

POLISH ÉMIGRÉ HISTORY

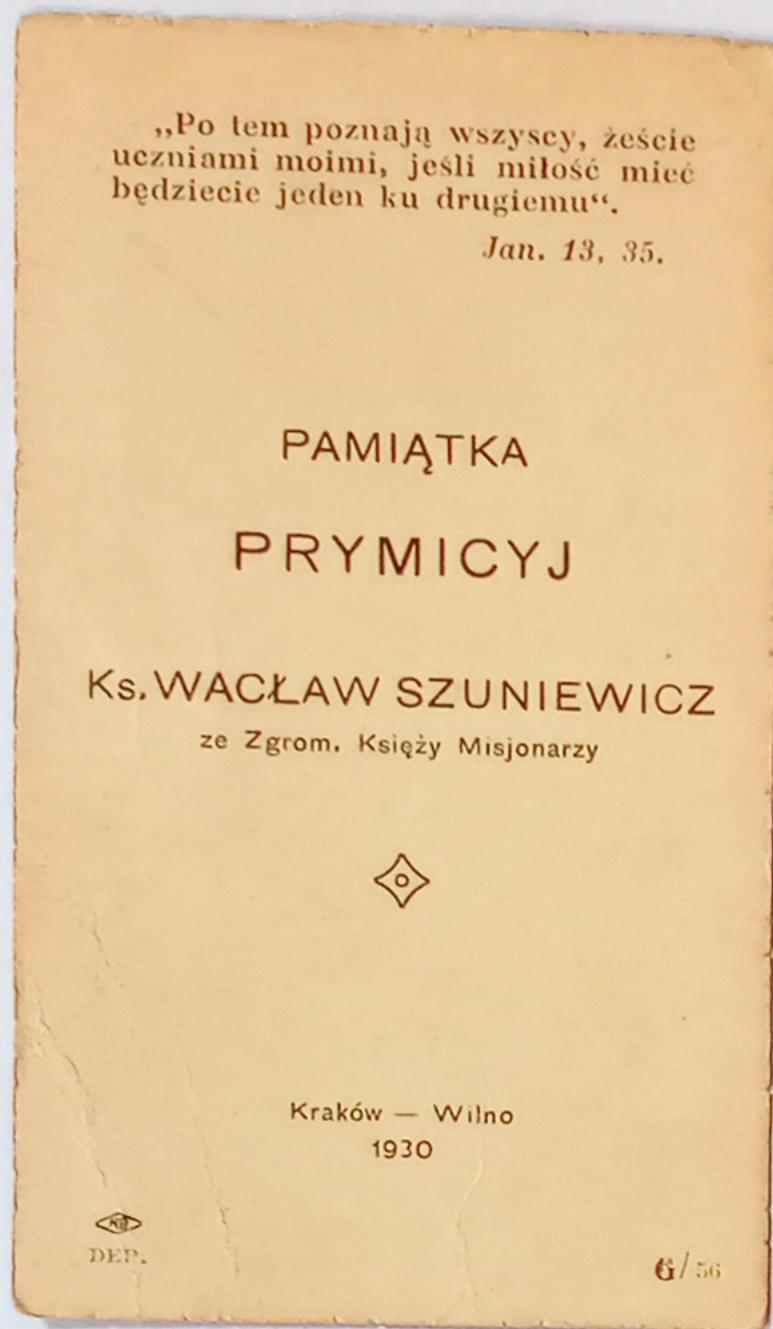
Father Władysław Szuniewicz, MD and his times

Mission to China

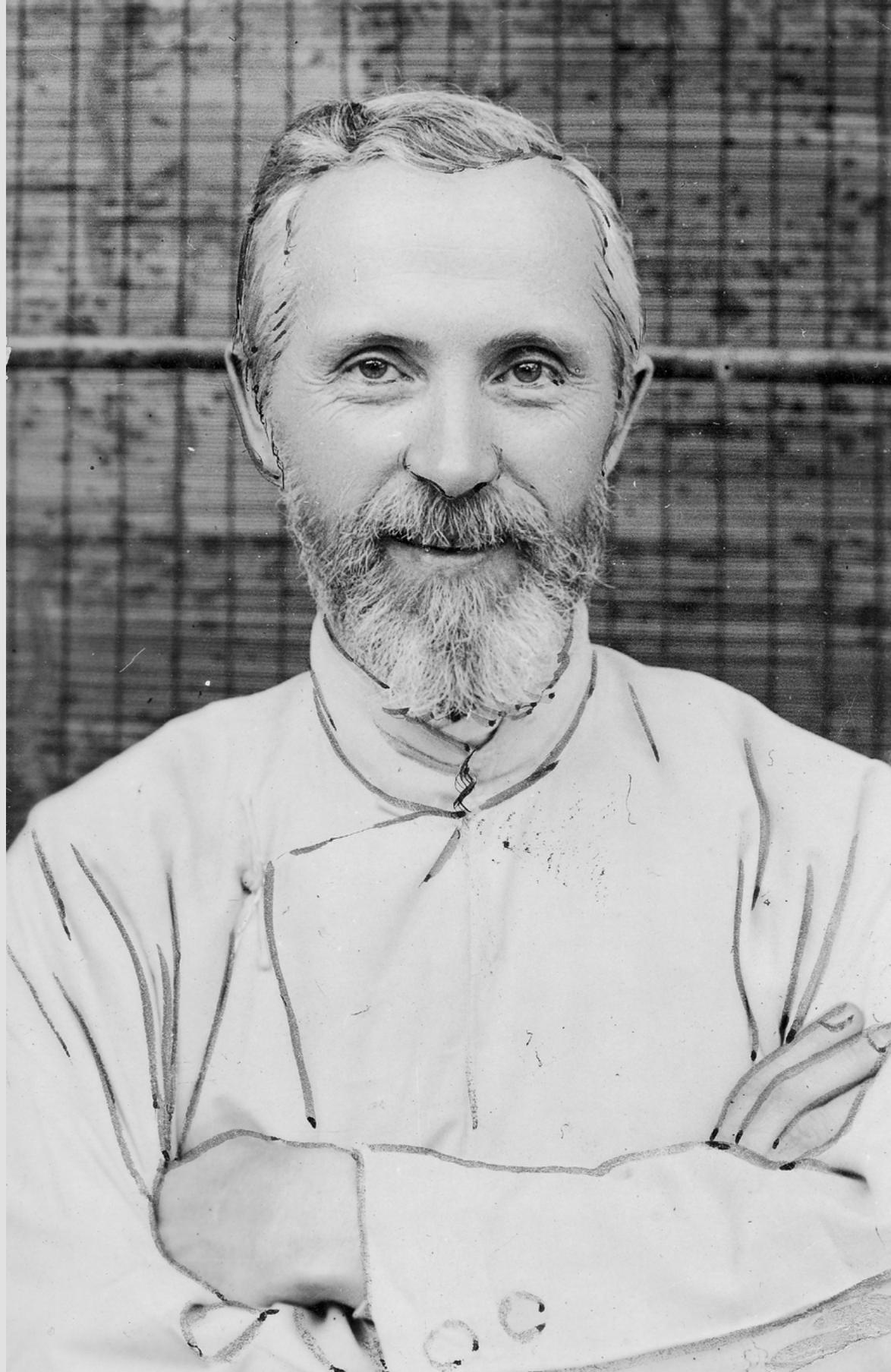
1931-1949

Ks. Fr Wacław Szuniewicz
was born into the noble
Szuniewicz family,
a number of which had
begun settling
in the area between
Vilnius and Polotsk
in the 16th century.

He was the seventh
and youngest child
of a craftsman, Romuald
Szuniewicz, and Paulina
née Cybulska.



Fr Wacław Szuniewicz



Fr Wacław Szuniewicz
was brought up
in a family that kept
alive the memory of the
January Uprising.

It had led to many of its
members losing their
estates and being exiled
to Siberia. Their number
included his paternal
uncle, Alojzy Szuniewicz.



Szuniewicz studied in Moscow, where in 1917 he was granted a physician's diploma.

Incorporated into the tsar's army soon afterwards, for a short spell he was a doctor in the Red Cross hospital in Smolensk, and later in a public hospital in Voronezh. After the First World War, he returned to the reborn Poland.



In 1922–26,
Dr Szuniewicz worked
at the Paediatric Clinical
Hospital of the Stephen
Báthory University
in Vilnius.

However, his academic
career did not last long.

On 23 April 1927,
he joined the
Congregation of the
Mission in Kraków, was
anointed as a priest on
8 September 1930,
and left for China in the
same year.



He started his work
in a small 19-bed
hospital in Xingtai.

During the course of
a few years, Fr Szuniewicz
expanded the hospital
to 100 beds and opened
18 specialist inpatient
clinics within a 100 km
radius of Xingtai.
He controlled them all
in person. He also
conducted 35 eye
surgeries a day.



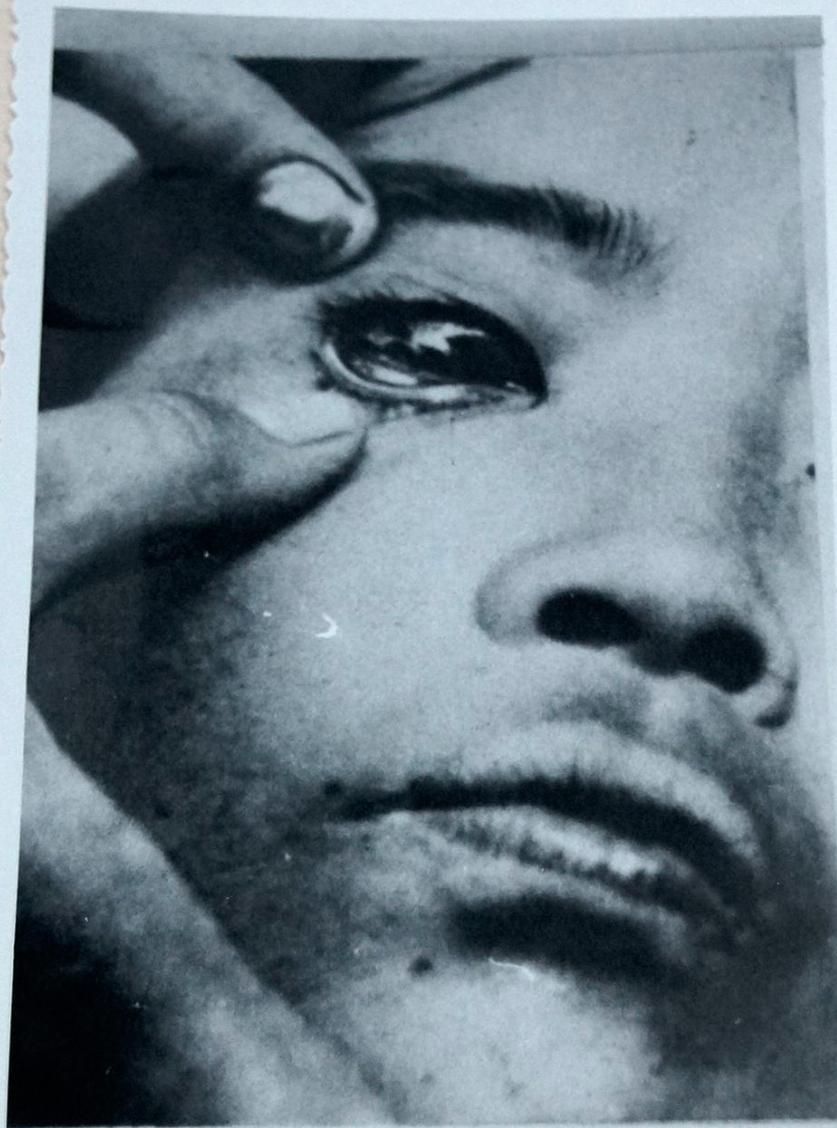
Eye surgeries supervised
by Fr Szuniewicz.



China in the first half
of the 20th century.



In 1934, over 150,000 consultations and eye surgeries were performed in all the units reporting to Fr Szuniewicz.



Oleo choro dei'occhi peccato
per un allora.

Most of the specialist
equipment and
medications were
delivered to China
from Poznań,
where the Congregation
of the Mission cooperated
with, among others, the
University of Poznań.



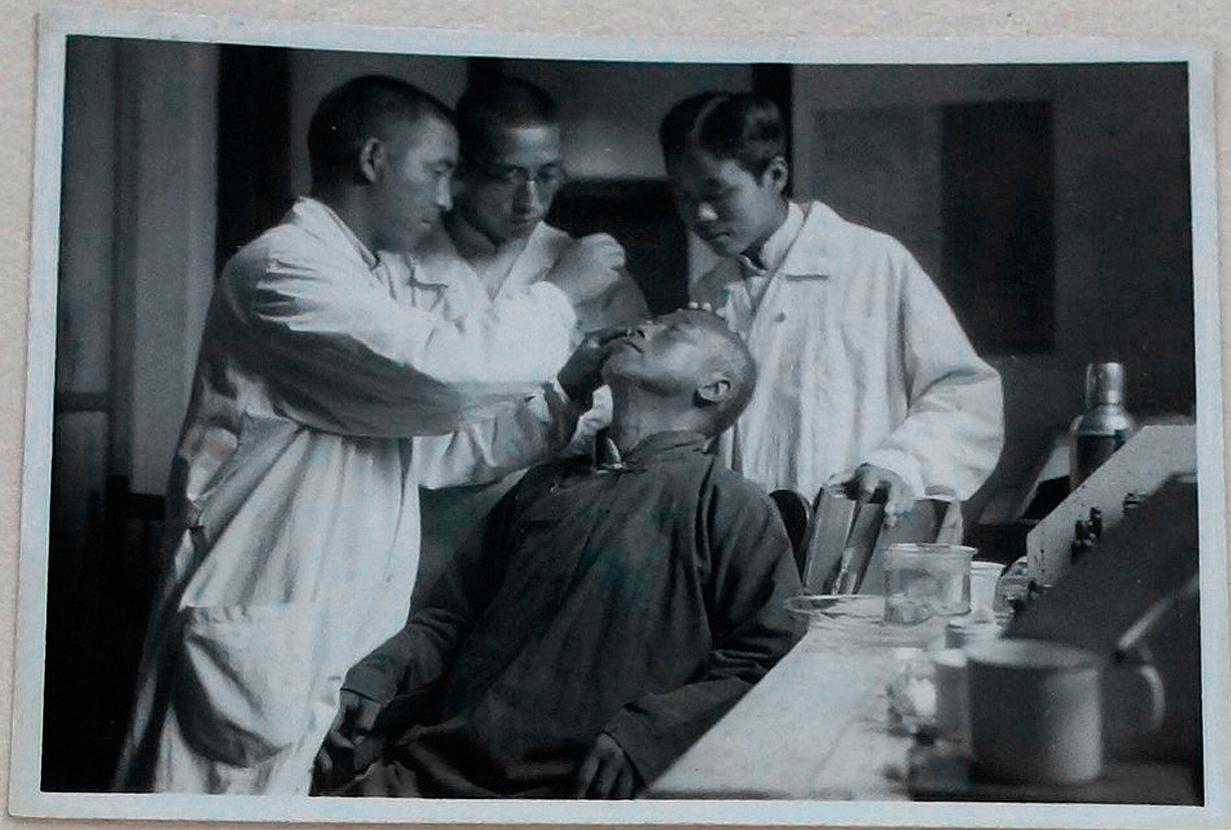
Ms. dr. Kuczerowi, przyjacielowi. Po lewej
Ms. Karimien, siostry

As a token of recognition,
Fr Szuniewicz
was nominated
the director-general
of all Catholic hospitals
in northern China.



Shuntakfa - Cheong missionaire w le -
wenni kr. Szuniewicz

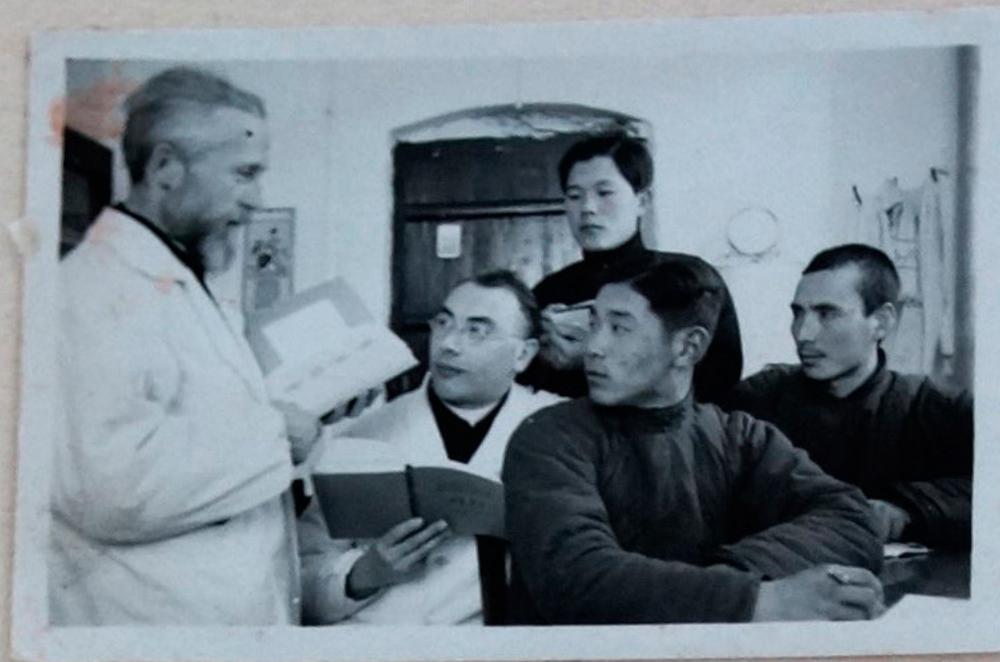
The fame of the Polish
missionary physician
spread throughout China.
The hospital in Xingtai
became a destination for
patients from even the
most distant locations.



Ursynowie dr. Szwajcarski
przy zabiegach

Many Chinese eye doctors came to consult Fr Szuniewicz, and hone their skills and gain experience under his supervision.

His colleagues and patients called him Xuan Weiren – “the man with a silver beard”.



Kuuntokelu

Konsultatija 2 groups 2x per week

Fr Szuniewicz did not limit his operation only to the area of Xingtai. In 1938 he left for Beijing where in just three months he launched the ophthalmological ward of the Main Hospital at the Catholic University.

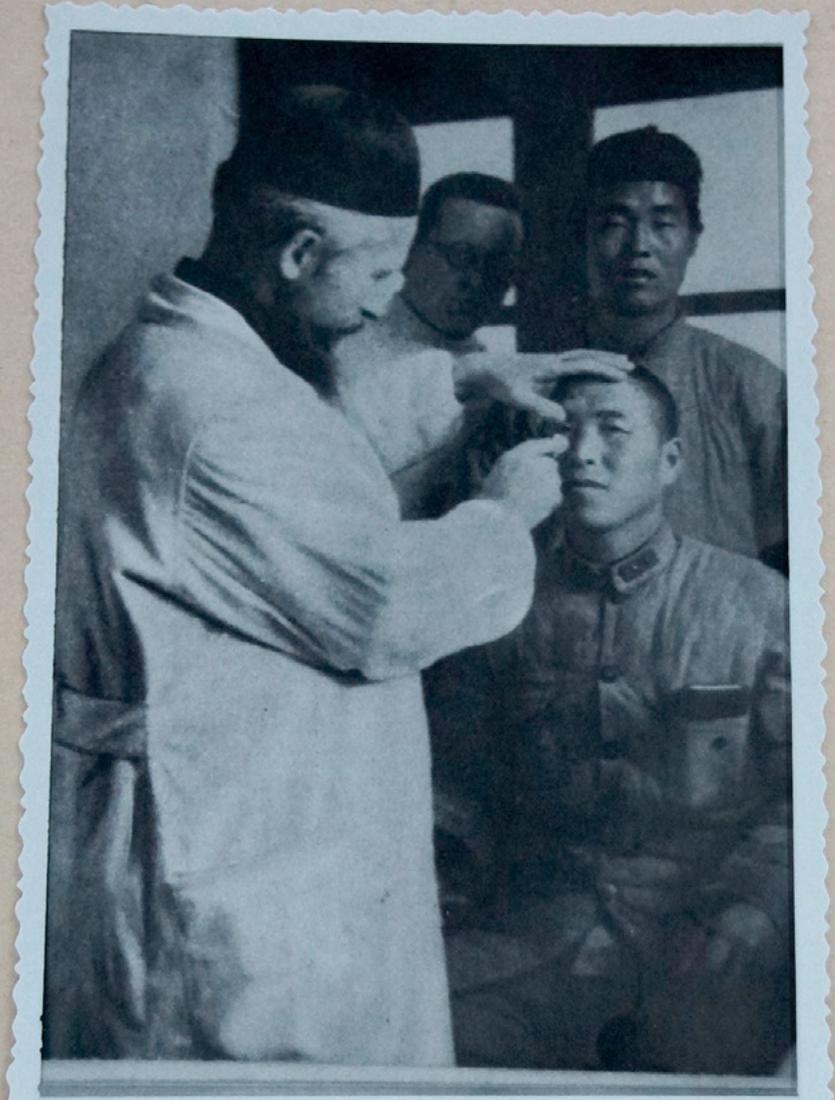
1935



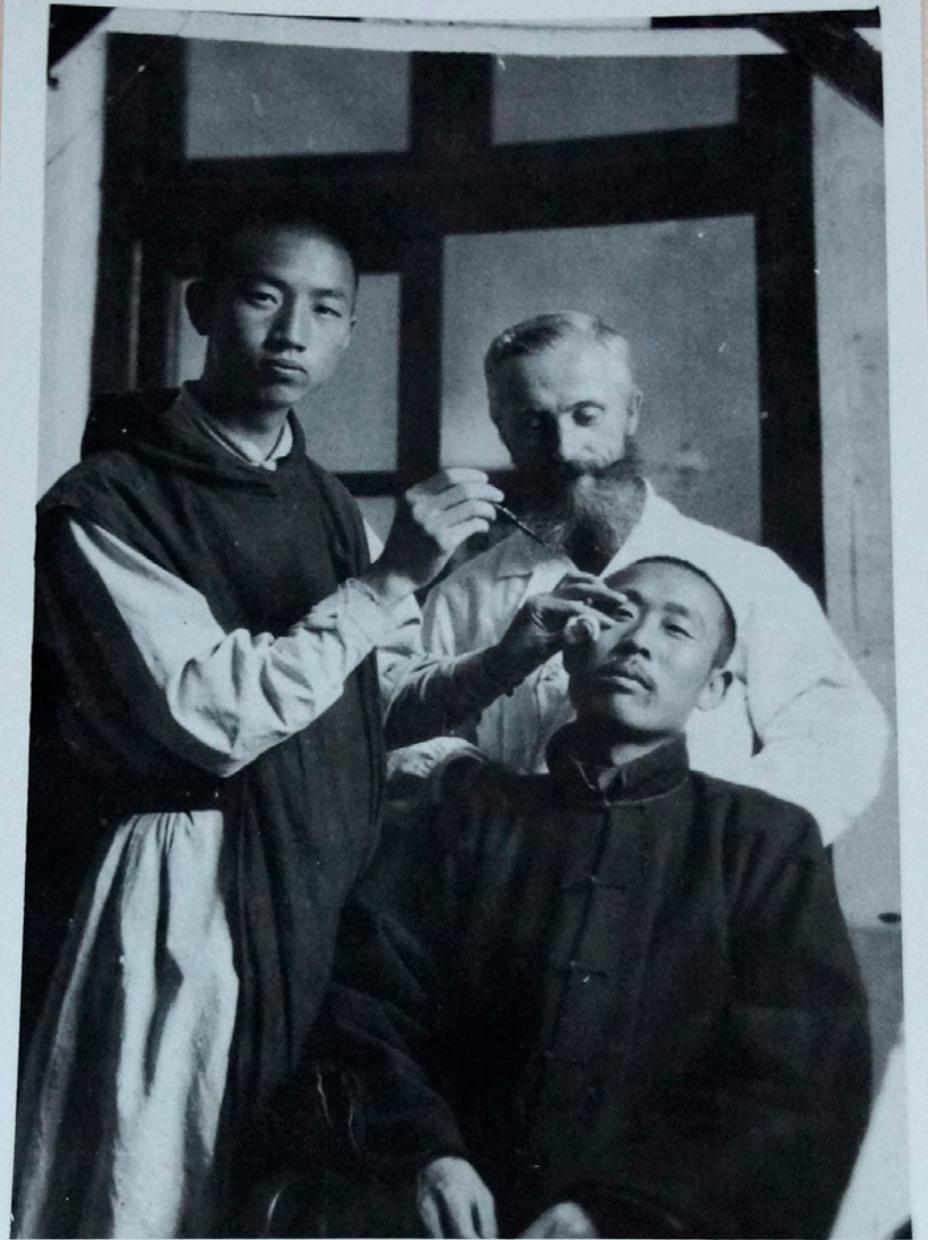
Grupa polskiej misyjności w prefekturze ap.
Kwantung

Stoją: Br. Stanisław Fedru, Michał Jan Redziński, Stanisław Kotliński, Franciszek Stawarski, Chyngach, Wacław Czapla, Br. Stanisław Fasula
Siedzą: Michał Wacław Jozwiński, Antoni Gońka
Prof. ap. Ignacy Krause, Konstanty Witarski, dr Wacław Szuniewicz, Marcin Cymbrowski.

Fr Szuniewicz's patients.

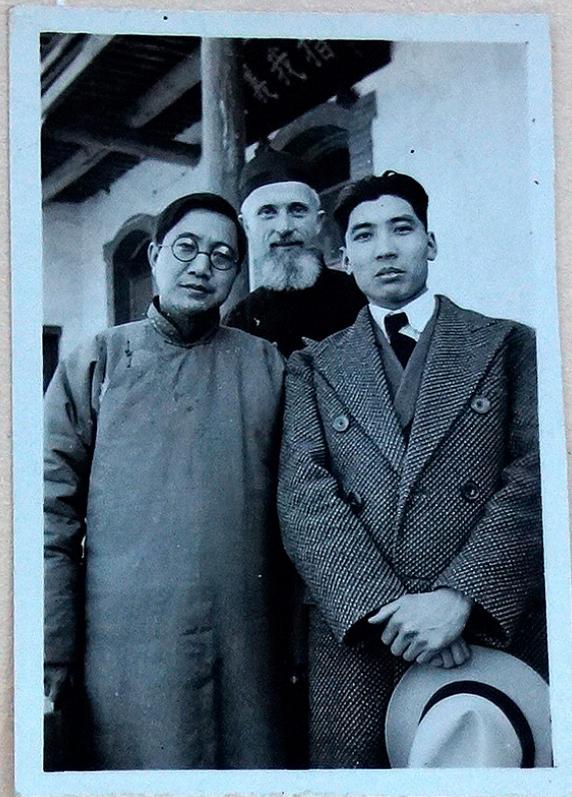


Fr. Dr. W. Szuniewicz przy pracy



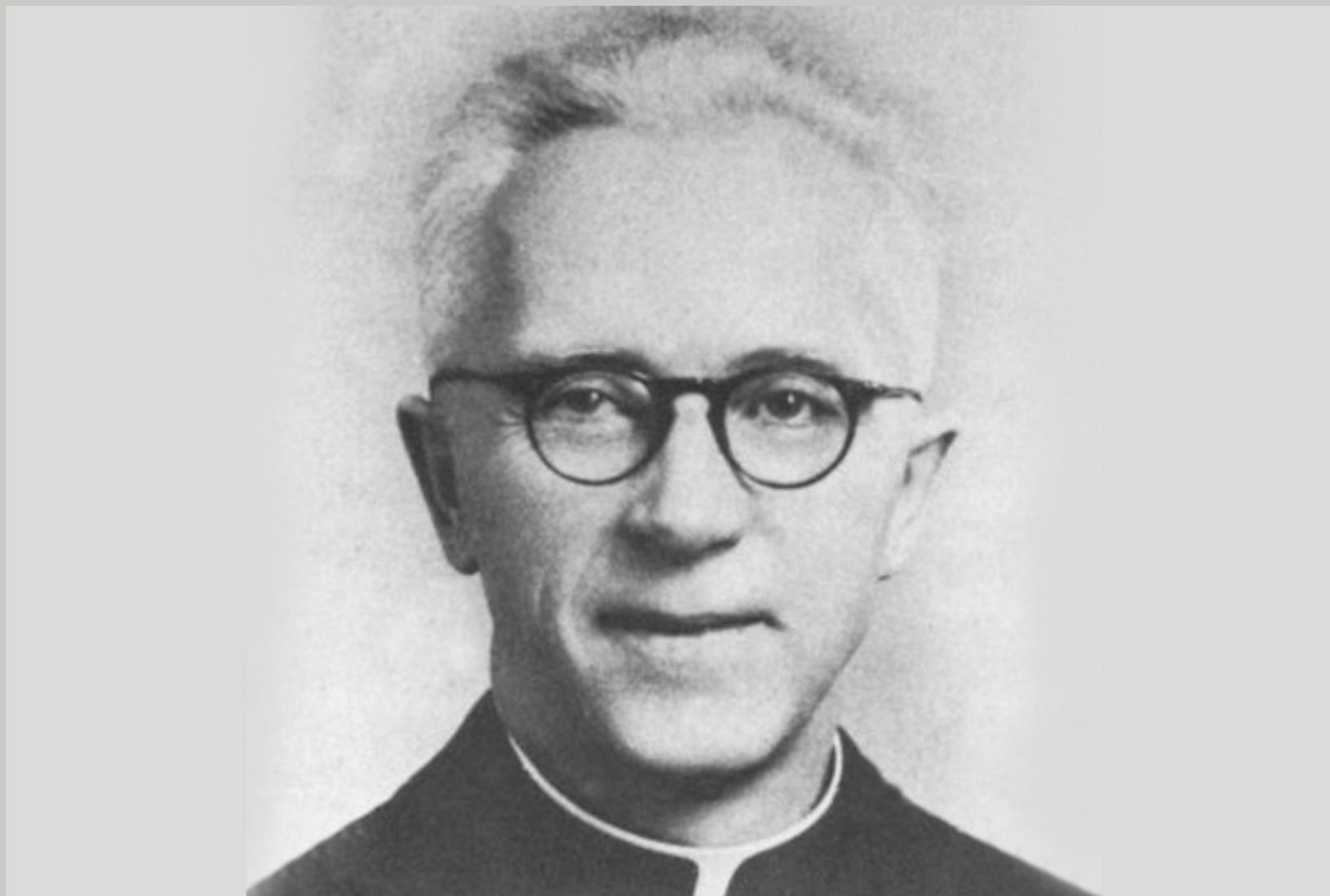
Fr. Dr. W. Szuniewicz przy pracy

Fr Szuniewicz with his
Chinese colleagues.

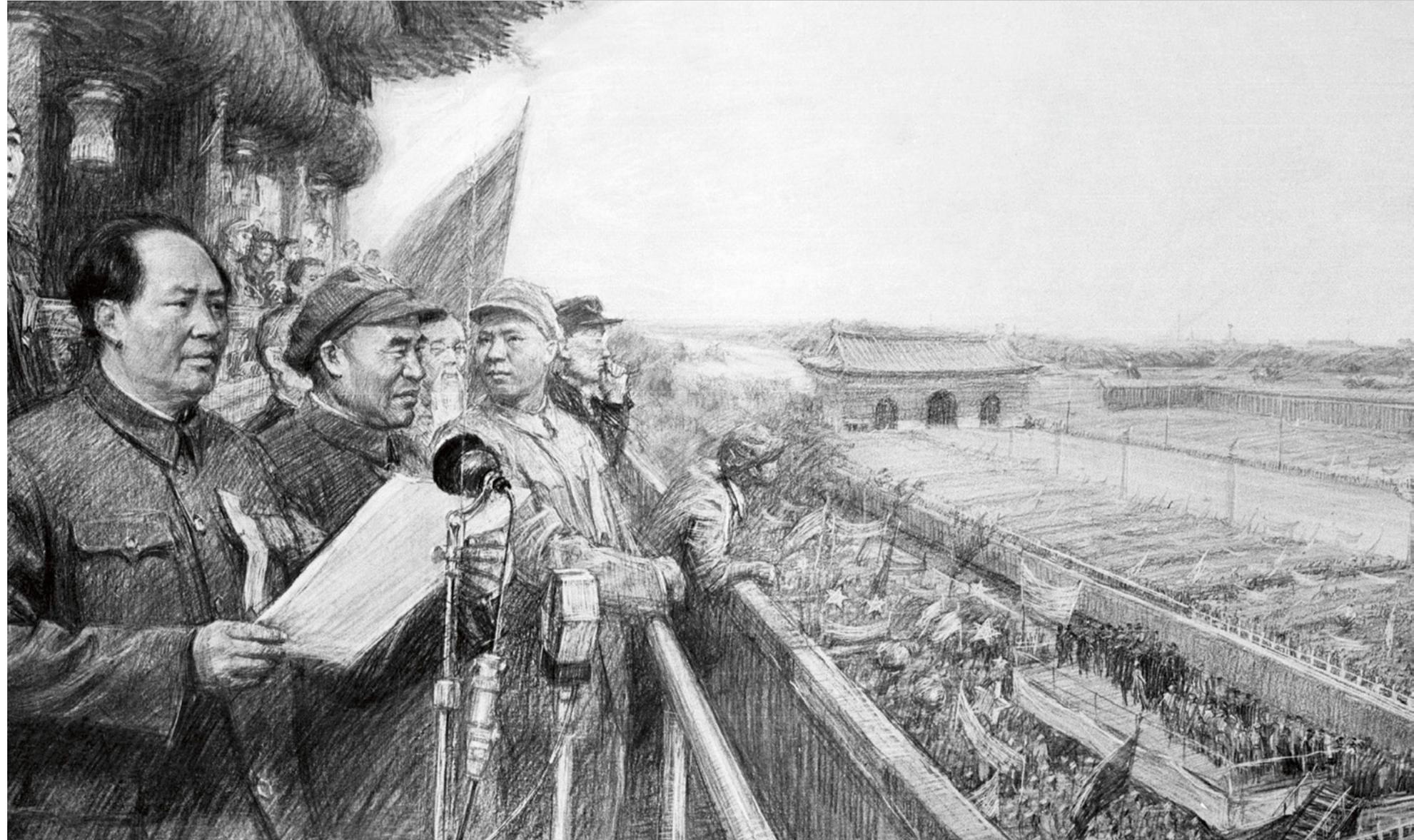


Lechane deinscy dr Wei i dr Fan
na praktyce okulistycznej
u dra dr. Szuniewicza

From December 1946 to
February 1949,
Fr Szuniewicz worked
in the French Provincial
Hospital of the Sisters
of Mercy in Tiencin.
He later moved to the
French hospital in
Beijing, and worked
simultaneously in two
hospitals in Shanghai.
His mission was closed
after the Communists
came to power in China.



After the Communist Party of China took over the government, Fr Szuniewicz left for the US where he first lived with Polish priests in Derby before moving to New Haven, where he conducted experiments in ophthalmologic medicine at Yale and lectured on his work in China.



Fr Szuniewicz in Brazil.

Cunha 8/9 1955



Dwa srebrni jubilei

A. W. Kucyński, X. T. Dziński

Fr Szuniewicz in Brazil.



Mr. Szuniewicz to biednej rodziny
brzytów

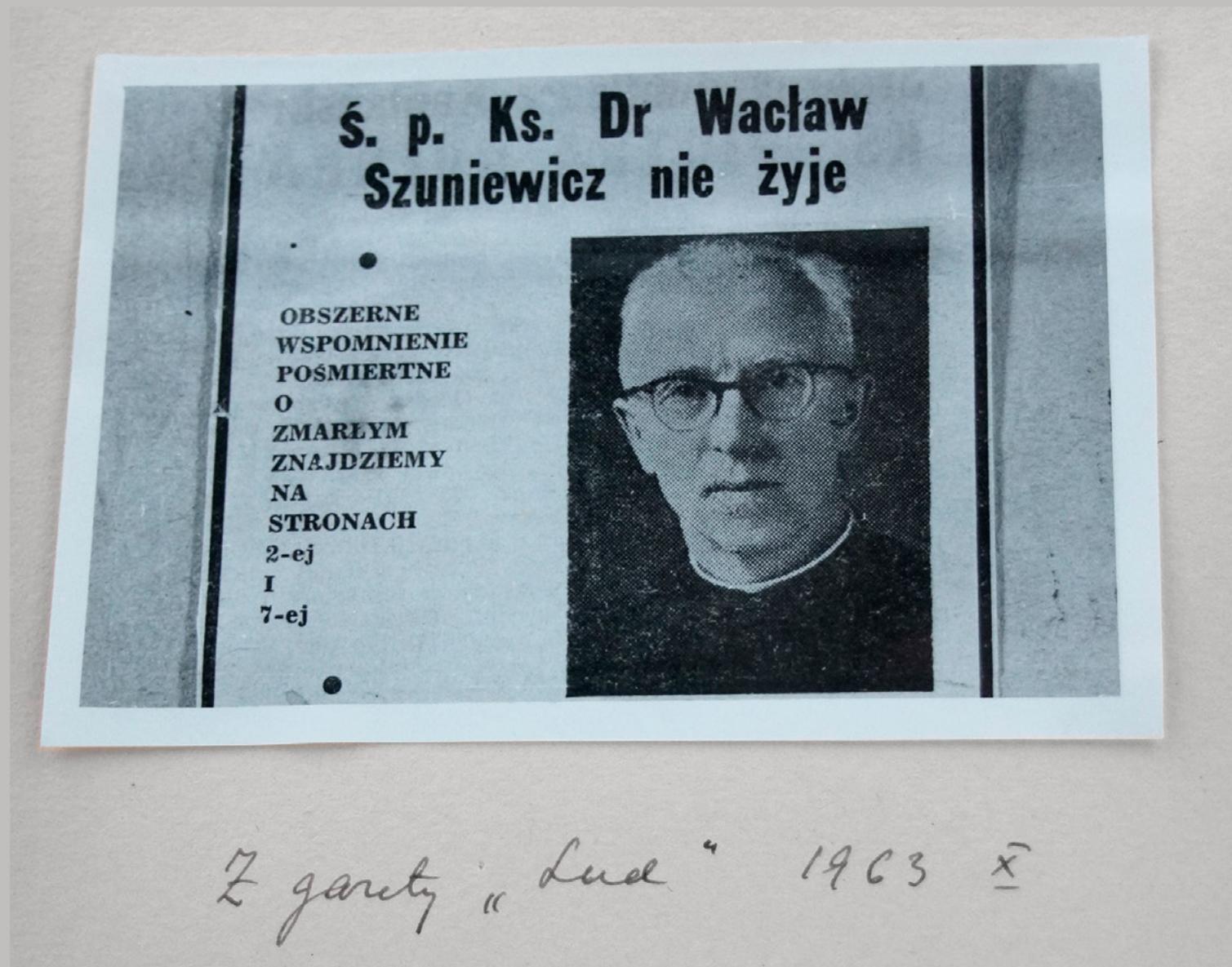
In January 1952,
Fr Szuniewicz left
for Brazil.

He worked for several
years in Mafra, and then
moved to Irati where, in
the Church of St Michael,
he served as a priest for
seven years.



Braylia - Pismo dla najbliźszych

Fr Szuniewicz
died in Irati
on 16 October 1963,
and was buried there.



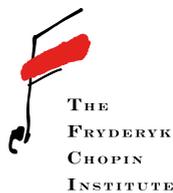
Festiwal Kultury Polskiej w Pekinie 2020



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