



# L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

July 2009 - N° 10

## OUR DECEASED CONFRES



### Father Ferdi PHILIPPI, S.M.M. (1932 – 2009)

Died on 15 April 2009, in Siegburg (Germany).

Aged 76 with 49 years of Religious Profession.

Ferdi was born on 15th December, 1932, in Hemmersdorf, Saarland. Early in life, he lost his father and as the eldest of three children he had to give a helping hand on the little farm, in as far as he could. After school, in the difficult years of the war, he was trained as a house painter. Because his wish to become a priest and a missionary became ever stronger, he entered at the age of 21 the school for late vocations of the Divine Word Missionaries. Two years later he came to the mission school of the Montfortians at Rheydt. After his final school examination he started the Noviciate in Meerssen NL in September 1958. A year later he made his first profession and went to Oirschot NL for his Philosophy and Theology studies and received Priestly ordination on 27th March, 1965.

In line with his own wishes he received his obedience for the mission of Haiti. He prepared himself very carefully and even gained some basic knowledge in the field of medicine and dentistry. On 26th December, 1965, he arrived in Haiti, where he very quickly mastered the Creole language. In October, 1966, he started his work in Gros Morne, where he stayed for 13 years. During his first home leave he begged for the means of building and equipment for his hospital "Alma Mater". It had 60 beds and they were all the time fully occupied. In May, 1979, he had to return to Germany, completely exhausted and ill, where he underwent a long medical treatment. Only in December could he return to Haiti to start his new work in the Montfort Parish of Port-de-Paix with its many outstations. The care of the poor was here also his special wish, and he was temporarily in charge of a school with 760 pupils. At the urgent request of the Bishop and the Haitian Provincial he assumed responsibility for the large parish of Jean Rabel. This gigantic parish counted 75.000 parishioners, 13 sub-churches and 35 out-stations and more than 100 Catechists. In 1988 the Parish was divided in two parts and Ferdi took responsibility over the part that was called "Ca Philipp".

For his tireless effort and engagement in mission and development he was honoured with the Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1990. Completely exhausted and ill he had to leave Haiti in 1996 for good. In July 1997 he came to live in the community of Marienheide. For reasons of his considerably declining health he had to be admitted in the nursing home for elderly people of the Alexian Brothers in Siegburg near Bonn. His kidneys failed more and more, so in the end he had to be brought three times a week for dialysis treatment. His energy ebbed away slowly and on 15th April the Lord of life and death came to call him to his eternal House. Until the end Ferdi was interested in everything that had to do with Haiti. Haiti was his life.

May the Lord reward him for all he did for the poorest of the poor.



**Brother Mozart DUGUAY, S.M.M.**  
**(1920 – 2009)**

Died on 3 May 2009, in Trois-Rivières (Canada).  
Aged 88 with 68 years of Religious Profession.

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Brother Mozart Duguay, formerly known as Brother Ephrem, was born on 20 October 1920 in Nicolet, the son of M. Ephrem Duguay and Mme. Jeanette Parent.

He made his first religious vows on 19 March 1941 in the chapel of Notre-Dame in the Montfort Orphanage in Montfort, a small hamlet in the Laurentian Hills, and he made his perpetual vows on 8 December 1950 in the chapel of Sainte Marie in our novitiate in Nicolet.

In 1941 he was appointed to work on the farm in Nicolet, and in 1942, to work on the farm in Montfort. In 1943 he went to Papineauville, the site of the minor seminary, where he was to work on the farm for 12 years. Then in 1955, he went back to the novitiate farm in Nicolet for two years, returning afterwards to Papineauville to work on the farm until 1972.

For almost twenty years after this, with constancy, regularity and fidelity, Brother Mozart took care of the reception and maintenance at the Shrine in Montreal, as well as helping in the sacristy.

The authorities of the town of Montreal awarded him a plaque in appreciation of his care of the flower-beds and lawns at the Shrine.

In 1991, he returned to Nicolet to help in the upkeep of the property until his transfer, in February 2009, to Pointe-du-Lac in Trois-Rivières.

After a long period of suffering caused by severe diabetes and hiccups which lasted several weeks, our confrere died peacefully on 3 May in the infirmary of our new Montfortian community at the Cénacle St-Pierre in Trois-Rivières.

Brother Mozart was a shy and retiring man, yet also strong and inventive. He had a good sense of humour, and was always ready to render service, slowly but surely.

Those involved in his formation said of him: “His nervous system is quite slow, which might be a slight inconvenience especially if he has to work with bubbly temperaments.”

The life of our confrere corresponds very well with what St Louis Marie de Montfort wrote in his Manuscript Rule, no. 4: “Lay Brothers are admitted into the Company to take care of temporal affairs provided they are detached, robust and obedient and ready to do all they are told to do.”

May the Glorious Virgin Mary present our dear confrere Mozart to her risen Son.



### **Father Bernard GUITTENY, S.M.M.**

**(1922 – 2009)**

Died on 8 May 2009, in St Laurent s/S (France).

Aged 86 with 62 years of Religious Profession.

Bernard was born on 2 July 1922 in Viais, a large village in the commune of Pont-Saint-Martin, in the famous wine country to the South of Nantes, close to Lake Grand-Lieu. His parents were working folk: his father a blacksmith and farrier.

“A saint has passed across our vineyards!” was what Father Francis Caillé, himself from Monnières, loved to proclaim several decades ago. Thus he evoked the saga of the missions preached in most of the parishes of the Nantes wine region during the years 1708-1709 by St Louis Marie, accompanied by Brother Mathurin Rangeard. Perhaps, as was the case for others, it was as a long-term result of this wave of “itinerant missions” in the area, that Bernard was led to enter, in 1935, the École du Calvaire in Pontchâteau. Later, his formative years were disturbed by sickness and long rest periods, so that he was not able to take his first vows until 28 April 1947 in Celles-sur-Belle. Then, at the end of his scholasticate, he was ordained priest on 22 February 1953 in Montfort-sur-Meu.

For him, this was the beginning of a life-journey that was active, varied, and even hectic. A list of place-names tells it all: Madrid, the Apostolic School in Andres Tomayo Street, from 1953 to 1955; back to France, and the communities of Orleans and Poitiers; the secretariat of the magazine “Regne” in 1959-60; then four years in Rome at the secretariat of the International Montfortian Centre; from 1964 to 1981, once again in Paris, at the Rue de la Tombe Issoire, with various ministries in the Paris region.

1981 was a turning point in his life: he was to put himself at the service of two dioceses as librarian and archivist: Meaux from 1981 to 1995, then Soissons beginning in 1995. At the same time, for a good dozen years, he gave courses in general culture to young people in technical colleges. In both these dioceses, he established good relations, while living in an apartment, somewhat isolated from the Congregation. It is true that a certain marginality seemed to suit him, it would seem, including in the area of Montfortian historical and spiritual research. For sure, he was a passionate researcher and worker, but rather non-conformist, individualistic, not keen on following the “well-worn paths”; and this involved him in some rather lively and notorious disagreements, even in fraternal silence...

In his favour there is still a very good biography of Father de Montfort – perhaps too little known – called: “Grignon de Montfort, missionnaire des pauvres” (Grignon de Montfort, Missionary among the Poor), published in 1993 by the Editions du Cerf. He loved this work very much, and was very proud of it. We might perhaps say that, through this very title, Bernard was looking for himself and, in a certain way, revealed something of himself.

But this is God’s secret! And, since we cannot pass judgement, we simply place him confidently in the tender hands of our Saviour. And, for this reason, why should we not call to mind the Blessed Virgin under the title of “Notre Dame des Ombres” (Our Lady of Shadows), whose small shrine nestles at the edge of a wood at La Chevrolière, a few kilometres from our confrere’s birthplace, which was so well praised by St Louis Marie (Hymn 155, God Alone II, pgs. 609-612). I quote, in conclusion, the last verse:

“My trust  
Lies in you, Queen of heaven,  
To live happily under your shade,  
In the hope  
Of having God for reward.  
How lovely, how lovely!  
In her shadow let us hide.”



### **Père Daniel HOGAN, S.M.M.**

**(1919 – 2009)**

Died on 16 May 2009, in Liverpool (England).  
Aged 89 with 70 years of Religious Profession.

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Fr. Dan Hogan, as a religious in the Company of Mary for 70 years and a priest for sixty-five years, always sought to serve his brothers journey to God. He was “stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit” for the service of God’s people.

Fr. Dan battled long and faithfully to live up to the ministry expected of him - always with a smile on his lips, together with a gentle word of encouragement. He had so many ministries during his long life - novice master; teacher in the Seminary in Romsey and Rector of the Scholasticate in Church Stretton; Missionary and preacher of retreats in Leeds and in Liverpool; active in the Montfortian parishes; opened the Sandymount House Of Prayer; chaplain to the Seafield Sisters. He never truly retired, never stopped working for God’s Kingdom. That is what religious like Fr. Dan do!

Sometimes his famous patience must have been taxed, sometimes he was disappointed when it appeared that his advice was not listened to, or when he seemed to be wasting his time and effort trying to get people to walk in the way of God. But what he remembered more often were the joys and the successes, which were certainly much more numerous than the disappointments – for who could resist Fr. Dan’s famous charm for long? He was able to help many whose faith was wavering to find again the right



path; to have a consoling word for anyone who was suffering and, for those who sought his help, to give wise and fatherly counsel.

Fr Dan made his Novitiate and Profession at Celles-sur-Belle in 1937-8 and his Scholasticate studies at Chezelles, Montfort and finally in England at Leagram Hall Chipping where he was ordained in 1943. With his profession into religious life, he was inspired by the Blessed Virgin and like his confreres he saw her as his Mother and Queen. Mary says 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Saviour'. (Luke 1:46). Fr. Dan, following her example, never proclaimed that any successes that he had were his own. He never sought his own greatness but with Mary he was always ready to exclaim the greatness of the Lord with joy.

We, his confreres of the vice-province, who have lived with him in the religious life, can hardly exaggerate the debt we owe to Fr. Dan Hogan. His habit of prayer and dedication was a quiet but constant example; we appreciate especially his brotherly support ever present and kindly, his gentle concern for the good of his confreres, which helped and encouraged us and over so very many years. He always felt that saying the rosary was one of the best ways to strengthen his life of prayer. We remember him with a feeling of gratitude for the tradition of prayer and love of Mary that he passed on to us. He has been and remains an inspiration to us as we try to follow his example and stay faithful to the task that Christ has given to each of us.

May he rest in a well deserved peace, with Mary, St Louis Marie and all the saints.



**Brother Gabriele (Lorenzo ROTA NODARI), S.M.M.  
(1914 – 2009)**

Died on 28 May 2009, in Redona-Bergamo (Italy).  
Aged 94 with 75 years of Religious Profession.

Lorenzo Luigi Rota Nodari – who would become Brother Gabriele dell'Addolorata at his first Religious Profession – was born on 2 September 1914 in Redona di Bergamo into a big family living on a farm very close to the Apostolic School. His frequent visits to the Montfortian community for work, combined with the example of two of his brothers who became Religious of the Company of Mary, no doubt brought about the maturing of his choice of Religious consecration. Brother Gabriele tells his story in this way: "... A peasant by profession... I entered the Company of Mary on 16 July 1932. I took the religious habit on 14 May 1934 and made my profession on 15 May 1934... I received my vocation through going to work at the Apostolic School in Redona following a suggestion of the Religious who lived there at that time, and almost by chance..." In his request to renew his vows on 4 April 1943, he wrote of himself: "Unfortunately we always promise to do better than in the past, but it seems that not much progress is made; but, in any case, the Madonna who gave us this beautiful vocation, will try, whether we want it or not, to make us more and more worthy of it." The one in charge of his formation wrote concerning Brother Gabriele: "A sure application to the exercises

of piety, a praiseworthy commitment to manual work, even if he lacks a certain orderliness; attachment to his own ideas, which sometimes is the cause of difficult relationships...”

He spent the first years of his religious life in various communities (Loreto, Redona, Treviglio), always available for the various services asked of him. During the last war he looked after the Montfortian house in Redona, which was occupied by the Germans keeping an eye on the airport of Orio al Serio. Brother Gabriele worked hard to find food for the seminarians, writing letters full of charity and courage. Endowed with extraordinary human resources, he launched himself passionately into poetry in dialect, and created a troop of marionettes which gave great pleasure to the seminarians. He wrote the text of his comedies himself, and was the director of the performances. Joy, simplicity and enthusiasm at work are the traits which characterise his life.

In 1954, Brother Gabriele left for America to go to the scholasticate in Litchfield. Devoting himself to various community services, he took part, under the direction of another Italian Brother, Brother Alfonso, in the building of a Lourdes Grotto and a Way of the Cross. In 1966, he returned to Italy, and in 1970 left for Malawi where he joined the missionaries in helping the poor and shared in the work of the missionary communities. After 17 years in the mission, he returned to the community which saw the birth of his vocation. In 2002 he was at the Villa Montfort. During his latter years, Brother Gabriele could no longer speak: he expressed himself by his looks and his smile. On 15 May he celebrated the 75th anniversary of his religious profession, and, full of years, he fell asleep in the Lord on 28 May 2009. He lies in the cemetery in Bergamo, beside his confreres and his two blood brothers who were also his religious confreres: Brothers Giovanni and Lorenzo.



**Father Pierre PELLEN, S.M.M.**  
**(1928 – 2009)**

Died on 1 June 2009, in St Laurent s/S (France).  
Aged 80 with 58 years of Religious Profession.

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Born in Saint-Pabu (Nord-Finistère) on 1 July 1928, into a family of sailors, he was attentive, right from his youth, to the small voice calling him to a missionary life. He passed through the normal stages of formation, starting with the École du Calvaire in Pontchâteau, and was finally ordained priest in Montfort-sur-Meu on 5 February 1956.

From his ordination year onwards, he was directed towards the itinerant mission in France, and he was not lacking in skills for this. He began with a year's training in Paris, in 1956-57, then joined various missionary teams in Brest and Pontchâteau. In 1964 he did a year's further training in Lille, at EMACAS ("Ecole Missionnaire d'Action Catholique et Sociale" – Missionary School of Catholic Social Action) – then once again he was a member of the missionary teams of Nantes-Portereau and Brest. He did yet another training year called the "Barrau Year" in 1975 in Paris. But then, the evolution of French society having practically eliminated the itinerant mission, he was led, like so many others, to seek another way. So he became for three years the parish priest of the parish of

Le Marillais. Then in 1979 he put himself at the service of the military prelature and became a chaplain in the Navy, where he exercised his ministry for ten years, first of all at the naval base of Cherbourg, then on the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, and finally at the Naval Headquarters in Brest.

For a good thirty years, he was a Montfort Missionary who was passionately involved in the itinerant mission in France. It was at the end of his term as a Navy Chaplain that things seemed to go completely wrong for him.

Three years ago, following a fall in a Brest street which landed him in hospital, some close and attentive friends succeeded in bringing him to our community in Saint-Laurent: a little miracle! However, even though in the end this was a real piece of luck for him, we cannot say that his integration was easy, and subsequently it was quite difficult for our staff to accompany and care for him: all this as a result of long years of slipping into a sort of hatred of himself, very hard for him to bear, no doubt, but no less painful also for those who were fond of him. What an invitation to be on the watch – each of us – for our own weaknesses! And in communion with Pierre, who, even though it was long ago, took part for several years in the Montfortian Pilgrimage, I would like to end with this old hymn from Lourdes:

“By the Mystery of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ,  
in his mercy, God causes us to be reborn,  
for an eternal inheritance!”





## FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

### BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

<b>April 2009</b>			<u>age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
20	Br. Pierre TREMBLAIS	Pont-l'Abbé (France)	69	49
22	Br. Basil ROZARIO	Trichy (India)	78	55
<b>May 2009</b>				
14	Br. Simon COLLINET	La Hillière (France)	83	65
24	Br. François FLATRÈS	Loctudy (France)	88	71
<b>July 2009</b>				
7	Br. John of the Cross (Xavier M.K.)	Anakkara, Kerala (India)	90	68

### DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

<b>May 2009</b>			<u>age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
9	Sr. Clotilde de Saint Pierre (Suzanne DENIZET)	St Laurent (France)	89	64
19	Sr. Luisa della Croce (Maria Teresa ROTA)	Clusone (Italy)	93	69
22	Sr. Gabriel de Saint Paul (Marie-Rose VERON)	St Laurent (France)	95	70
<b>June 2009</b>				
8	Sr. Georges de Saint Albert (Madeleine FAIN)	St Laurent (France)	104	81
8	Sr. Gilda dell'Eucarestia (Giuseppina BUSCEMI)	Valperga (Italy)	79	59
15	Sr. Thérèse-Marie du Divin Cœur (Louise GROLLEAU)	St Laurent (France)	96	70
26	Sr. Jean de Montfort (Béatrice SOMERS)	Ottawa (Canada)	94	61
<b>July 2009</b>				
1	Sr. Joséphine-Marie du Sacré Cœur (Françoise PRIGENT)	La Chartreuse (France)	89	67
9	Sr. Edmée Marie du Sacré-Coeur (Francois CONSTANCE)	Carrefour (Haiti)	85	48