



Father Alphonsus (Fons) WALTERS
(1938 - 2014)

*Died 1 December 2014, in Neuen (Netherlands)
aged 76, with 55 years of Religious Profession.*

Alfons Walters was born on August 19, 1938 in The Hague. After his training in Voorschoten, Haagsche Schouw and Schimmert, he joined the Montfortians, when he made his first vows in Meerssen on September 8, 1959. After his training in Oirschot he was ordained priest on March 27, 1965 by Mgr. Jansen, smm, bishop of Isangi (Congo).

His pastoral year he spent in Beresteyn, Leiden, where he, with a break for an MBA study in Vroenhof, Valkenburg, worked until 1983: Seven years as a teacher of religion and nine years as prefect of the boarding school. After the boarding school was closed, he got a completely different function as Chaplain in the Navy. He was stationed in Den Helder, Curaçao and Valkenburg ZH.

In 1993 he decided to take on responsibility as pastor of three parishes in Leiden, while he was provincial bursar from 1998 to 2002. In 2008, he moved to the little village of Nuenen, where he became pastor of the Brothers of St. John of God. After a short illness, he died in the night after being anointed on December 1, 2014.

Fons was a very active man, a doer. While studying in Oirschot the staff noted that he was full of action, rich in initiatives, lively and someone who liked to take the lead. Looking back on his working life, it showed.

As a teacher and later as prefect Fons was strict, but fair. His former students speak with respect and gratitude of him. As prefect he had to oversee the study results. He was proud that in his time everyone passed exams. Fons himself said this was the happiest period of his life.

Becoming a Navy Chaplain, he entered an entirely new world. He said: "It was good for a priest not knowing exactly how everything in the Navy worked and repeatedly having to ask someone."

After thirteen years, basic pastoral care became his new task. Something new for Fons, but he enjoyed it. Unfortunately, various circumstances forced him to stop after 15 years.

He did not like being a retired priest, so when the offer came to become a pastor with the brothers in Nuenen, he grabbed it with both hands. He was loved and appreciated for his personal style and his inspirational preaching. This was a nice, quiet time. He could work on his stamp collection.

In mid-August his health deteriorated quickly and there was no chance of recovery. Fons seemed to accept this and started to arrange everything to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Exactly the way Fons wanted it, surrounded by family, colleagues, brothers, former parishioners from Leiden and those who have always supported him until then: Ger and Marjo. Fons died peacefully in his room.

With the death of Fons we lose a dear colleague, who in his own way, sometimes critically, sympathized with the ups and downs of our group. Grateful to Fons for the man he was and for what he has done as a pastor for many, we put his life in the hands of the Lord, the mainstay of Fons.