

PREFECTURE

APOSTOLIC OF THE

VICTORIA FALLS

AFRICAN MISSION

OF THE

IRISH CAPUCHINS,

BAROTSELAND,

NORTHERN

RHODESIA

PREFECTURE APOSTOLIC OF THE
VICTORA FALLS.
AFRICAN MISSION OF THE
IRISH CAPUCHINS,
BAROTSELAND, NORTHERN RHODESIA
THE MISSIONARY'S CHARTER.

Go ye into the whole world, and preach the gospel to every creature.—(Mark, XVI, 15).

But they going forth preached everywhere: the Lord working withal, and confirming the work with signs that followed.—(Mark, XVI, 20).

IN the first centuries of Christianity every believer in Christ was a Missionary. Every believer to-day will easily understand how the knowledge of Christ **demand**s and **compels** the sharing of the "Good Tidings" with those still in ignorance. In those early days the propagation of the Faith was the duty and privilege of every Christian—poor, rich, slave, courtier, soldier, trader, layman as well as priest. The Master's thirst for souls was shared by His every follower. Down through the centuries new converts became in their turn Missionaries: and it must never be forgotten that in the history of the Foreign Missions Irish Missionaries once held pride of place.

FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE CAPUCHIN ORDER.

The Capuchin Order numbers over 12,000 members, and **one out of every eight** Friars is in the Mission Field. In fifty Mission Territories they have a Catholic population of over **2,000,000**, and more than **113,250,000** pagans.

THE IRISH PROVINCE.

Owing to the disturbed conditions of the country during the centuries of persecution and the fewness of the Friars, no organised Foreign Mission work in pagan lands was undertaken by the Irish Province till the present century. But with the growth of the Province the Irish Friars are proud to play their part

Imprimi potest:

FATHER COLMAN, O.M.Cap.,
Min. Prov.

August 15th, 1937.

Nulli Obstat:

MICHAEL C. TROY,
Censor Theol. Deput.

Imprimi Potest:

EDUARDUS,
Archiep. Dublinen.,
Hiberniæ Primas.

Dublini, die 15 Aug. anno 1937.

with their brethren and other Missionary Orders in the conversion of the pagan.

THE PORTION OF THE PAGAN WORLD ALLOTTED THEM—BAROTSELAND IN NORTHERN RHODESIA—IS MORE THAN TWICE THE AREA OF IRELAND.

IRISH CAPUCHINS IN AFRICA.

The Irish Province sent its first Missionaries to Africa in 1929. They set to work in the Western Vicariate, Cape Province, among the native and coloured population. They have to date established five locations where they administer to over 30,000 souls.

Franciscan missionary zeal, however, soon led the Irish Friars to undertake the Rhodesian Mission. It is one of the most difficult and expensive Missions in the world. It covers a total area of **65,000** square miles with a population of **500,000** natives and about 800 Europeans.

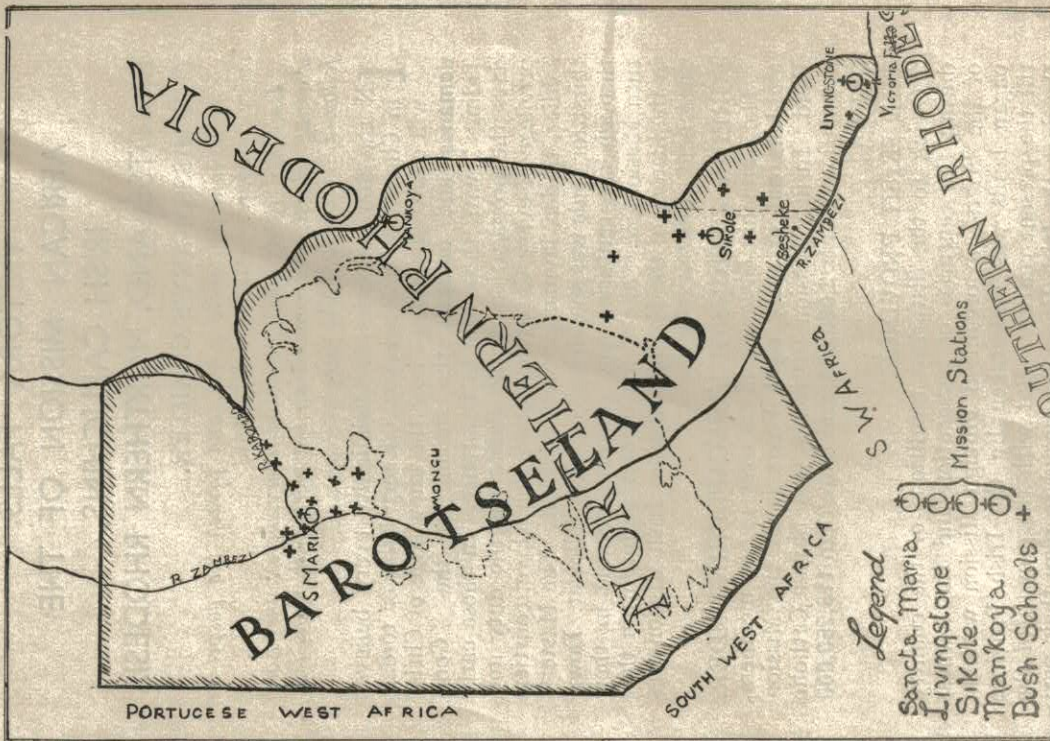
The first group of three Irish Capuchins arrived there in 1931. They at once began to organise a base in Livingstone, the only European settlement in the territory. There were no reliable maps. Roads or railways in the territory there are none: all travelling is done on foot or by canoe. To add to other troubles, for the first four years a widespread famine was caused by continuous ravages of locusts. The population was decimated by sickness and death, and by migration in search of work and food.

PROGRESS.

Notwithstanding seemingly insuperable obstacles extraordinary progress has been made, and the native chiefs, suspicious at first, are not now opposed to Catholic teaching.

The beginnings of missionary work are slow. In Barotseland a long course of instruction, occupying at

(For the history of the Barotse people and the epic story of the early work of the Irish Friars in Northern Rhodesia, see "African Adventure," by Father James, O.M.Cap. 3/6).



least three years and a half, is required before candidates are admitted to Baptism. During this period prospective converts must give proof of their earnestness and good-will by refraining from superstitious practices, and giving hope of leading a good moral life.

AT EASTER, 1936, OUR MISSIONARIES HAD THE GREAT JOY OF BAPTISING THE FIRST FRUITS OF THEIR YEARS OF LABOUR.

To date (1937) there are "in remotest Barotseland" 4 Mission Stations, 2 Convents, 35 Schools attended by an average of 1,500 children, and a Training School for teachers and catechists. There are 10 Irish Capuchin Priests, 1 Brother, and 7 Sisters at work among the Barotse people.

PREFECTURE APOSTOLIC.

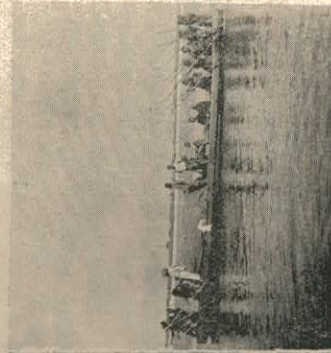
In May, 1936, the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda raised the Mission to the rank of an independent Prefecture, to be called the Prefecture Apostolic of the Victoria Falls. It appointed as the first Prefect the Right Reverend Monsignor Killian Flynn, O.M.Cap., one of the pioneers of the new territory.

VOCATIONS.

The Prefect Apostolic appeals for help. He asks for prayer. He asks for a steady flow of monetary aid.



Mass in the Bush



By Canoe on the Zambezi



"THEY ARE NOT AFRAID TO PIONEER"

He wants more Vocations,—Priests, Nuns, Brothers. Perhaps few realise the great work that awaits the Lay-Brother on our Mission, especially one who has the advantage of a craft or trade. Requests to open Schools and Mission centres pour in from the native chiefs. These wonderful opportunities of making known the Gospel of Christ, cannot be availed of if there is not an immediate response to the Mission Superior's appeal.

THE HOLY CROSS SISTERS.

The Nuns in Barotseland belong to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Founded by a Capuchin in Switzerland, they have in Africa 50 Convents with over 500 Sisters. Under their care are thousands of children, white, coloured and native. But their activities are not confined to the Schools: they attend the poor and sick; they train the native woman in the home arts—needlework, cooking, hygiene, etc. Aliwal North in the Cape Province is their headquarters, and from there they have spread to every State of the Union. They are not afraid to pioneer, as Basutoland and more recently Barotseland bear witness. They are so much in demand for missionary work that in 1930 they established a House for Postulants in Belfast. Already many Irish girls have gone to Africa from this Foundation.

Girls wishing to devote their lives to the service of God on the Foreign Missions cannot be too warmly recommended to enter the Sisterhood of the Holy Cross. There they will find the true religious spirit allied to a zeal for the suffering and the ignorant that is truly heroic. From the beginning of the Irish Capuchin Mission in Africa they have helped our Fathers with the utmost devotion.

Girls wishing to follow the example of these heroines should apply to: The Superioress, Holy Cross Convent, Glen Road, Belfast.

ARE YOU HELPING?

His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, the Pope of the Missions, said: "**The work of the Foreign Missions surpasses every work of the Christian as the soul surpasses the body, and as far as Heaven surpasses the earth. No Christian worthy of the name can excuse himself from taking part in the work of the Missions.**"

Can a believer in Christ take no interest in the Foreign Missions when he learns that there are still over **1,000,000,000** (a thousand million) pagans in the world—men and women that never heard of Him Who redeemed them?

"The harvest is great, the labourers are few." Are they few through **your** lack of interest, or through **your** lack of Faith?

"NO CHRISTIAN WORTHY OF THE NAME CAN EXCUSE HIMSELF FROM TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE MISSIONS."

YOU CAN HELP.

YOU MUST HELP.

HOW TO HELP.

If you feel called to work on the Mission Field as Priest, Nun or Lay-Brother **our Mission needs you.** If you do not feel this Vocation then **be a Missionary at home.**

JOIN OUR MISSION APOSTOLATE.

To aid the work of the Missions by prayer and alms, **THE CAPUCHIN MISSION APOSTOLATE** was founded. It is a work that carries with it many spiritual privileges. The small sums of money that members are asked to contribute, place it within the power of even the poorest to help.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CAPUCHIN MISSION APOSTOLATE

I. MISSION ASSOCIATES:

(a) Mission Associates undertake to say a Pater, Ave and Gloria daily to ask God's Blessing on the labour of the Missionaries.

(b) They will contribute or collect **at least £3** annually for the Missions.

II. MISSION HELPERS:

(a) Mission Helpers will say a prayer daily as above.

(b) They will contribute 5/- yearly or 6d. monthly for the Mission.

III. CHILD MISSIONARIES:

(a) Child Missionaries will say a prayer daily as above.

(b) They will contribute one half-penny every week or 2/- yearly towards the expenses of the Mission.



TEACHING CATECHISM

PRIVILEGES OF THE APOSTOLATE :

(a) GENERAL.

All who aid in the work of the Missions participate in the sacred work of bringing the light of the Gospel to pagans, and will receive recompense from Him Who loves souls, and wishes them to come to the knowledge of the Truth. In addition they will share in the Masses, prayers and good works of the Fathers and Brothers of the Irish Capuchin Province, of those in Ireland and in the United States, and of the Missionaries in far-off Africa.



FEELING AT HOME

A special Mass is offered daily in all Capuchin churches throughout the world for the Benefactors of the Order.

(b) SPECIAL.

1. Mass is offered every Tuesday throughout the year for the Associates, Helpers and Child Missionaries of the Apostolate.
2. Mass is offered for them on each day of the Novenas connected with the Feasts of :
 - (a) St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Capuchin, Protomartyr of the Propaganda, (Feast, April 24th) ; and
 - (b) Sts. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Patroness of the Missions, (Feast, October 3rd).
3. Novenas of Masses for Deceased Members of the Apostolate are offered twice yearly. These Novenas begin on the Feast of the Portiuncula (August 2nd), and on All Souls' Day (November 2nd).

DO YOU KNOW THIS ?

- To build a chapel costs about £200
- To support a Missionary for one year " " £60
- To support a Catechist for one year " " £20
- To prepare a pagan for Baptism " " £2.
- To found a Perpetual Bourse for the education of priests " " £800.

Remember the Mission when making your Will. It will be a consolation to you at the hour of your death to KNOW that you have helped to save souls.

A FORM OF BEQUEST

in favour of the Foreign Mission under the care of the Irish Province of the Capuchin Franciscan Order.

I BEQUEATH to the Capuchin Mission Apostolate for the benefit of the Foreign Mission under the care of the Capuchin Franciscan Fathers of the Irish Province, the sum of £ : : , free of duty ; and I DECLARE that the receipt of the Very Rev. Father Provincial or of the Secretary of the said Mission for the time being shall be sufficient discharge of the same.

Signature.....

Witnesses to signature :
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All communications to be addressed to :
The Secretary,
Capuchin Mission Apostolate,
St. Mary of the Angels, Church Street, Dublin.

**The SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION
for the support of the
CAPUCHIN FOREIGN MISSIONS**

The Association, approved and recommended by each succeeding Pope since its foundation, approved by each succeeding Most Reverend Father General of the Capuchins, recommended and encouraged by very many Archbishops and Bishops, has been enriched with great spiritual privileges and has spread far and wide.

It is one of the best ways of assisting the Capuchin Foreign Missions ; and the benefactors of these Missions can, by joining it, gain for themselves and their deceased relatives great spiritual benefits.



THE PREFECT APOSTOLIC AND OTHER IRISH CAPUCHINS IN AFRICA

SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES,

- 1.—**6,000** Masses are offered every year by the Capuchin Order for the living and deceased members and promoters of the Association.
- 2.—**500** Masses are said *every* day for our Benefactors. Members share :
 - (a) in the thousands of Holy Communions offered each month by Religious members ;
 - (b) in the prayers, penances and good works of the whole Capuchin Order.
- 3.—A Plenary Indulgence at the hour of death.
- 4.—The Papal Blessing.
- 5.—A Plenary Indulgence on the following Feasts : The Epiphany (6th Jan.), the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th Sept.), the Seven Dolours (15th Sept.), and St. Fidelis (24th April).

6.—An Indulgence of 300 days for every good work for the support and promotion of the Association.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

- 1.—An offering of 2/- for the Missions secures membership **for a year**. Those who give this amount annually will participate in the Privileges after death.
- 2.—One may become a **member for life** by making an offering of £1. Life members also participate after death.
- 3.—The Spiritual Privileges may be gained for a deceased relative or friend **for a year** by an alms of 2/- and **perpetually** by an alms of 6/-.
- 4.—A beautiful picture, 14 x 9 ins., is given as a certificate of life membership.
- 5.—A similar picture is given to those who have made a deceased relative or friend participate.
- 6.—A smaller certificate is given for annual membership or participation.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP FOR RELIGIOUS,

A privilege formerly granted only to the Clerics and Lay Brothers of the Capuchin Order, that is, membership upon the basis of spiritual rather than financial alms, has been recently extended to other Religious who desire to be enrolled.

By offering FIVE Holy Communions each month for the intentions of the Association RELIGIOUS of all Orders and Congregations and of either sex, may become perpetual members. In addition, they cause *all their deceased relatives in the first degree* to participate in the spiritual privileges of the Association.

There is a special Certificate for Religious.

Application for Certificates of Membership and Participation may be made to the Very Rev. Father Cuthbert, O.M.Cap., Provincial Delegate, Capuchin Friary, Church Street, Dublin, or to the District Delegate in any Capuchin Friary.