



# L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

March 2008 - N° 6

## OUR DECEASED BROTHERS



### Father Jan LORTYE, S.M.M.

(1921 – 2008)

Died in Voerendaal (The Netherlands), on 25 February 2008,  
aged 86 with 65 years of Religious Profession.

Jan Lortije (Sjeng) was born in Schimmert on October 8, 1921. He entered the Congregation in 1941 in Meerssen and made his first vows on September 8, 1942. On March 7, 1948 he was ordained priest in Oirschot by Mgr. Mutsaerts.

Until 1972 Jan worked as a teacher in the minor seminary, first in Schimmert and from 1958 in Voorschoten. After that period he worked for several years as minister of religion in Schiedam. At the age of 51 he became chaplain in the Antonius IJsselmonde nursing-home in Rotterdam. In 1982 he also was appointed for two days as vice-chaplain in a hospital in Heerlen. From 1987 till 1993 Jan worked in a nursing-home in Heerlen and his last appointment was as an assistant-priest in a nursing-home in Gulpen until 2003.

During his active years Jan worked for both young as well as old people. In his own way he taught in Ste Marie and Beresteyn. He liked gathering a small group of students around him so he could be like a warm and kind father figure. He searched for some homely, family environment. Once he wrote, that it was his strong conviction that "small autonomous homogenous groups would make life human and lively without suffocating the germ of the priestly mission by measures, punishment or surveillance. The work and the example of the priests present should invite them to an unselfish dedication to God and humankind. We must give them freedom to personal development". The interest of Jan in the sixties for the Mazurkagroup fits with the longing of students in Oirschot to form small groups. With pain in his heart he had to experience the change of minor seminaries into hostels and shortly after that their complete disappearance. He tried experimenting for a while, but the flood of time could not be reversed. He started exercising pastoral care amongst the sick and the elderly. He liked this clear and defined work. He became a person again and felt good in place. As long as possible, even in his old days, he did this work.

Jan did not put his feelings directly and easily on the table. 'Quiet and rather closed', was the conclusion at the end of his minor seminary. Sometimes he kept quiet too long. And when he finally spoke, it was sometimes too hard. Shy as he was, it was difficult for him to pick up the thread. He backed out, which led to a certain alienation, even within the congregation. For the last five years the relationship became more friendly again. Jan was

really committed to the Company. He enjoyed listening to the stories of the confreres and was glad when we visited him.

The last few years Jan's health became worse, both mentally as well as physically. What he liked most was sitting at ease and comfortably in his chair. There was not much left of the Father who as a teacher organized sports in Ste. Marie. Even his greatest hobby, walking in nature, became too difficult for him. He was not able to do anything more than watching sport on the TV. Luckily he found a good home with Mrs. Zijlstra in Voerendaal. She surrounded him with attention and care, the congregation is grateful for her caring. When she came home this morning from physical-therapy Jan sat in the open door of his room calling for help. His physician came rapidly, but could not help anymore. Now his life is explicitly in the hands of God.



### **Brother Tarcisio (Moisés RÍOS RÍOS), S.M.M.**

**(1916 – 2008)**

Died in Choachí (Colombia), on 8 March 2008,  
aged 91 with 74 years of Religious Profession.

Brother Tarcisio was born in Choachí on 31 March 1916. He made his first vows in San Juanito, Meta, on 15 October 1933. He was the eldest of the Montfort Missionaries of the Colombian Province and was approaching the age of 92 and 75 years of Religious Profession.

In the course of those 75 years, his fraternal presence, busy, pious and simple, was specially appreciated in our Formation Houses and the properties supplying them with food. Thus, he was in charge of the farm at the scholasticate in San Juanito from 1934 to 1937; afterwards, from 1938 to 1950, he lived at the Novitiate house in San Juanito, doing manual work; in 1951, he went to work in the scholasticate in Albán, and later, after some time spent in San Juanito and Choachí, he went to the Novitiate house in Funza until 1971; in 1971, he returned to San Juanito to the farm known as “El Guadal”; from 1975 to 1978, he spent three years in San Luis del Tomo, in the Vichada, with a short interruption of one year in Belén, Bogotá, where he returned from 1979 to 1983 in the parish of Belén and the Seminary. Since 1984, he had been once again in Choachí where he spent the rest of his life, partly at the old Junior Seminary, and finally in the Priests’ Home, where he died peacefully on 8 March at 6.25 in the morning, assisted spiritually by Fathers Motta and Parmenio Beltrán.

A few short words of appreciation might give us some idea of his life:

“The death of Brother Tarcisio gives us an assurance of the presence in the Father’s House of someone who greatly loved the Congregation, and will love it even more from on high. We present him joyfully to the Lord of Life.” *Father General*, in Rome.

“May he rest in peace and receive the reward for his life, this good Brother who gave us such an example of patience, strength and love of God and of the Blessed Virgin.” *Fr. Adolfo León Betancur*, from Lima, Peru.

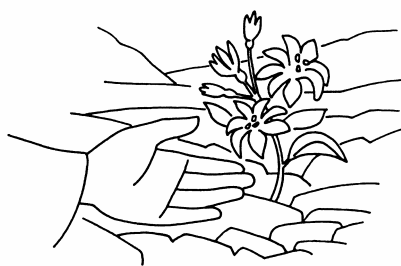
“The death of Tarcito made me homesick, but also gave me the joy of knowing that today he is with the most beautiful and holiest Woman, our Mother and his, the Blessed Virgin, whom he loved so much. I will pray for Brother during today’s Eucharist this afternoon.” *Fr. Parmenio Gómez*, from Antigua, Guatemala (The International Day of Woman was celebrated on 8 March).

“Thank you for sharing with me the news of the death of Tarcito. My vocational and brotherly path in the Company of Mary was seeded by his presence as a friend and by his simple witness. I still remember our long conversations when I was a postulant. He relayed to me, one by one, the memory of his adventures... In everything he did, he mixed a simple joy with a deep faith and a busy life, after the example of Nazareth. A watchful “hunter”, he was able to close one eye so as to aim the better... And Tarcito was aiming for holiness. He was a man of peace, clear in his convictions. May God be blessed for the gift that was his life and for his witness!” *Fr. Jorge Enrique González*, from Montreal, Canada.

“Along with the confreres who knew and appreciated the life and witness of “Tarso”, I retain the memory of his simplicity, his brotherly love, his natural availability for service and his human and Montfortian experience, always lived with joy and authenticity, even in the distant realities of the war with the Japanese and his amusing hunting adventures. Everything was illuminated by his solid faith and filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin, which he expressed in the making of Rosary beads and in saying the Rosary, as an effective encouragement to strength for himself and others. Thanks to his life and Montfortian fidelity, his final rest is a motive for joy and satisfaction.” *Fr. Aurelio*, from Manila, Philippines.

“Brother Tarcisio was an admirable example of patience in his suffering and throughout his life. He never complained, was never heard to speak ill of a confrere or of a superior, today or yesterday, and always retained, even to his last moments, his mental clarity, his political choices, as well as his interest in the Province and the Congregation. One of his later specialities was the making of Rosary beads, but right to the end of his life, the Rosary was his constant prayer. May the Lord receive him into glory, this holy and simple brother who leaves us his exemplary memories.” *Fr. Miguel Patiño H.*, Bogotá.

His funeral took place on 9 March in the parish church of St Michael Archangel in Choachí, where he had been baptised on 7 April 1916.



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**Father Alberto RUM, S.M.M.**

**(1913 – 2008)**

Died in Rome (Italy), on 13 March 2008,  
aged 95 with 76 years of Religious Profession.

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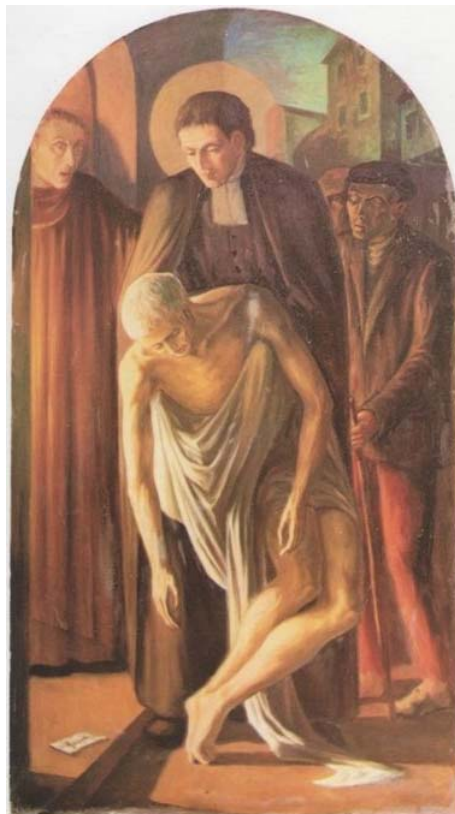
## FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

### BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

<b>February 2008</b>			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
22	Brother Romain LANDRY <i>(Superior general from 14.04.1965 to 26.12.1976)</i>	Laval, Québec (Canada)	86	70

### DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

<b>February 2008</b>			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
20	Sr. Anna-Marie de Jésus (Doria CHAMBERLAND)	Brentwood, NY (United States)	79	59
<b>March 2008</b>				
13	Sr. Mary Peter (Agnes Josephine LOFTUS)	Romsey (Great Britain)	85	62
22	Sr. Brigitte de Montfort (Hélène STEPHANSEN)	St Laurent sur Sévre (France)	95	71



« Open the door for Jesus Christ ! »