

# Our History

The origins of the Mission dates back to 1951 when it was opened up as a centre of evangelisation. In 1952 Bondolfi Primary School was built at the mission station. The Teachers' College started at Gokomere and in 1963 it relocated to the present Bondolfi Mission in order to create an environment for mature and professional teacher trainee. The college started off by training small numbers of PTH and T3 graduates in the 1960s and 1970s. Rev. Fr. J. Schoenenberger was the first principal of the college from 1963 to 1978 when he retired. The same year (1978), Mr. L.C. Boora took over as principal of the college. However, in 1979 the college was closed because of the liberation war. From 1979 to 1980, the college was housed at the United College of Education in Bulawayo.

In 1980 both the Diocese headed by His Lordship late Sekuru Chiginya and the government, represented by the University of Zimbabwe, took crucial decisions to expand the college in line with the requirements of the scheme of association. This is the time phenomenal infrastructural developments took place at the college. The Administration block, Makerere and Oxford hostels, the library, the Recreational Centre and the New Hall were built, and by 1988 one hundred and thirteen graduates were produced. During this time, early 1980s, Mr. L.C.Boora was transferred to Seke Teachers' College and Mr. H.B. Chikukwa became the principal. Rev. Dr. Jakata was the college Chaplin and played an instrumental role in securing college associateship status with the University of Zimbabwe. Subsequent Chaplins during Mr. H.B. Chikukwa were Rev. Fr. J. Nyika (1986-1988), Rev.Fr. B. Machingauta (1991-1992), Rev. Fr. J. Bennet and Rev. Fr. R. Madzivire (1993).

In 1995 Mr. Chikukwa went on study leave and Mr. M. Mapuranga took over as acting principal. Mr. H.B. Chikukwa resumed as principal of the college after completion of his studies. The newly established Masvingo Diocese became the Responsible Authority in

1999, and Rev. Fr. P.M.Siziba was Chaplin. The year 2000 saw Mr. H.B. Chikukwa transferred to Head Office and Mr. M. Mapuranga once again became acting principal but for a short time. Mr. W. Gwatiringa took over as acting principal though for a short stint. Rev. Fr. P.M. Siziba continued to be the college Chaplin, and Manchester female hostel was completed. From 2001-2005 Mr. E.C. Chikumbu was appointed the acting principal of the college. The first class of E.C.D. was enrolled and this was the beginning of the 2-5-2 general course programme. Fr. C. Matibini and Fr. P. Kufakunesu were the college Chaplins one after the other. Mr. C. Chikumbu retired in 2007 and Mr. P. Mupira became acting principal from 2007-2011. Fr. L. Zvoruvanga and Fr. T. Mandaza were the Chaplins of the college.

It was during this time that the rectorship post was created and Rev. Fr. W. Nyatsanza was appointed the first Rector of the college. The same period witnessed the elevation of Rev. Fr. W. Nyatsanza to the position of Vicar General of Masvingo Diocese. In 2009 Rev. Fr. R. Nyandoro was appointed the second Rector of the college. When Mr. P. Mupira resigned, Mr. A. Jaison was appointed acting principal in 2011. The following year (2012), Mr. K.K. Chitsama was appointed the acting principal until 2018 when he became substantive principal of the college to the present day. In 2016 Rev. Fr. R. Zindova joined Bondolfi Mission as the third Rector taking the place of Rev. Dr. Nyandoro upon his elevation to the position of His Lordship the Bishop of Gokwe. Currently, Rev. Fr. J. Magadzire is the Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Dr P. O. Chagweda is the chancellor and Rev. Fr. T. Mandaza remains the chaplin.

From 2009, the Responsible Authority and Mr. K.K. Chitsama's administration further expanded Bondolfi Mission in terms of infrastructure development, human capital development and student enrolment. The college corridor, the canteen, the state-of-art female hostel, staff houses and expecting mothers' shelter, the giant New Dining Hall and the E.C.D. and Social Sciences complex have been phenomenal projects

accomplished. The Holy Cross Sisters funded the construction of Bondolfi High School in 2013 which produced its first crop of Ordinary level graduates this year, 2019.