



## **Father Denis BURBAN**

**(1940 – 2013)**

*Died 4 January 2013, in Cholet (France)  
aged 72, with 50 years of Religious Profession.*

Father Denis Burbán was born on 26 May 1940 in Malansac in the Morbihan. His parents, Jean and Thérèse Thorel, were farmers. Denis was baptised on the day of his birth; he had three brothers and five sisters.

From 1952 to 1961, Denis did his secondary studies at the Calvaire in Pontchâteau. After his novitiate in Chézelles, where he made his first profession on 15 September 1962, he went to the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu from 1962 to 1964. Then there was the period of his military service in Cherbourg and Biscarosse from July 1964 to October 1965. After this he attended the scholasticate in Dreux for his theological studies (1965-1969). He made his perpetual vows in Chézelles on 8 December 1968, then was ordained deacon in the cathedral of Chartres on 29 June 1969, and priest in Malansac on 7 September 1969 by Mgr. Boussard.

Although his own wishes favoured Madagascar, Father Denis left France for Argentina “at the voice of his Superior” (as Father de Montfort would have said!). First of all he had to learn the Spanish language in Madrid, then he joined the Montfortian team in Fiorito on 8 May 1970. It was just a few years after the heroic time of the Montfortian foundation (1966) with the pioneers, such as Fathers Georges Chanterel, Emile Ménétrier, Lucien Marchais, Rémi Morel, Pierre Guilbert... From 1971 to 1974, Father Denis was at Santa Rosa de Rio Primero (Cordoba). And after his home-leave he went back to Fiorito. He was appointed Provincial Delegate for Argentina from 1977 to 1980, then again from 1980 to 1984, and bursar of the Argentine region beginning in 1988.

With his confreres, Father Denis gave priority to the poor in those deprived areas, They had nothing, but Denis was strong and the heaviest work did not make him fear. He did not spare himself in either the material domain, or in the spiritual. Father Denis had a special devotion to Our Lady of *Caacupé*.

It was in 2009 that Father Denis returned to France afflicted by the sickness that was to carry him off on 4 January 2013. The community of La Chartreuse welcomed him

from 2009 until 2012. But his heart and his spirit were still in Argentina... At the beginning of 2012, Father Denis joined the community of the Holy Spirit in Saint-Laurent, his health diminishing little by little. Father Denis was tough on pain; he never complained. He was patient in suffering and always smiling. He had kept his sense of humour. He always took an interest in his confreres, of whom he would often ask news. And right up to the end, he retained his love of Spanish...

Father Denis left us on 4 January early in the morning: anxious, no doubt, to join the Magi on their journey to find the Messiah... Dear Father Denis, may the Lord welcome you into his house, where you will find Jesus and Mary, his Mother.