



L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

July 2008 - N° 7

OUR DECEASED BRETHREN



Father Alberto RUM, S.M.M.

(1913 – 2008)

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

Albert Rum was born in Sgurgola (Fr) on 17 February 1913. When he was 10 years old he went to the Apostolic School in Bergamo, where he joined his elder brother, Joseph. Recalling that time, he wrote: “The advice of those good Fathers helped me, as well as the example of good companions (fellow pupils).” He began his novitiate in Redona in October 1930 and completed it with his first Profession in France, at Celles-sur-Belle, on 1 October 1931. His six years of scholasticate were shared between Rome and Loreto. At the end of his philosophy course he was called to Redona as a teacher for the school year 1933-34, “a big sacrifice, but one that he accepted wholeheartedly.”

Fr Alberto was ordained priest on 12 March 1938 in Loreto, in the Holy House Basilica. In his *curriculum vitae*, handwritten on 8 June 1938, shortly after his priestly ordination and before receiving his *letters of mission*, he wrote: “My dream as a child and a junior seminarian has become a reality. I am a religious, and I am a missionary priest of the Company of Mary. God has shown me the secret of my religious life and my apostolate: true devotion to the Mother of God according to the spirit of Blessed de Montfort. Thank you, Lord, now, and do with me, through my superiors, your representatives, what you wish: *presto sum*.” His first field of apostolate was in the Via Romagna, in charge of the Shrine and working for the magazine *Regina dei Cuori*. In 1947, he opened the *Collegio Montfort* and was its superior until 1950: he was much appreciated for his Marian piety and his religious conviction. The Seminary in Loreto benefited from his presence as spiritual director and professor of dogma during the years 1950-1953.

Itinerant preaching kept Fr Alberto busy in the communities of Arona, Reggio Calabria and Treviglio between 1953 and 1962, when he returned to Rome once more. After a brief stay in the General House and in the neighbouring parish of St Louis Marie de Montfort, Fr Alberto devoted himself for practically 45 years to the spreading of Montfortian spirituality, moving with the various relocations of the Montfortian Marian Centre. Preaching, studying the writings of our founder and the work of publishing them

kept him busy and was his passion. He was a faithful companion for all the Marian groups inspired by Montfortian spirituality, in particular the *Legion of Mary*. He wrote for the magazines *Madre e Regina* and *La Madonna* and for the *Osservatore Romano*.

Fr Alberto was attentive to the various developments in Mariology, and was a regular participant in Marian congresses, even the international ones, and never refused invitations to direct “spiritual exercises” or sessions on our spirituality. Though small in stature, he was very tenacious in following up what he had in mind, and showed himself to have a poetic and jovial spirit. Endowed with an extraordinary memory, he was deeply interested in the life of his Province and of the Congregation, and always ready to make his own contribution. Even in old age, he never lost interest in the life of the Congregation. On 13 March 2008, after an unexpected illness, he fell asleep in the Lord, just the day after the 70th anniversary of his priestly ordination. He lies now in the tomb of the Montfort Missionaries in the Campo Verano cemetery in Rome, next to his brother Joseph.



**Brother André-Marie (Bernard RAMBAUD), S.M.M.
(1929 – 2008)**

Died in Saint Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 15 April 2008,
aged 79 with 60 years of Religious Profession.

Brother André-Marie Rambaud (Bernard, according to his Baptismal name) was born on 12 January 1929 in Saint-Amand-sur-Sèvre into a farming family. His father was an agricultural labourer, and his mother a housewife. He had three brothers and two sisters, one of whom became a religious in the De La Salle community in Vihiers. From childhood on, he wanted to be a missionary. He did his primary schooling under the Brothers of St Gabriel in Saint-Amand-sur-Sèvre, then in September 1941, aged 12 and a half, he entered the Clerical College in Châtillon (today Mauléon). He stayed there from 1941 until 1946. But at that time he was told that he could not be a priest because of a handicap in his pronunciation ... Despite this setback (which we can guess caused him a lot of pain), he was not discouraged. Very soon he made the decision to enter the postulancy of the Montfortian Brothers in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, beginning in September 1946. He made his first religious profession on 19 March 1948. In memory of his brother André who had died in an accident during his military service, he took the name of “Brother André-Marie”. He made his perpetual vows on 19 March 1954.

For ten years (1948-1958) he worked as a member of the little team of infirmarians at the Mother House in Saint-Laurent, while doing various apprenticeships in carpentry, masonry and mechanics. Then, in 1958, his superiors sent him to Haiti, to the diocese of Port-de-Paix. There he became a “Jack of all trades”, in manual work and even as foreman of works, mainly in the building of schools, dispensaries and chapels. From 1982 until 1992, he took on the role of bursar for the bishop and diocese and, in this role, was responsible for its 19 schools and their 120 teachers. From 1993 until 1997, at the request of the mission superior, he moved from Port-de-Paix to Port-au-Prince, the Capital, to the Montfortian Provincial House, to oversee major enlargement works. Then, on his return to

Port-de-Paix in 1997, he began a building project for a boarding “Farm-School”. This was to be his last construction in Haiti. In January 2004, he finally returned to Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, to help in looking after his sick confreres. This he did until September 2007 when he was found to have cancer, which gradually invaded and destroyed his chest and lungs.

He suffered this trial with a great faith and total generosity, despite very difficult moments. But the peace-giving grace of the Lord and the motherly care of Mary were with him, as St Louis Marie assures us in his writings (cf. TD no. 200). At his burial in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, this Haitian hymn which he loved so much was sung:

*“Mari, manman nou, nous vini jouinn ou
Nan ou nou trouvé Jézu
Lè nous va’ rivé sanblé avèk ou
Jézu va nan nou, an plin”.*

*“Mary, our Mother, we come to unite ourselves with you.
We find Jesus in you.
When we succeed in being like you
Jesus will be perfectly in us.”*

Yes, Bernard, our Brother André-Marie, good and faithful servant, enter into the fullness of joy – Paschal joy – of your Lord.



**Brother Leo (Jozef BROSENS), S.M.M.
(1920 – 2008)**

Died in Valkenburg (The Netherlands), on 9 May 2008,
aged 87 with 54 years of Religious Profession.

Brother Leo was born as Jozef Brosens on 9 October 1920 in Meer, Belgium. He entered the Montfortians in 1953 in Meerssen and made his first vows on 19 March 1954. Five years later he made his final vows on 19 March 1959, also in Meerssen. Before entering the congregation, Brother Leo had followed an education for carpentry at the trade school in Hoogstraten (Belgium). In the congregation, experts were needed badly, and soon he became a member of the provincial working group. This group worked in all our houses for rebuilding or repairs. For ten years his stand was Beresteijn in Voorschoten, followed by five years in Meerssen. From 1969 Vroenhof became his home.

Brother Leo was already in his thirties when he entered the Montfortians. Before he came to the novitiate in Meerssen, he had to ride a bumpy road. His father did not like the idea of him entering the congregation; his mother was ill; his employer needed him badly; because of a failed strawberry crop there was no money at home. Then, his mother died. Leo could not leave his family. A brother of the Hiëronymites of Saint Nicklaus meant that Leo made an easy choice by entering the Montfortians and that his calling was in Saint Nicklaus. That confused him. After praying and thinking for a couple of weeks, he wrote: "I do not feel gifted enough to enter in Saint Nicklaus, because of my nature. I like the silence and the humble work more than being a supervisor in a necessarily busy

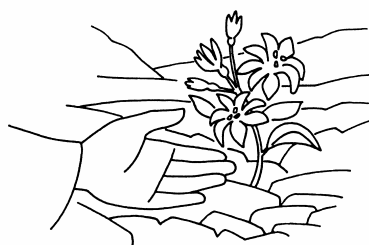
home for the mentally disabled" (27 July 1952). And thereby the love of Montfort for Our Lady helped him decide to become a Montfortian.

When Leo came to Meerssen in September 1952, he brought - next to the usual outfit - at least 8 books of prayer and four meditation books. Was there ever a novice amongst us that brought more spiritual luggage? He probably had used those books for some time. At home he used to fulfil for a many years 'daily religious practices from the Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, chaplet and devout contemplations' (1 January 1952).

Next to all the material work Leo practised for years on end, he was a true helpful guardian angel in Vroenhof for Wiel van Eunen. Short after the death of Wiel, he died, after a period of painful confusion and disorientation. Now he can say with the words of St. Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." He wouldn't just add to this: "For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me in that day." But he would agree totally with the end remark of the Apostle: "yet not to me only, but also to those who love his coming." (2. Timothy 4, 7-8).

If there were ever saint members of our congregation, Leo would belong to them undoubtedly. Who could say anything wrong about him? Maybe that he was afraid to take responsibility. He would rather be a silent carpenter (a very good one!). He once feared to be appointed as superior of the brothers, but lucky for him he was spared for this. Anyway, he led the way by his modest, friendly, gentle and quiet way of life. To brothers and fathers!

Leo was a great admirer of "Gods' Servant brother Isidoor Passionist, because I see in him a wonderful example, of the Holiness which he realised to achieve as a simple lay-brother, a life I hope once to follow from a distance" (22 June 1952). Isidoor was declared blessed in 1984. Leo didn't long for this. But in our eyes he certainly was honourable! It is an honour we hardly deserve, that this blessed man felt comfortable with us. Should we need to commend him to our God? Wasn't he devoted to God with his entire being? May the memory of this fine confrere be our example for a long time!





Father Jean HERRMANN, S.M.M.
(1915 – 2008)

Died in Cholet (France), on 30 May 2008,
aged 93 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

Father Jean Hermann made discretion his dwelling place! Certainly he was “born like that,” without noise, in Charquemont, a village on the Franco-Swiss border, on 27 February 1915. Born in France, and yet of Swiss nationality, in a quite simple family of artisans. His father was called Otto and his mother was Anna. It was at Charquemont that he was baptized and took his first steps in life and in school. Then, in 1927, at the age of 12, he entered the Minor Seminary of Liesle, which opened two years earlier. Thus began his Montfortian journey. He continued at the school of the Calvary at Pont-Château for the last years of his study of “humanities,” then at the novitiate of Celles-sur-Belle and at the scholasticate of Montfort-sur-Meu, where he was ordained priest on 15 February 1942, but not before already teaching the sixth form for two years at Pelousey.

He made discretion his dwelling place ... but that did not prevent him from being very talented! Intellectually, certainly! But also in sports and music. Just one year after his ordination, in 1943, he was named professor of philosophy at the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu, just as he was beginning to follow courses in philosophy at the University of Rennes. With courses spread out over three years, and with one year of full time study, he obtained his license in philosophy in 1947. On this pathway which was well marked out from then on, he taught philosophy for 22 years, at Montfort, Pont-Château, and Celles-sur-Belle. All his former students from these long years remember him as a really wise man, competent, invariably welcoming, peaceful and fraternal ...

Then in 1967 a completely new mission opened up for him: he went from being a professor to becoming a parish priest, around Chézelles and Ile-Bouchard, for 16 years. Then in 1983, yet another new stage: he was named chaplain of the Daughters of Wisdom at La Chartreuse, as well as superior of the Montfortian community. He stayed there for four years. Then again he accepted a mission which was an enormous change for him – that of parish priest at Pompignan, very near to La Gardiolle, where, despite everything, he remained for four years ... Then, in 1991, he returned to the Shrine of Notre Dame du Chêne near Ornans, which he knew from his youth. And it was there that he carried on with serenity a ministry of merciful welcome and preaching the Gospel for 14 years – until 2004 when he arrived at Saint-Laurent.

Here he embarked on his final stage. And it was here with all of us who follow the same path, that little by little he had to get used to ageing, to a change in rhythm and finally to dependence, he who had ignored sickness all his life. But, as much as he could, he traversed with his mountaineer’s stride the roads and paths around the basin of Saint-Laurent. As much as he could, even up to these last weeks, he also kept his immense intellectual curiosity. For example, this last book “The Rabbi and the Cardinal,” a very rigorous and fraternal dialogue between the great Rabbi Gilles Bernheim and Cardinal Philippe Barbarin on the Torah, the Covenant, and the person of Jesus Christ. He read it with passion, even though he was not able to finish it because of his final fatigue, and he

marked its pages with a large sheet of white paper on which a friend's hand had written for him the texts of the Our Father and the Hail Mary – but in Greek – *Kairé kékaritoménè – Hail Mary full of grace ...* It is with this image that I finish this evocation of the beautiful human and spiritual character of our brother Jean Hermann, but not without catching one last time the words from his weakened lips which I cited at the beginning and which characterizes him so well: « *Au revoir, et merci* ». Yes! Farewell and thank you, Father Jean. Until we see you again in God!



Father August (Guus) GEORGE, S.M.M.
(1928 – 2008)

Died in Reykjavik (Islande), on 16 June 2008,
aged 80 with 57 years of Religious Profession.

On 5 April 1928 August George was born in Wijlre. He entered the Montfortians in Meerssen in 1949 and one year later he made his first vows on 8 September. His perpetual vows he made on the same date in 1955 in Oirschot, where he also was ordained priest on 11 March 1956 by Mgr. Mutsaerts. The same year he left for Reykjavik, Iceland to be an assistant priest. In 1969 he became vicar-general, a position he kept till his death. From 1972 until 1986 he was regional superior. In 1994 he got the Order of the Falcon, a high Icelandic decoration. With the death of Guus 105 years of Montfortian presence in Iceland ended. No one expected this moment to come so soon. When he returned from a nice holiday in the Netherlands, his doctor told him that he had to be operated as soon as possible. Guus knew that every operation - especially with his heart - had some risks. But his good friend, the doctor, assured him that he could probably return home in the afternoon of the same day. Unfortunately it went wrong. The first messages were very gloomy, but, wonder of wonders, Guus came through. Until his situation suddenly deteriorated. This morning at 9 p.m. (Icelandic time) he died.

At first Guus wanted to leave for Mozambique; but, because of his bad health, he couldn't go. As a student in our small seminary in Schimmert he had several concussions and at our scholasticate in Oirschot he suffered the aftereffects; he tired easily and slept extremely long. He got an appointment for Iceland, a much quieter mission. But who was waiting there for a Catholic priest? As a missionary you must have a dogged endurance. Not only because of the very difficult language. With a lot of patience you had to search for ways to make the richness of the Catholic life visible. Education was mostly the way Guus used, in the beginning as a teacher of arithmetic. After the sudden death of Father Hacking, he became principal of the Landakot-school. It became his life's work. In spite of many financial worries he succeeded remarkably to modernize and extend the school. His good-naturedness from his birth certainly helped with that. Most pupils were not Catholic and never became Catholic, but when they achieved important positions in the Icelandic society. Many of them spoke highly of the school of Sera George.

In addition, Guus worked for the diocese. From 1969 on he was vicar-general and also their bursar. In times when there was no bishop he was (for three periods) Apostolic Administrator. His name was well known in Rome. A sign of appreciation for his work

was the private-conversation with Pope John Paul II during his visit to Iceland in 1991. Guus was a man of charm and a great communicator. He was rather modest and did not like to be in the spotlights. He became a typical Icelander. Appearing before a large audience was an ordeal for him. His private Mass in his own Montfort chapel was just right for him. He liked entertaining visitors more than unexpectedly visiting others.

Within the congregation, the Icelandic missionaries always had their own position. They were marked by the loneliness of the island on which they stayed. The long winter nights left their traces on their heart and in their soul. The same applied for Guus, but when he became the only Montfortian in Iceland, he searched for more contact with his Dutch confreres. With great joy he participated with the Extraordinary Provincial Council and some weeks ago he was visibly delighted seeing his former classmate Sjeng Leistra. From the Land of Fire and Ice Guus left for the house of the Father. Hopefully he meets there many old faces, next to many new ones. May he feel truly at home and enjoy the place Christ made for his loyal servant.



Father Leonardus (Leo) VERBAKEL, S.M.M.
(1937 – 2008)

Died in Middelbeers (The Netherlands), on 18 June 2008,
aged 70 with 49 years of Religious Profession.

On 10 December 1937 Leo was born in Voorburg. He entered the Montfortians in Meerssen in 1957 and on 8 September 1958 he made his first vows. On 1 September 1963 he took his final vows and on 8 March 1964 he was ordained priest in Oirschot by Mgr. Bekkers. After his ordination, Leo became minister of religion at the Montfortian minor seminary Beresteyn in Voorschoten. After that he became chaplain in Alphen aan de Rijn; from 1967 until 1971 he worked in Zevenaar. The next five years he was a missionary in Iceland, stationed in Reykjavik. When he returned to the Netherlands he was appointed for the Montfort parish in Tilburg, where he worked for twelve years. From 1988 he worked with heart and soul as parish priest in Oost-, West- en Middelbeers, until he had to take formal leave because of health problems.

For months in a row Leo fought to live for just a few years longer. Moments of hope followed the days on which he was critically ill. It was not in his character to throw in the towel. But his entire life he looked at the facts with common sense. When he was just a young man he lost both his parents. Lately every person that surrounded him became impressed by his struggle. Leo fought in a very religious way. He was not afraid of death. "I had a good life," he often said. For him, life meant the possibility of being connected with others. And that is what he appreciated most in being a priest, from his ordination on: to engage with people, not as an official, but as a fellow-traveller. Receiving the trust of others made his life worthwhile. That is why the theme of his farewell Mass last year was: "Thank you... and moving on together, in full trust." He wanted to write these last words above De Beerzen in heaven.

In his letter on the occasion of Leo's farewell as parish priest, Bishop Hurkmans rightly described him as 'an open ear and eye for his parishioners.' That is the person Leo wanted to be. That was for Leo the essence of the church: being there, with each other, together. According to Leo, the institutional church had to be subjugated. Concrete people with their joy and sadness meant more to him than laws and rules. He wanted to be in the middle of people, not above. He wanted to go by the flow of their rhythm and not just hold out a building from olden days. He spoke with indignation about church officials who stood far away from daily life. In spite of that, he did not trim his sails according to the wind – not in the least. He chose once during a festive Mass the following lines: "Beware of people who speak highly of you. The same was done by their forefathers with the false prophets." (Lk.7, 26). When he said goodbye in the Montfort parish in Tilburg his motto was: 'We were on the road together for a while'. That is the way he saw life. Growing individualism really hurt him. How is it possible for people to live with God, if they don't know what living together is? Therefore it meant a lot for him, that so many people from de Beerzen surrounded him in his last days. Evidently, he had not sowed the seed of God's Word for nothing!

Leo was grateful for life, for the priest he was allowed to be. These last months, weeks and days his refrain was: "thank you." His 'thank you' after the extreme unction was impressive. Also impressive was his spontaneous prayer of gratitude last Monday-afternoon, when he spoke the words of Psalm 23: "Though I should walk in a dark valley, I will fear no evil, because thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff: these comfort me." He prepared Mass and sermons very meticulously. Leo was a caring person – caring towards patients, caring most of all towards his loyal housekeeper Nelly. He probably endured his illness so long out of concern towards her. If she would have found shelter in an old people's flat, dying would have been easier for him.

As a fellow Montfortian, Leo was a somewhat quiet person. Just being together was satisfying for him - if his parish allowed him to!! The same for his family. The first place was his special commitment to people. They always came first. Leo did not do the most of the talking. That changed over the last months. He shared with us his worries and his joy. He became a true speaker. No chitchat, but about the meaning of life, about the trust in God, always about the art of being grateful. After his farewell as parish-priest, Leo hoped to find the rest to read. It did not work out. With all our hearts we hope that God may give him now the Book of Life. May he find joy in its text.



**Father John Ramiro QUINTERO CASTAÑEDA, S.M.M.
(1972 – 2008)**

Died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 20 June 2008,
aged 36 with 5 years of Religious Profession.

John Ramiro was one of the youngest priests in the Colombian Province. He was ordained priest on 27 May 2007, in the parish of Our Lady of Carmel in Acacias, where he exercised a ministry even before his perpetual profession and deaconate. Mgr. Alberto Rozo, smm, who ordained him in Acacias, presided at his funeral in the church of San Benito, Villavicencio, where he had made his perpetual profession on 2 December 2006. John Ramiro was born on 20 March 1972 in Puerto Lopez, Meta, and made his first vows on 21 June 2003. He did the best part of his studies in philosophy and theology in the Seminary of Restrepo, Meta.

He had always exhibited an attraction for the most neglected: the young, mothers who are heads of families, the poor and the old. And in order to respond more effectively to these needs, he set up a non-profit Social Trust with members of his family, called “Semillas, Pan de vida” (“Seeds, Bread of Life”), in which he developed a number of programmes such as The Alternate Day, markets for poor families, a residence in Bogotá and university bursaries for poor youth, etc. The Trust was supported by gifts from benefactors. He had organised a bakery in the same line, to help to finance the work. He was the soul and the driving power of this Trust which had good standing in the town and was presented as a work of the parish. He succeeded in finding a number of Catholic people of good will to help him. Despite the success of this work, owing to the long illness of John Ramiro (it went on for six months) and his absence from Acacias, it has greatly lessened, because there have been a number of problems in the functioning of various programmes. It is possible that the Trust will die with him, but the seeds of solidarity and of human and Christian development will certainly bear fruit.

His long illness, which he had to suffer since he was attacked in Acacias in 2007, undermined his health, destroying his lungs; because of his diminished immune system, he was prey to other sicknesses which eventually led to his death in the SaludCoop Clinic in Bogotá. He stayed in Bogotá from February onwards, spending most of his time in our Postulancy house or in the Provincial House. His mother, Maria de Quintero, looked after him day and night, devoting all her time to him with faith and devotion, inspiring the admiration and thanks of everyone. She did all she could to support and comfort him, recommending him to the Lord, and attentive to all his wishes.

John Ramiro leaves us with the memory of a brother who was at once dynamic, creative and concerned for fraternal solidarity, and a great sorrow at losing someone who promised so much. He was a man of enterprise and determination in his projects, and at the same time inventive in giving Christian and Montfortian formation to those who benefited from his socio-cultural programmes. May the Lord receive him into glory, and may he intercede on behalf of all those for whom he gave his life with generosity.



Father Parmenio BELTRÁN BELTRÁN, S.M.M.
(1933 – 2008)

Died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 22 June 2008,
aged 75 with 53 years of Religious Profession.

“Menid”, as he was affectionately known from time immemorial, short for “Parmenides”, leaves us with a picture of a confrere and a friend who was smiling and approachable, obliging and pious. This is the picture that Fr Mottica wanted us to see in a photo which he exhibited during his funeral, and one that is always present in our hearts.

He was born on 15 May 1933 in Junin, that land of priestly vocations which has given 111 priests to the Church, among them several Montfortians. On the day of his death, some confreres along with a number of lay-folk, were beginning a parish mission in his native district. One of them told me that he heard of his death just as he was taking part in the mission in the district where Fr Parmenio was born, and another said that he was in the village where Fr. Parmenio had given a mission last year. It seems sure that the offering of his life, on Sunday 22 June, made this mission very fruitful.

Fr. Parmenio was convalescing after an operation on his eye, and he was suffering once again with his inner ear, which caused him to lose his balance and to become dizzy. Because of this he was taken to the clinic, because he had abdominal pains and bouts of vomiting. He began to pull round a little, and left the clinic to go to stay with his nearest sister; the following day he was admitted to hospital as an emergency because the abdominal pain had become insupportable and so severe that an operation was performed to find out the cause. On opening him up, the surgeons were astonished to find his intestine completely affected by necrosis. They closed him up again and announced that they could do nothing, and that only a miracle could save him. He died a few hours later.

During his 48 years of missionary apostolate, he carried out a number of tasks for the benefit of the Province and of the Mission. From 1961 to 1968, he was a teacher in the minor seminary in Choachí. Then, for several years, he acted as parish priest or priest in charge in the Vichada prefecture, and was director of the boarding-school in Puente Carreño, La Pascua and Achacara, respectively from 1969 to 1979, with a short break in Manizales as a student. In Achacara, he built the famous education centre for natives and colonists intended specially for the training of teachers. From 1981 he was a teacher and the bursar in Choachí. For two years, from 1982 to 1983, he was assistant novice-master in Suba. In 1984 he was appointed superior of the Provincial House until 1985. Then, until 1988 he was parish priest in Esperanza, Villavicencio and San Luis Beltrán, Medellín. From 1989 until 1994 he was in charge of Choachí, and then was Provincial Bursar the following year until 2003. Since 2004 he lived in the home for priests, where he was at first the superior and later the bursar until his death on 22 June. That same day, Fr Pablo gave him the Sacrament of the Sick, absolution and a plenary indulgence granted by the Church at the moment of death. Fr Parmenio was fully conscious during this celebration. He died a few hours later.

His funeral, presided over by Mgr. Alberto Rozo and concelebrated by many priests, was a very solemn affair because of the great number of the faithful, his family and friends that filled the big church for two and a half hours. Nine of his ten brothers

were present. Thousands of flowers given by individuals and associations who had known and loved him adorned the sanctuary. The ceremony began an hour and a half later than foreseen because of the delay suffered by Mgr. Alberto Rozo due to the bad state of the roads. We profited by this time of waiting by praying and reading a number of messages from confreres abroad. Representatives of the Town Hall, his family and his fellow-countrymen gave their witness of thanksgiving.

“For me Parmenio was, ever since my postulancy, a friend, a brother and a father. His simple and brotherly life, his infectious smile, his missionary availability, his openness and his spirit of faith remain as the best presents he gave us. May God welcome him with joy: *‘good and faithful servant... since you were faithful in little things, I bestow on you greater things’...*” (Fr. Jorge Enrique, writing from Canada).

Father Joseph (Jos) KEULERS, S.M.M.
(1931 – 2008)

Died in Maastricht (The Netherlands), on 3 July 2008,
aged 77 with 54 years of Religious Profession.



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

April 2008			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
8	Br. Joseph DOUET	Kataco (Rep. of Guinea)	62	42
21	Br. Louis VRIGNAUD	La Hillière (France)	82	65
May 2008				
16	Br. Marcel FERRON	Nantes (France)	89	72
18	Br. Lionel GAUMONT	Montréal (Canada)	90	74
23	Br. Guy GODET	Nantes (France)	70	50
June 2008				
24	Br. Michel MARIVOET	Liedekerke (Belgium)	85	68
July 2008				
8	Br. Sulpice (Marcel RAYMOND)	La Hillière (France)	90	68
10	Br. Joseph PASQUIER	Nantes (France)	89	52

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

April 2008			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
4	Sr. Thérèse Martin (Thérèse Martin)	Ottawa (Canada)	86	64
4	Sr. Theodora Laetitia van het H. Hart (Alberta van der Meer)	Wijchen (The Netherlands)	84	48
10	Sr. Gemma dell'Addolorata (Maria Iantaffi)	Menaggio (Italy)	95	66
10	Sr. Marie-Emilienne (Michelle Giret)	St Laurent (France)	97	75
17	Sr. Marcelle de la Présentation (Marcelle Sivet)	La Chartreuse (France)	89	66
18	Sr. Linda-Maria (Filippa Buscemi)	Valperga (Italy)	78	58
18	Sr. Jean du Rosaire (Bernadette Percy)	Pétion-Ville (Haiti)	68	55
20	Sr. Antonia Bernardina (Antonia Th. L.van Druten)	Wijchen Lemweeg (The Netherlands)	95	67
27	Sr. Marie Alphonse des Anges (Auréa Leclerc)	Montréal (Canada)	94	68
28	Sr. Marie-Louise de l'Enfant Jésus (Marie-Louise Josz)	Tournai - Vertefeuille (Belgium)	98	79
May 2008				
4	Sr. Marie-Camille de Jésus (Nadine Vallet)	St Laurent (France)	95	59
5	Sr. Renée-Marie de Saint Vite (Marguerite Bodin)	St Laurent (France)	89	68
7	Sr. Lucie de la Sagesse (Germaine Noel)	Tournai - Vertefeuille (Belgium)	102	81
7	Sr. Hélène de l'Incarnation (Élismène Jean-Marie)	Carrefour (Haiti)	73	49
8	Sr. Pierrette de la Trinité (Pierrette Gagné)	Ottawa (Canada)	83	63
18	Sr. Elena dell'Eucaristia (Maria Amigoni)	Clusone (Italy)	83	62
24	Sr. Maria Jacoba (Josepha Born)	Houthem Valkenburg (The Netherlands)	89	68
26	Sr. Gertrude of the Eucharist (Gertrude Flannery)	Romsey (G.B.I.)	79	56

June 2008

5	Sr. Luisa Carolina (Giacomina Bornaghi)	Valperga (Italy)	91	58
5	Sr. Marie de Saint Basile (Marie-Thérèse Lucas)	St Laurent (France)	94	71
5	Sr. Odile de St François (Jacqueline de Kort)	Wijchen (The Netherlands)	93	72
8	Sr. Marguerite-Marie de la Sagesse (Thérèse Ratté)	Montréal (Canada)	82	55
25	Sr. Marie-Ghislaine du Christ (Marie-Louise de Taeye)	Tournai - Vertefeuille (Belgium)	80	56

July 2008

2	Sr. Jacoba de la Divine Sagesse (Marie Elisabeth Donkers)	Wijchen (The Netherlands)	92	66
2	Sr. Margaret Mary du Sacré-Coeur (Margaret Ward)	Windermere (G.B.I.)	84	59
5	Sr. Julienne-Marie de Montfort (Agnès Sorin)	St Laurent (France)	83	58
16	Sr. Andrée de Marie (Andrée Caillaud)	St Laurent (France)	84	61
17	Sr. Santa Bertilla (Maria Giovanna Morotti)	Valperga (Italy)	92	68
24	Sr. Anne-Marie des Anges (Marie-Françoise Le Blevec)	La Chartreuse (France)	90	63
24	Sr. Marguerite-Marie de la Croix (Marguerite Boton)	St Laurent (France)	91	64



« Open the door for Jesus Christ ! »