**MARY WARD CHILDREN’S HOME**

Aaron Kunaka, the boy who died in the fire at Mary Ward Children’s Home Amaveni, on May 28th 2012.

The boy was about two years old when he was found at a nearby police station. No relative could be found. The Social Welfare brought him to our Children’s Home where he lived for seven years. He was given the name Aaron, and as surname Kunaka “the handsome one”.

Aaron was a cheerful, friendly and quiet boy, a prayerful child who would put many questions to his housemother and elder siblings.

“What is heaven like? What are the angels like? What must I do to become an angel? When will Jesus come to fetch me?” The answer to the latter was: We don’t know, we must always be ready.

The catechist said of him that he often asked when he would be allowed to go to Holy Communion. He was told next year. He also asked why he was not chosen to hold up a poster at church, showing one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the day before he died.

He was a class monitor and kept the keys of the book cupboard and of the classroom conscientiously. He hid them somewhere. The day before he died he went to the teacher in charge and without any apparent reason handed over the keys to her for save keeping, a thing he had never done before.

Aaron is sorely missed by all the children and staff of the Children’s Home. They mourn deeply for him. He got a huge, impressive funeral. The first reading of the funeral mass from the book of wisdom (chapter 3, verses 1-9) was very well chosen: “In the eyes of the unwise they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us like an annihilation (his little body was burned beyond recognition) but they are in peace. … God tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust. …”

May Aaron now rejoice in heaven with Jesus and all the Angels and Saints, including our dear Sister Ortrudis.