

OUR DECEASED BRETHREN



Father Albert GIELENS, S.M.M.

(1915 – 2007)

Died in Rotselaar (Belgium), on 13 September 2007,
aged 92 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

Albert Joseph Johannes Victor Gielens was born on 6 March 1915 in Heverlee (Leuven). He entered the Company of Mary in Meerssen (Netherlands) and made his first profession on 8 September 1934. After making his perpetual vows in Oirschot on 26 August 1939 he was ordained priest in Leuven on 21 December 1940.

The greater part of his life was spent in teaching and dedication to the education of Flemish youth at the Montfortian Seminary in Rotselaar. He carried out his task in an energetic and convincing manner and most of all as a deep believer. He was called “Monsieur le Professeur”, which gives proof of the respect and esteem in which he was held. He remained faithful to his post from 1941 until 1975.

After he retired he became one of the active collaborators in the Marian Apostolate. In this capacity he accompanied many pilgrimages to Lourdes and (his own preference) to Fatima. All his pilgrims appreciated his warm manner and his deep faith.

Over the last few years he became more and more needy. In his wheelchair, half blind and deaf, he nevertheless took as full a part in the community life as possible. He was helped and supported by the confreres and the medical staff, for it was unthinkable for him to leave Rotselaar.

We thank God for this rich life of our confrere.



Father Ernesto BREMBILLA, S.M.M.

(1920 – 2007)

Died in Redona – Bergamo (Italy), on 15 September 2007,
aged 86 with 57 years of Religious Profession.

Ernesto Brembilla was born in Brembate Sopra (Bg) on 26 October 1920. Work in the fields and the factory, his call-up to the army during the Second World War, captivity in a concentration camp in Germany: these things left their mark, not only on his youth, but on his entire existence. When the war ended and he returned home, he entered the Apostolic School in Redona di Bergamo on 15 September 1947, at the age of 27: an exceptional case at that period. In Autumn 1949, he entered the Novitiate in Castiglione (To). In his presentation for first vows, it is written: “a good enough character, a little impulsive and nervous; sensitive; fearful when in public; when he entered the Novitiate he had some difficulty in integrating, but he is open to guidance.” A kind of fear of not measuring up to the priestly vocation made itself felt. But “after expressing my doubts, difficulties and hesitations, I entrust myself to the grace of the Lord, taking Mary for my sure guide and with hope in my heart.” On 8 September 1950 he became a Montfortian religious. There followed courses in philosophy and theology in the scholasticate in Loreto (An). Father Ernesto was ordained priest in the Holy House Basilica on 25 February 1956 along with 8 confreres.

His first appointment sent him to the parish of Our Lady Mediatrix on the outskirts of Rome, with responsibility for the pastoral care of the boys and the youth. Then he was employed successively in the ministries of preaching, hearing confessions and spiritual direction in Reggio Calabria, Naples, Treviglio and Santeramo. In Rome from 1966 to 1969, he was chaplain to ONARMO (Opera Nazionale Assistenza Morale Operai).

From 1972 to 1981, he was in the community of Arbizzano, where he was particularly attentive to the question of youth. The evangelisation of youth, the world of work and of the restlessness of youth: these were the three pastoral areas that he had a passion for, that challenged him, and in which he wanted to see a greater commitment as a Montfortian group. His way of relating and his character were causes of isolation and suffering for him and for others, but in one-to-one encounters he was able to express esteem and confidence. After this period his state of health indicated retirement in the community of the Villa Montfort. So began a phase in his life marked by silence. The desire to understand and live the Montfortian mission was still something he dreaded, and he sought, especially through reading, to find an answer to the questions that plagued him in his search for truth.

At the end of April 2007, an unforeseen sickness weakened his otherwise robust constitution, and wore him down in the space of just a few months. He ended his earthly pilgrimage on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, 15 September 2007, sixty years exactly after his entry into the Montfortian family. Fr Ernesto rests at peace in the cemetery of Brembate Sopra (Bg), where he was born.



Brother Giacomo CAPELLI, S.M.M.

(1923 – 2007)

Died in Bergamo (Italy), on 1st October 2007,
aged 84 with 50 years of Religious Profession.

Giacomo Capelli was born in Casazza (Bg) on 9 June 1923. Once his military service was over, in various towns in Italy, post-war poverty and the scarcity of work led him to go abroad. So we find him, from 1949 until half way through 1955, working as a miner in Belgium and a labourer in France. In the meantime, in his heart he was cultivating the desire for religious consecration. A strong Marian devotion, an acquaintanceship with a Daughter of Wisdom and a meeting with a Montfort Father led him towards the Company of Mary. He entered the postulancy in September 1955 and began his novitiate in Castiglione (To) in March 1956. He became a Montfortian religious when he made his first vows on 19 March 1957. Brother Giacomo is described as “jovial, sensible, generous and ready to serve, easily falling into discouragement, sometimes a bit critical.” His first appointment was to Naples, where he was involved in the service of the community and church of San Severino, looked after pastorally by the Montfort Missionaries. One Father who lived with him speaks of “a beautiful and fruitful experience of a confrere who was generous, faithful to the Lord, a bit ‘grumpy’ in manner, but good.” There followed two brief stays at the CMM in Rome at the Via Cori (1959-1960) and at Arona (No) in a house of preachers (1960-1961). In 1961 he was posted to the General House in Rome and stayed there until 1987. He lived there through the Vatican Council, with the house’s reception of the Montfortian Council Fathers. A Superior General of that time writes: “I express the thanks of all for the long years Brother Giacomo devoted to the service of our General House. Those who lived with him in Monte Mario retain an agreeable memory of him in their hearts...”

In 1987 he arrived in the Via Prenestina, for the CMM, engaged in the marketing of Montfortian publications and the ordinary services of the community. He loved the beauty and the splendour of the liturgy, and devoted himself to it. He suffered somewhat from the changes in religious and Montfortian life, because sometimes they did not proceed in the right direction. Even if he no longer wore the Montfortian habit, he often had in his hands the large Rosary, or around his neck a large Cross, which went well with his rather corpulent frame. At the beginning of 2007, symptoms of an incurable sickness of the brain began to show themselves. He celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his religious profession, and in the early days of April, after 46 years spent in Rome, he went to the Villa Montfort. There he seemed to recover, all the more so as he went on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the sick and returned very moved and thankful. During the evening of 1 October 2007, the feast of St Theresa of Lisieux and the vigil of the Guardian Angels, after prayer and the evening meal with the community, Brother Giacomo suffered a serious crisis which very quickly led to his death. The Prayer of the Church: “Come, saints of heaven... come to meet him, angels of the Lord. Come to welcome this soul and present him before the face of the Most-High God,” took on a special meaning. Brother Giacomo lies at rest in the cemetery of Bergamo, among various Montfortian confreres.



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

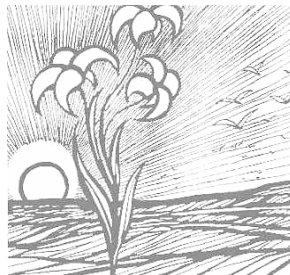
September 2007			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
13	Br. Benjamin Mounal	La Hillière (France)	88	68
28	Br. Rémi Bonnin	La Hillière (France)	77	57
October 2007				
15	Br. Joseph Auffret	La Hillière (France)	87	70
November 2007				
05	Br. Armand Grelier	La Hillière (France)	77	58
07	Br. George Mary (Thomas K. K.)	Yercaud (India)	86	64



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

October 2007			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
04	Sr. Maria Daniela di Gesù (Bice Marieni)	Clusone Italy	83	57
18	Sr. Béatrice de l'Immaculée (Alice Guindon)	Ottawa Canada	97	77
25	Sr. Bernard du St-Sacrement (Lucille Grandmaître)	Ottawa Canada	79	61
November 2007				
10	Sr. Clémence du Sauveur (Colette Raynal)	St Laurent s/S France	89	67



**« I am the Resurrection and the Life;
whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live » Jn 11, 25**