bauerschmit). At the age of 20 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Thy-le-Chateau on 9 May 1920. He made his first vows there on 10 May 1921, and then went on to Liège in Belgium for his scholastic studies. He made his final profession in Liège on 10 May 1924, and was ordained to the priesthood on 4 July 1926. He received his first obedience for Natal in October of the same year.

Theo Wiest was a zealous missionary who worked for many years among the Zulu people. He was a dedicated priest and was loved by the people he served. Toward the end of his life he was stationed at Clairwood (St Louis) but, unfortunately, his mental state had become such that he could no longer hold a responsible position and he was sent home to France for treatment. Sadly, his illness got progressively worse and in March 1963 he was hospitalised at the Strasbourg Clinic. During this long and painful illness, Fr Wiest was an example for his patience and Christian resignation. His acceptance of his suffering was a great grace. He died peacefully in the early hours of 12 May 1963, aged 63 years. His burial took place on 15 July at the Oblate Shrine of Our Lady of Neunkirch.



WOLF(E), Charles



Charles was born on 12 April 1885 in Bischheim in the Diocese of Strasbourg, Alsace, France. His father was Adolphe Wolf and his mother, Stéphanie (born Pârisse). He did his preliminary schooling at the Minor Seminary of Versailles, and then went to the Oblate Juniorate at N.D. de Sion in the Diocese of Nancy, France. Whilst he was there the Juniorate had to close due to the anti-Catholic laws in France at the time, and Charles was sent to continue his studies at Waereghem in the Diocese of Belgium.

He entered the Oblate Novitiate in Bestin at the age of 19, on the 7 September 1904, and made his first vows there the following year on 8 September 1905. He then went to Liège in Belgium to begin his clerical studies and made his final profession there on 30 September 1906 and was ordained on 10 July 1910. The following year he received his obedience for the Vicariate of Yukon, Canada. From 1911–1915 he ministered at Stuart Lake, then from 1917–1921 in Prince George after which he was assigned to Fraser Lake where he was the director of the Indian School. In 1923 he went to Stuart Lake till 1928, and then back

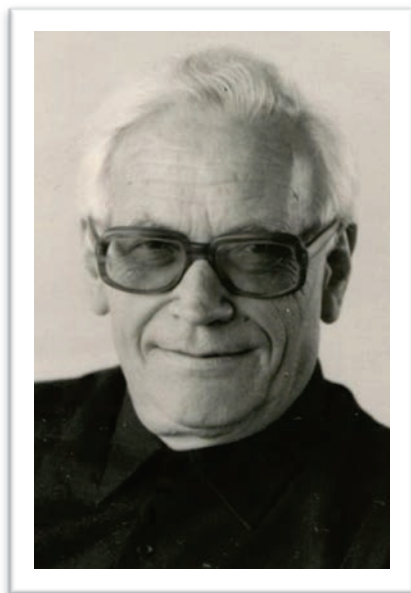
to Prince George till 1931. His next assignment was to Anyox where he remained till 1932, and the following year he received a new obedience of Natal where he arrived in 1933.

In Natal he was assigned to Verulam for about a year, then to Red Hill where he remained till 1937. The next ten years were spent as parish priest of St Mary's, Pietermaritzburg (1937–47), then he was moved to Montclair in Durban, where he also served as chaplain to the Good Shepherd Home (1947–48), and finally in 1948 he returned to Pietermaritzburg till 1952. His health had begun to deteriorate, and he decided to return to his home Province for treatment. But there was to be no cure and Charles died peacefully on the 14 January 1953 aged 68.

Charles was gentle by nature. When he arrived at St Mary's in Pietermaritzburg in 1937, he had introduced himself to his parishioners by saying: "My name is Charles Wolf. I am a 'wolf' in name only, and not by nature!" Almost immediately he endeared himself to the people, and wherever he served he was loved.



ZIENER, George



Georg(e) was born on 25 December 1917 – a Christmas baby – in the village of Ober-Abtsteinach, Odenwald Hessen, Germany. He was the son of the master painter Anton Ziener and his wife Eve, born Arnold. He attended the Minor Seminary at Obermedlingen in Borken and then entered the Oblate novitiate at Engelpfort in 1936 where he made his first profession on 25 April 1937. From there he went to Hünfeld to begin his priestly studies, but these were interrupted by World War II during which he served as a stretcher bearer in the armed forces. He resumed his studies after the war, and returned to Hünfeld where he made his final profession on 15 September 1946, and was ordained to the priesthood on 21 December 1946. From this time on he devoted himself to studies, especially the exegesis of the New Testament. In 1947 on 5 May he entered the University of Munich and then went on to Rome to the Gregoriana where he obtained a licentiate in theology. From there, in October 1949, he studied at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and obtained a licentiate in Sacred Scripture on 26 June 1950. In 1952 he took a study trip to the Near East, joining a

course at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem and in that year he also started to teach at Hünfeld. At the same time he visited the University of Mainz where he obtained a Doctorate in Theology on 6 July 1955. Later, on 6 May 1958, he concluded with a Doctorate in Sacred Scripture studies in Rome. Subsequently he taught exegesis of the New Testament at Hünfeld until 1971. He also taught in Fulda from 1967–1971 and occasionally at Marburg. After the closure of the Oblate Scholasticate at Hünfeld in 1971, Fr Ziener came to South Africa where he taught at the Oblate Scholasticate at Cedara in Natal until 1985. He also taught at the Catechetical School of Khanyisa at Mariannhill from 1976–1982. After that he gave priority to retreats and as spiritual advisor to the Sisters at Melville, Umzumbe (on the south coast of Natal).

In August 1993 he had a heart attack forcing him to return to Germany where he lived out the evening of his life at Hünfeld. At the beginning of 2002 he was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer and he died on the 11 February the same year, aged 85. (*Information taken from an article written by Fr Franz Josef Stendebach OMI after*

Fr Ziener's death.)

The most important work of Fr Ziener is his doctoral thesis: *The theological concept of the Book of Wisdom* [*Die theologische Begriffssprache im Buche der Weisheit*] edited by Bonn 1956. It is still quoted in literature relevant to the subject. Besides a number of contributions in magazines and dictionaries he also edited two commentaries on the Book of Wisdom,



both in the year 1970, by the Catholic Bible Society, Stuttgart, and Patmos Düsseldorf. Another project that he was to have edited at the suggestion of the publishing house of Echter, was a radical commentary series with material for meditation, but this fell through, probably because of the health problems which plagued Fr Ziener at the beginning of the sixties.

“After all these dates here are some personal impressions. Fr Ziener was a highly gifted teacher. Generations of scholastics together with Fr Strobel, received a love for the Bible. This was probably his most desired wish. He was a firm promoter of the historical-critical method which was just growing and was penetrating the Catholic Biblical science more than 100 years after the Protestant research. This enabled his listeners to read the Bible in an up-to-date fashion. He also encouraged them in this fashion. That he often experienced opposition is no surprise. I still remember his sarcastic smile with which he tried to provoke or correct fundamentalist students. His lectures on Mark and John opened our eyes for a biblical oriented theology which can do without systematic philosophy. But he was not a radical. It was known that he always went to the dogmatists, especially Fr Hoetzel, to make sure that his theses were orthodox. Today it is rather the other way round: the systematics have to go to the exegetes to make sure that their theses are sound.

All in all Fr Ziener was a cheerful confrere who also loved the joys of life... But yes, he had a sensitive nature. I never heard him preaching in Hünfeld because he feared the criticism of his listeners! Life within the big, large community was a burden for him. So he retired with permission of the then Provincial Fr Schrodi to Molzbach where he found a place of rest and silence. How he felt joined to the German Province when in South Africa is shown in his voluminous correspondence which he kept up with the German Provincial Administration, and a return was always on the cards.

That Fr Ziener from 1982 concentrated on retreats and spiritual direction of Sisters shows clearly that he pursued his science not as 'art for art's sake' but as always in the service of Theology and Spirituality. That is a heritage I am personally grateful for. RIP” (*Fr Franz Josef Stendebach*).





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