

Biography Brother Wladyslaw Prinz, cm 1909-1937.

Wladyslaw was born on the 27th of June 1909 at Lipnikack Szlacheckick (Pommeren) as the son of Jozef and Veronica Prinz from Wardinów. In 1928 he enters, as an applicant, the Congregation of the Lazarists in Kliparz-Krakau. On February 2nd 1929 he starts the noviciate and takes the vow on the 11th of February 1931. From June 1931 till March 1932 he is active in the monastery of Pabianice near Lodz. He works as a gardener. He wants to become a missionary and applies for the mission of China, although he has no idea what it amounts to. He leaves for China in the spring of 1932. On the 11th of June he comes to Shanghai and on July 7th he arrives in the town of Wenchow, a part of the Vicarage of Ningpo, where Polish Lazarists are active.

On his arrival he is somewhat disappointed because reality is different from the imagination. It is a difficult start for Brother Wladyslaw. He only speaks the Polish language and a bit of German. By profession he is a gardener but there is no garden and moreover, the Chinese know other vegetables and those are cultivated in a different way. He asks himself for what purpose he comes. First of all, he has to learn the language. His travelling companion to China writes: “ The Chinese language is almost inhuman, from a different world, with sounds one has never heard, hard to repeat, and when one nevertheless does repeat, no one understands.” It nearly brings one on the verge of despair. But Brother Wladyslaw perseveres and after a few years he is able to make himself well understood and he even tells Chinese jokes.

He is a deeply religious man and in that way he makes impression on his surroundings. Together with the sisters “Daughters of Love” he takes care of the sick in the hospital. When a sister cannot come he takes her place. He is quickly at home in the world of medicine and is able to replace a sister completely. He deals respectfully with the poor and the sick and is very much loved by them. In 1936, Father Scuniewicz, a Polish Lazarist who is also a doctor, comes for 3 weeks to Wenchow, in order to treat eye diseases and he gets Brother Wladyslaw as an assistant, who makes himself very useful. Alas, Wladyslaw appears to have an eye disease too, and receives the same painful treatment as the others.

When the doctor has left, Wladyslaw starts again his usual activities. He is also going to make rosaries. That becomes so successful that a factory comes into existence, because there is much demand for rosaries. Besides, he goes to the library to bind books.

In the south of China the weather is very hot and one is always thirsty. Brother Wladyslaw starts to brew beer. He has the recipe in his head.

The mission is poor and the sacramental wine from Europe is expensive because of the high taxes. From a Chinese professional he learns how to make wine out of raisins. Furthermore he takes care of the liturgical garments; he knows how to cook, bakes bread and keeps the house clean.

He catches malaria. It takes one month in the hospital to diagnose it. After receiving the proper treatment he returns to Wenchow. But after a few months he again has malaria with heavy attacks of high fever. He feels weak, regrets that he cannot be of use and even costs money to the mission. He is a quiet person, inconspicuous and devoted. It was his own choice to come to China and he wants to bear the consequences. He cannot go on like that in Wenchow. He suffers and is unable to do anything. His superiors decide to send him to a better climate in the north of China. There also lives the known Polish doctor where he can again do his work as a male nurse. Wenchow people are sad when he leaves.

Wladyslaw travels to the town Shuntefu, formerly a part of the Vicarage of Mgr. Schraven, that some years before was entrusted to the Polish Lazarists. He arrives, so to speak, with the last train because a few days later the war with Japan breaks out in the North. The superiors decide to send Wladyslaw to Chengtingfu, to Mgr. Schraven, where an Austrian Brother will teach him to be a wine grower. There is a wine mountain in Chengtingfu but Poles do not know how to make wine.

During his stay in Chengtingfu the war activities start with Japan. One has no need to fear the Chinese. They leave the missions in peace. The government army made an agreement with the communist army and together they now fight the common enemy Japan. In the night between the 8th and 9th of October 1937, the Chinese have to give up the town of Chengtingfu and withdraw. The Japanese storm into the town....

Brother Wladyslaw is only 28 years when he, together with Mgr. Schraven and 7 others, is murdered.
