



## **Father Brendan HUGHES**

**(1914 - 1980)**

*Died 8 July 1980, in St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France)  
aged 66, with 42 years of Religious Profession.*

Father Brendan Thomas Hughes was born on 21 March 1914 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where his father worked in the town's transport system. He studied for six years at St Malachy's College in Belfast, and entered the novitiate of the Montfort Missionaries in Celles-sur-Belle, where he made his first vows on 8 September 1937. There followed his philosophy studies in Chézelles, then theology in Montfort. But his stay in France was cut short by the German invasion in 1940, and Father Hughes had to complete his studies in England, where he was ordained priest on 19 December 1942. He was entrusted with the care of the magazine "Queen and Mother" in 1943, and then, in 1944, he was sent to teach philosophy in the scholasticate. Later he took over the teaching of Moral Theology in St Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, which he continued until, in 1968, he was appointed the superior of the first Montfortian house in Ireland - in Monaghan. In later years he went back to the service of the youth and was novice-master for two years. Then he returned once again to Ireland.

At the beginning of July 1980, Father Hughes signed up to participate in the itinerant retreat led by Father General "in the footsteps of Montfort". He had long wanted to see Saint-Laurent. In the group, composed mostly of young men, he showed himself to be an "oldie" who was both joyful and debonair. Having finished the first week around Montfort and Pontchâteau, the group arrived in Saint-Laurent and Father Hughes manifested great joy and enthusiasm. On 8 July in the morning, Father General set out with the retreatants to visit the Basilica of St Louis Marie de Montfort. Father Hughes took his place near the tomb of the founder, and showed great interest in the explanations of the preacher, to whom he even addressed a question. The reply had scarcely been given when Father General turned his attention to the statue of the Blessed Virgin; at that moment he saw Father Hughes collapse uttering moans. By the time the 'Pompriers' arrived, he was already dead.

He was buried in Saint-Laurent on 11 July. His two brothers, accompanied by Father Cosgrave, attended the funeral.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**