



L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

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OUR DECEASED CONFRES



Father Hubertus (Hub) SOMERS, S.M.M.

(1927 – 2009)

Died on 22 November 2009, in Heerlen (The Netherlands).

Aged 82 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

Gerardus Hubertus Somers was born on July 2nd 1927 in Nuth. In 1940 he came to the preparatory seminary in Schimmert. On September 8th 1948 he made his first vows in Meerssen and on March 28th 1953 he was ordained priest in Oirschot by Mgr. Mutsaerts. He was appointed to be a teacher at the preparatory seminary in Schimmert. In 1961 he studied spirituality for one year at the University of Nijmegen and lived in the community of Berg & Dal. After that he became spiritual supervisor and teacher at the scholasticate in Oirschot. In 1964 he became a member of the provincial administration. When the scholasticate closed in 1969, he became an assistant in the parish in Egmond on Sea, until he was chosen provincial superior in 1970, for fourteen years! After that he went to Salzburg in Austria and returned to the Netherlands in 2002, in the community of Schimmert. Because of his health he moved in 2007 to Vroenhof. After an operation he couldn't be nursed there and waited in the nursing home Invia in Sittard for a definitive place to stay. On August 19th 2008 he got a room in 'Huis Op de Berg' in Heerlen, where he was taken care of very well until his death.

With great appreciation we think of everything Hub meant for his family, the congregation and for everyone who met him. He was a kind man, fully interested in life around him. Many put their trust in him. As conversation partner and mentor he had great empathy and was sincerely respectful to the other. He was a good listener; he heard between the lines what was not said. After a period of patient listening he penetrated someone's hidden thoughts and intentions. Asking questions and challenging he searched together with you the steps you could take. That attitude made him specially suited as teacher of the *septième* in Schimmert, as spiritual master in Oirschot and provincial superior. No doubt he would have been a good missionary, hadn't it been that he had to put his desire to go to Brazil or Malawi aside, because he was needed for his own province.

When the provincial superior, Father Hermans, died in 1970, Hub became his successor. He was the first provincial superior who was not appointed by Rome, but chosen by his confreres.

Those were hard times. Many confreres wanted drastic changes and chose resolutely for the spirit of the new time, while others held on to the old and familiar. Hub went with the *aggiornamento*, but didn't feel at ease about the result. With pain in his heart he noticed that hardly any young people joined the congregation. What hurt him also was that during the period from 1970 till 1984 almost fifty confreres left the congregation. With every one of them he sympathized personally.

Hub was a precise, cautious and accurate man. He didn't skate on thin ice; sudden impulses were unusual for him. Most of the time his gentleness dominated, except when rightfulness came in to play, he made no concessions. He could be fierce and persistent and it made no difference whether it concerned a boy at the minor seminary or an archbishop wearing his mitre. He didn't like fighting. Even though it was not easy, he shook hands to move on, together.

After fourteen years Hub passed the baton of the provincial superior (the hammer was gone long before) to someone else. He hoped to be able to leave for Brazil, finally. Sadly, Joep van Mulken died unexpectedly and the new provincial superior appealed to him to go and lead the Missionary Works in Salzburg 'temporarily'. And Hub went! At that moment the happiest period of his life started, he said looking back. *À la Montfort* he took fugitives in and got friends with whom he felt at ease. That experience gave him a sharp eye for places and moments when life in the Company was cold and impersonal. That was really difficult for him, although he could understand, remembering the life story of the confreres.

In his last years an insidious disease played tricks on him and made him more and more dependent on the care of others. This was very difficult for Hub. He once said that he could understand why some people wanted to end their lives. He resisted the temptation and made the choice to be and stay a witness of the Gospel in all patience and friendliness. He was grateful for all the help he got, first in Schimmert and Vroenhof, later in the nursing homes in Sittard and Heerlen.

Once Hub used with acceptance this word of Meister Eckhart: 'Nothing looks so much like God than the silence.' May he now share that silence forever and enjoy God's attention and respect!



Father Jef HUPPERTS, S.M.M.
(1922 – 2009)

Died on 7 December 2009, in Leuven (Belgium).
Aged 87 with 66 years of Religious Profession.

Father Joseph Hupperts was born on May 24, 1922 in Gulpen (Holland). He did his studies at Schimmert, and he began his novitiate in Meerssen where he made profession on November 1, 1943. After finishing the scholasticate in Oirschot, he was ordained priest on March 27, 1949. The only obedience he received after his ordination, was to serve the Marian Apostolate in Belgium. He was asked to do further studies, and he received a doctorate in theology from the University of Louvain in 1956. While he served as editor in chief of the bimonthly “De Standaard van Maria,” he was named the director of the Marian Apostolate in Louvain in 1965, a mission he carried out until 1992. In 1993 the superior general gave him a new responsibility: to examine our history and to study the Mariology offered to the students in our scholasticates, as well as to examine the influence of Fr. de Montfort on the developments of Mariology in the Church. He began this work, but he was not able to bring it to a conclusion. His physical and intellectual forces diminished, and he died on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 7, 2009, at the age of 87.

When he was named for the Marian Apostolate in Leuven, he first specialized in theology at the university in the same town. He obtained a doctorate in theology, after writing a dissertation on faith as a free human act according to St. Irenaeus. During these studies he made some important contacts with theologians who would have a great influence on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, especially in the editing of the eighth chapter of the Constitution *Lumen Gentium* “The Virgin Mary in the mystery of Christ and the Church”. At the same time, he collaborated actively in the Marian study group (Marian Days of Tongerlo).

Around the same period (1962) the Marian Library of Banneux was entrusted to the Montfortians with the request to develop it. At a time when intellectuals hardly paid attention to the place of Mary in the plan of salvation, as it is treated in the conciliar documents, Father Hupperts was convinced that sooner or later the times would change. That is why he took charge of the library with enthusiasm, and he devoted a great part of his energies to it. This conviction inspired him to undertake the construction of a new Marian Centre. When he took charge of the library, it had 15,000 volumes. By the time it was confided to the theology faculty at the University of Louvain, it had amassed 30,000 titles. Since it is computerized, it is available universally.

He followed the evolution of Marian devotion with great interest, and he was able to observe with great joy a new interest on the part of the official Church in the person of Mary and a recognition of the importance of popular devotion.

Let us go back. In 1965 he was named director of the Marian Apostolate, including among its principal activities the two popular Marian reviews “Médiatrice et Reine” and “Middelares en Koningin,” the Montfortian Pilgrimages and Marian preaching (conferences and retreats). With the help of his friend and confrere, Albert

Franssen, he placed a great importance on popular devotion. While support for the animation of the pilgrimages was provided by Father Albert's itinerant mission team and numerous other confreres, Jef gave a new dynamism to this form of evangelization. Although he never boarded an airplane, he oriented Montfortian Pilgrimages toward the four corners of the world. He ceaselessly gave new impetus to the Marian reviews "Médiatrice et Reine" and "Middelares en Koningin." So we can see that at a time when other popular reviews experienced a spectacular fall, the two reviews have remained on their feet and Montfortian Pilgrimages experienced a development full of creativity.

Jef was in solidarity with the Congregation from the beginning. Furthermore, he was named a member of the council of the young Belgian province which was just born in 1966. He was convinced that the Marian Apostolate, to which he devoted the major part of his life, was an important aspect of the mission of the Congregation.

Toward the end of his life, he retired with his secretary, Mr. Vic Moysons, a few kilometers outside of Leuven (a question of solidarity and being available for service), but he came back to the community every day for the celebration of the Eucharist and to retire to his room in the midst of his books. But after a certain time, he became very distracted, he did not hear well, and finally he was hospitalized. Then one could see the beginning of dementia. He was welcomed into a nursing home in Herent for care. On December 7 his situation became critical and he was brought to the hospital. Jef was conscious when they brought him into the operating room. His confreres Marc Vanaerde and Jos Verbelen were near him. He was aware of the gravity of the situation. To his former secretary he confided that the entrance to the operating room was his last stage on the earth. He entered while murmuring, "Jesus ... Jesus..."

We thank our confreres Marc and Jos, as well as Mr. Vic his secretary, who were near Jef and accompanied him to the end. The funeral took place December 14 in the college chapel at Rotselaar, and Jef was buried in the community cemetery.



Father Battista PEDRUZZI, S.M.M.

(1932 – 2009)

Died on 22 December 2009, in Redona-Bergamo (Italy).

Aged 77 with 59 years of Religious Profession.

Battista Pedrucci was born in Campagnola di Bergamo on August 4, 1932. He entered the minor seminary in Redona in 1943, sharing with the seminary community the discomforts of the war which was going on. After his primary school studies, he went to Castiglione (To) for the novitiate year. He pronounced his first profession September 8, 1950. In the Montfortian Scholasticate in Loreto (An), he followed studies in philosophy and theology. He was ordained priest on February 25, 1956 in the Basilica of the Holy House.

The first obedience of Fr. Battista was to Redona with the principal tasks of educator, teacher and master of singing. In 1964 he went to the newly started Minor

Seminary in Reggio Calabria. While he was involved in teaching activities, he did his best in the diffusion of Montfortian spirituality and in Montfortian publications. He worked in the parish of Via Cori, in the outskirts of Rome, from 1967 to 1970, in parish ministry and teaching religion in the state school.

He then returned to the community of Redona, again as teacher and singing master. He also carried out a pastoral ministry by helping in parishes. He was named superior from 1972 to 1975. In 1978, he received the Diploma in Choral Music and Choral Conducting at the Conservatorio “F. G. Dall’Abaco” in Verona. This offered him the possibility of teaching music in state schools. He accompanied pilgrimages to Lourdes where he animated the singing for the celebrations. He was a confessor for religious communities and translator of French texts on our spirituality, which he printed and propagated among the confreres. He composed songs for the liturgy. He set the Hymns of our Founder to music and collected them on CD. He collaborated in the diffusion of the Marian-Missionary press.

Father Battista was reluctant to speak about himself. He was strong in maintaining his convictions. He knew how to remain simple and serene with the people he met in ministry. He was a religious who was faithful to the programs of personal and community life. For many years he was the Sunday chaplain for a mission church of the parish of Redona and organist in the bishop’s chapel of “S. Maria and S. Marco” in Bergamo. Father Battista has a nephew who is a Montfortian and a sister in the secular institute of “Missionaries of Mary Queen of All Hearts.”

During a pilgrimage to Lourdes in September he was hospitalized with cardiac problems. Despite that, he always liked to walk and bicycle. It was on a street covered with snow that he fell and quickly ended his earthly pilgrimage on December 22, 2009. The funeral was celebrated on Christmas Eve in the Shrine of “Mary Queen of All Hearts.” At Midnight Mass there was a veil of sadness, thinking of Father Battista who for so many years had animated that Mass with song and organ playing. But certainly Mary, whom he loved so much, brought him to the festive heavenly liturgy to praise eternally “the goodness of God, our Saviour, and his love for people.” He rests in the cemetery of Bergamo, along with so many Montfortian confreres.



Father Joseph (Jeuf) SCHROUFF, S.M.M.
(1929 – 2009)

Died on 25 December 2009, in Oirschot (The Netherlands).
Aged 80 with 13 years of Religious Profession.

Joseph Gerard Hubert Schrouff was born on 22nd January, 1929, in Schaesberg. He came to Ste Marie in Schimmert for the secondary school. On 8th September, 1951, he made his first profession in Meerssen. In 1951 he went to the scholasticate in Oirschot, where he was ordained priest on 31st March, 1957. After his ordination he went to Rotselaar (Belgium) for his pastoral studies. His first appointment was for Congo and he started off at the mission of Yabaondo. He worked in Opala from 1959 until 1965. After being an assistant priest in Germany (in Jülich), he returned to Congo, to Isangi. After a second nasty period Jeuf came to the parish and shrine of Marienheide in Germany. He worked there as a curate until he left the congregation. He married and started a family in Berlin. After his wife died, he redid his noviciate and made again his first profession on January 6, 1996. He was a welcome helper in the Montfort Centre 'Op Weg' and was bursar of the community in Oirschot. This last function he fulfilled until his unexpected death early Christmas morning.

In a newspaper interview on 1st December, 2001, Jeuf said: "Until now my life is quite an experience. I would not like having missed anything." That doesn't mean his life was always easy. His character showed a certain straightforwardness and he was not easily thrown off balance. Sometimes life brings such shocking things that we lose track and start following another trail. This happened to Jeuf, he lost his balance by what happened to him, to his confreres and to the people in Congo during the rebellion of 1964. However heroic he was, he came out of this fight marked for life. He was looking for warmth and nearness, which the congregation could not give in those days. He liked very much to stay on as priest, but he didn't know how he could rhyme the one with the other. Until he decided to marry Margot Tiedt. In his heart he remained a pastor, even if he couldn't express it in the way he wanted. He was deeply involved in the parish where he lived with his wife and children. After Margot's death his first concern were the children. Once they had found their place in life, his desire for the priesthood returned fiercely. In 1997 he got the permission from Rome to work again as a priest. That was quite a relief for him. Next to his work for the Montfort Centre he gave quite some assistance to parishes and convents and he was always ready to celebrate mass as often as he was needed somewhere.

Jeuf was an orthodox man, but not conservative. He experienced enough to understand all sorts of things. We simply live on earth and not yet in heaven. We try to act as good as if we were already there, but that is here not always possible. The ideals from Gospel and Church are beautiful and good and they cannot be tampered with.

More than once we meet situations, in which we cannot act perfectly. It happens more or less in the same way Jeuf spoke Dutch and German: a mishmash of both, with a little effort easy to understand.

Next to his concern for the children he was worrying about the future of the community in Oirschot. He liked people around him. Even though he was not a great talker, he blossomed up living in a group he trusted. He didn't want to live alone. It all came to happen in a different way from what he and we were thinking. Christmas night, the night of birth, became for him the night of death. Only a few hours before he had read aloud in the Chapel, the words of Isaiah, about light in the darkness. May the Lord of the heavenly powers admit him for ever in that sparkling light!



Father Herman KEUNEN, S.M.M.

(1935 – 2009)

Died on 27 December 2009, in Maastricht (The Netherlands).
Aged 74 with 52 years of Religious Profession.

On 15th September, 1935 Herman Joseph Keunen was born in Hout-Blerick. He came to Ste Marie in Schimmert for the secondary school and made his first vows in Meersen on 1st November, 1957. In Oirschot he was ordained priest on 24th March, 1963 by Mgr. Bekkers. He was appointed to be a teacher and prefect in the minor seminary of Beresteyn, Voorschoten. Later Herman became religion-teacher in Someren and from 1979 he worked as a parish-priest in Lierop. In 1991 the parish of Ommel, with a Marian shrine was added to his tasks. In 1995 he returned to Beresteyn, became a member of the Montfortian Equipe Mobile and a guide for the Holy Land with the Montfort-Pilgrimages. Just before Beresteyn was sold, he moved to the community of Schimmert.

As a young man Herman wanted to be a missionary and surely not a teacher. It worked out quite differently. This had to do with his poor health, from the beginning of the noviciate. He seemed robust and strong, but that was externally. Internally he was often stressed, even though he didn't show it. A certain toughness marked his character. It was difficult for him to let his principles go. You had to win his trust and respect first, before he accepted advice.

He showed up best being a parish priest. He called it 'the best years of my life'. Herman wanted to stay longer, but health trouble made it impossible. He was very conscious, that he could not take up the same life he lived before.

He was convinced one couldn't measure the belief of the people on the old and trusted situation of the church. That would be unfair to what lived in people. That's why he as pastor started breaking new grounds like he did before in his catechesis. Banal expressions annoyed him as did authorities with big mouths, talking from above. He could react fiercely about and before them, not mincing his words.

Striking was his fascination for the Austrian theosophist and mystic Jakob Lorber (1800-1864), whose books had a prominent place in Herman's room. One of his writings said: 'Revelation doesn't stop at the death of the last apostle, it will be again and again expressed in living people and flourish.' Not in opposition to but

inspired by the bible. That is why Herman was glad when someone wrote or spoke with an inner emotion or passion.

Many will remember Herman as the man from the pigeons and the flowers, especially the fuchsias. He inherited that last skill from home. His father owned a market-garden. In the minor seminary he worked under the direction of Father Piet Janssen in the greenhouse and in decorating the altar. In Lierop he worked magic with the neglected garden of the rectory and transformed it into a pleasure ground. In Schimmert he did the same after 2001.

The last months Herman felt that the end of his life was near. He stopped as pigeon fancier - a writing on the wall. Later he was diagnosed terminally ill. He was intensely occupied by death, quietly and realistically. The nights, when he couldn't sleep, were hard for him. Like he did his whole life, he kept the direction of things as much as possible in his own hands. He appreciated the attention of others, especially the help of Frans Luiten. Now he is standing before the heavenly door, with a bag of seeds and a few fuchsias in his hand. May he wait there for the day when the desert starts flowering like a rose.



Father Louis CHOLET, S.M.M.

(1933 – 2009)

Died on 27 December 2009, in Ganges (France).

Aged 76 with 53 years of Religious Profession.

In this celebration of his Passover, let us look briefly at his life in three chapters:

First chapter: his youth and his religious and priestly formation

Second chapter: his missionary life in Haiti

Third chapter: his missionary life in the Diocese of Toulouse.

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First chapter: his youth and his religious and priestly formation

Father Louis Cholet was born in what one could call the heart of the Mauges, in Saint-Quentin, a very rural community in which farms are spread out between Beaupréau and the Loire. The Mauges: a region which does not seem to have been traversed by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort; he seems rather to have bypassed it at different times, either to the west through la Séguinière and the vineyards of the Nantes region, or to the east, for example, during his visits to Saumur – Notre-Dame des Ardilliers – Fontevrault...

However, his disciples often preached the Good News there, from the beginning, and especially from 1870 – 1960. This was during the celebrated years of parish missions, notably by the Montfortian communities of N.D. du Marillais and Bois-Grolleau. The parish of Saint-Quentin, with its good parish priests, was naturally

part of their field of evangelization, and no doubt, like several others, the missionary vocation of Louis germinated and was nourished in this ambiance of active fervour and faithful care.

Louis entered the School of the Calvary of Pontchâteau at the age of 13; then he soon went to the House for Late Vocations directed by the Assumptionist Fathers in Blou, in the Saumur region. Later, from 1958 – 1960, he was mobilized for the war in Algeria for thirty months. He was ordained priest at last at Montfort-sur-Meu on February 9, 1964. That same year he was sent on mission to Haiti in the Diocese of Port-de-Paix.

Second chapter: his missionary life in Haiti

There, he carried out his ministry at three far-reaching and difficult posts in the Diocese of Port-de-Paix: Bombardopolis from 1964, then Jean-Rabel in 1965, and finally in Saint-Louis-du-Nord, from 1966 to 1973. In 1973, he had to go back France permanently.

Third chapter: his missionary life in the Diocese of Toulouse

After his return to France, Louis did some studies. He first happily registered for a year of updating which was then called the “Année Barrau,” under the guidance of the Institut Catholique of Paris. Then, with his updating finished, he arrived in Toulouse in August 1974, where he spent the rest of his active missionary life. He was first at the parish of Sainte-Claire, as vicar, then as parish priest, for seven years. Then he became the parish priest in Faubourg Bonnefoy for twelve years. And finally, in October 1992 he became parish priest of the large parish cluster of Saint-Orens, very close to Toulouse. With characteristic zeal, he carried out his ministry for sixteen years. But last year, after reaching the age of 75, he submitted his retirement to his archbishop, as required. He left Toulouse for La Gardiolle, hoping to live his retirement there in a way that was both happy and active. Already during his first year present there, he was truly known as a fraternal and effective confrere.

This is the place where, unexpectedly on Sunday evening, the moment of his definitive encounter with his Lord arrived, the Lord whom he loved and served so much, and to whom he had given himself totally. And so, Louis, most esteemed brother, with you in confidence and beyond our grief, we welcome the word which you have already received from his mouth, for happiness without shadow and without end: “Come, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord!” Amen!



**Brother Paul (Yves LE BORGNE), S.M.M.
(1912 – 2009)**

Died on 29 December 2009, in St Laurent s/S (France).
Aged 97 with 80 years of Religious Profession.

Commonly called Brother Paul since his first religious profession on March 19, 1929, he died on December 29, 2009. We greet and affectionately call to mind his family and above all his brother Jean-Claude, missionary in Colombia, where he recently returned a few months ago, after his recent visit to his family.

Yves was not the eldest in his family, but at least among the males in the family, he was the first and the moving spirit toward Montfortian life. Often we heard Father Olivier (who died last year, and who was his older brother by fourteen months) say that for the most part it was due to his affection for his young brother Yves, and because he did not want to be separated from him, that he entered the School of the Calvary of Pontchâteau in 1923 ...

Yves was born in Cléder on November 25, 1912, and he was baptized the next day. Little by little the family became numerous, with twelve children, one of whom was called to God very young. Five were consecrated to the Lord in the Montfortian Family: following him, Olivier, then Jean-Claude, and also two of their sisters: Sister Alain and Sister Françoise who became Daughters of Wisdom. Yves made his first profession in Saint-Laurent on March 19, 1929, having just reached the age of sixteen and a half ... We can appreciate how young he was ...

In N° 4 of the Manuscript Rule of the Company of Mary, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort wrote: “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.” It really seems that, for those who knew him, saw him, and particularly for those who lived with him in community, our brother Paul corresponded perfectly to this portrait, and in a completely personal way that was not necessarily the case with everyone. He never let his strong personality to be crushed: the personality of a solid man, having his head on his shoulders, active, competent and generous, expert in agriculture and the care of animals, attentive to the formation of the young ... During his long and very active years, he above all assumed the responsibility for the farms attached to our houses of formation. Thus it was that after his first years of temporary vows lived in Montfort-sur-Meu, he spent, in total but with several periods at each place, more than 60 years as the one in charge of the farms: 13 years at Pontchâteau, 16 years at Montfort, and 32 years at Chézelles, adding however, that he lived his last years a little like the ancestor who is happy to see one or another successor take over the tasks. In 1995 – he was 83 then – he accepted, not without some difficulty, to leave everything to return to the Brittany of his birth, in our house at Rody, where he spent nine years before having to go to Saint-Laurent for health reasons. This was in 2004.

Here then, in a few words, is the portrait of a real “Lord of the earth,” certainly very different from Brother Mathurin Rangeard, the dear first companion of Louis-Marie, and yet completely recognized and esteemed, and ... still up till these last days,

attentive to the weather, forecasting what the weather would be, and finding more or less that “the rain does not always come when we need it so much!” But from now on we can believe that he is rejoicing in the beautiful harvests of Paradise, where it is always “the times (and the weather) of the Good God,” and, certainly, his best ...



**Father Florentino AGUDELO ROMERO, S.M.M.
(1916 – 2009)**

Died on 31 December 2009, in Bogotá (Colombia).
Aged 93 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

Florentino Agudelo, the most senior member of the province, was born July 21, 1916 in Fómez, Cundinamarca. He entered the Montfortians at the minor seminary in Choachí in 1930 to begin his secondary studies, and he finished them in 1934. He did his novitiate and his higher studies in philosophy and theology in San Juanito. On February 2, 1936 he made his first religious profession, and he was ordained priest on September 7, 1941 in San Juanito.

One year later, he was named professor at the minor seminary in Choachí. In 1944 he was transferred to the major seminary in Albán where he worked as a professor for seven years. He was part of a parish mission team until 1951. From 1952 to 1954, he did a course of studies in Theology and Mariology in Rome. In 1955 he was once again named professor at the major seminary, and in 1958 he became the rector and superior of the scholasticate community, where he stayed until 1968, when he was named superior of the house in Belén and vicar provincial. From 1970 until 1976 he was parish priest in Guayabal de Síquima. In 1979 he became provincial until 1982, after having been vicar provincial for three years. After fulfilling certain apostolic tasks in Bogotá for three years, he was named vicar of the parish of Belén in Bogotá from 1986 to 1995. When he approached his 80th birthday in 1996, he accepted that the hour of his retirement had arrived and he entered with joy as a resident of the Province’s “Hogar Sacerdotal” in Choachí, where he remained for 13 years until the end of his sojourn on earth. In this place of his last obedience, he was always trying to be useful, and thus he wrote some booklets and leaflets useful in the spiritual animation of the Province. He remained as chaplain to the Unidad Social “San Luis María de Montfort”. He was always in good health. We dared to wonder if he was really retired. But when he fell ill first from an intestinal blockage, and then with pneumonia, after three months of suffering he died just after receiving the anointing of the sick.

Father “Florito” as we often called him will always remain engraved in our memory as a very simple and fraternal confrere, in a good mood! He leaves us an extraordinary heritage, one with a great sense of belonging to the Province and the Congregation. He was always interested in being well informed of the situation of the Province and the Congregation, and he used to like to express his opinions on a given situation in view of a healthy improvement. His temperament was very calm and

he always had good relations with all the confreres. His religious, priestly and Montfortian identity was always evident. On the international level, the confreres always remember the response he gave to the Superior General Gérard Lemire about the qualities of Father Pablo Garcia who was going to become a general councillor: after a long silence he said with a solemn expression: "He's a good Christian." We can also say the same thing about him – that he was a good Christian. The major part of his life was dedicated to the service of formation and administration in the midst of the Province. Finally, we must emphasize that in the period of his provincial administration and above all with the help and the vision of his bursar, Father Alberto Rozo, the Province of Colombia began a new stage of prioritizing vocation promotion, first and ongoing formation, and also promoting a financial management which was planned and organized with a plan for the future.

We hope that he is already in the glory of heaven, next to the very Blessed Virgin, in whose heart he offered his being to God.



Father Raymond SIN, S.M.M.
(1924 – 2009)

Died on 3 January 2010, in Vannes (France).
Aged 85 with 65 years of Religious Profession.

On Sunday, January 3, 2010, the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, in the hospital of Vannes, Father Sin departed. He was born March 14, 1924 in Vannes. He was baptized in the Cathedral of Vannes, and confirmed in the same Cathedral in 1935.

After his primary studies, he entered the mission seminary in Pontchâteau to do his secondary studies. A novice at Chézelles (in the Diocese of Tours), he made his perpetual profession September 8, 1944. He was ordained priest on February 19, 1950 in Montfort, at the hands of Cardinal Roques, the Archbishop of Rennes, with 21 brothers, among whom were Fathers Derrien and Le Feunteun who are present at this celebration.

From 1950, Father Sin took off for Madagascar, and it is among the Malagasy people that he would find the means to exercise all his apostolic zeal. His first contact with the population took place in the midst of the bush in Marolande. Here is how to shape a missionary soul!

In 1954 he was called to Anivorano Est, as a teacher in the diocesan minor seminary, which he left after four years to come to the Montfortian minor seminary in 1963.

A missionary in the bush, an educator at the seminary, at the novitiate in Tananarive, parish priest, but we cannot forget his foundation of the School of Joy where Raymond strove to open the intellectual curiosity of abandoned children for whom reading and writing seemed useless to them.

In 2004, Raymond came back permanently to France, appointed to La Chartreuse. His health deteriorated, and he went to EHPAD to pursue evangelization in another way.

There is a proverb which says: “The one who grows lovelier by smiling is good, the one who grows disfigured by smiling is bad.” Who has not benefitted one time or another from the familiar smile of Father Sin?

For the Malagasy people, Father Sin “is the father with a good heart,” “our second father.” At EPHAD, at La Chartreuse, he was for his group “a ray of sunshine” ... “He will be missed.”

Father Sin, your serenity did not prevent you from showing your interior strength. To the invitations to take care of himself, made by the medical personnel, he used to answer: “I am 85 years old, but I am a priest.” If stubbornness can qualify certain characters, love can also show it. The love showing itself once more in his smile signified his agreement with the request that was being made to him.

Dear Father Sin, your look was your language, in Madagascar and in La Chartreuse. Thank you for that!



Father Johannes (Jan) EVEN, S.M.M.

(1932 – 2009)

Died on 13 January 2010, in Roermond (The Netherlands).

Aged 77 with 57 years of Religious Profession.

Johannes Maria Gerardus Even was born on the 7th of March, 1932 in Beverwijk. In 1945 he came to Ste Marie in Schimmert. His first vows he made on the 8th of September, 1952 in Meerssen. On the 16th of March, 1958 he was ordained priest by Mgr. Mutsaerts in Oirschot. His first appointment was for the shrine of Heiloo. In 1965 he went to Hoensbroek, and soon after he got an appointment as chaplain for the catholic teachers in the dioceses of Haarlem and Rotterdam and therefore he moved to the community of the Haagsche Schouw. Later he lived in Bennebroek. In 1982 he became the parish priest in Neerkant, later in combination with Helenaveen. From 1988 til 1991 he was superior of the community Oirschot. After that he was appointed parish priest at the shrine of Ommel and in 1997 he became rector in the House for elderly sisters, St. Elisabeth, in Haelen. He also was superior of the regional community Oost-Brabant. He died of a myocardial infarction in the St. Laurentius hospital in Roermond.

Jan did not feel well the last few weeks. That the end of his life was near, came as a surprise, not in the least for himself. That it came so rapidly, was not Jan's way of doing things. He wanted to stay in control of everything. If that was not possible, he became restless and frightened. Therefore his last days were not easy for him. Although with his typical inflexibility he held on to the main theme of his life: a great

trust in God. It showed when he received the last sacraments and with a loud voice he said: "God is good". His last words were: "The Lord is my shepherd".

Trust in God was for him the space in which he lived. Out of that base he wanted to walk his path, quietly walking his pace, which was so characteristic for him. In 1968 he wrote: 'A fast climber of a mountain, will not reach the top'. It was not easy for him, when shortly after his ordination great agitation arose in church and society. With pain in his heart he concluded: 'we are stuck in the fog and one wishes the mist would clear'. He knew we people gropingly search for the truth, but he did not like those who took doubt as the principle. The certainty of his trust in God was similar as his posture, his tone of voice and his laughter.

In the year he was ordained Jan got trouble with his thyroid gland. Since that time he had to take it easy. Going to the mission was no longer an option. Probably his left-handedness would cause problems in the mission, as his novice master already remarked. Painstakingly and dutifully he worked as chaplain for the teachers. Sometimes it brought him to the edge of nervous exhaustion. He felt more at home in a small parish and as rector in the convent of Nunhem. There he could do what he wanted: give trust and be trusted. Also a bit away from the tension in the church. He was no revolutionary or church reformer. His soul was 'church bound belief' in an atmosphere of collegiality.

From childhood Jan had a great devotion for Mary. He loved going to Heiloo. It fitted him very well when he got the care of the sanctuary in Ommel. May Mary take him by the hand in the hour of his death.

**You will receive the obituaries of those confreres
who died since half-way through January in the next
"Echo Montfortain - In the House of the Father, no. 13",
which is due in May 2010!**

January 2010			<u>age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
12	Fr. Jean-Baptiste HENRY FILS	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	47	17
12	Br. Edriss DESPEIGNES	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	39	3
12	Br. Riguet LOUIS	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	33	3
12	Br. Dady VALCIN	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	31	3
12	Br. Jean-Paul HILAIRE	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	31	3
12	Br. Anonce ARISTIDE	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	29	3
12	Br. Fednet FANORD	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	28	3
12	Br. Vikens JOSEPH	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	25	3
12	Br. Savebien CALISTE	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	28	2
12	Br. Pierre-Richard FRANCE	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	29	2
13	Br. Quesnel LAGUERRE	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	26	3
22	Fr. Franciscus (Frans) STAMS	Mechernich (Germany)	85	64

February 2010

4	Fr. Miguel Arcángel RUIZ RINCÓN	Bogotá (Colombia)	78	61
15	Fr. Marcello FAVARO	Redona-Bergamo (Italy)	79	59
19	Fr. Clément LASSONDE	Trois-Rivières (Canada)	95	75
20	Fr. Leopold JANSEN	Leuven (Belgium)	89	67
24	Fr. Gerardus SCHRAMA	Maastricht (Netherlands)	81	57

March 2010

13	Br. Luigi (Battista) CALDARA	Bergamo (Italy)	80	53
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Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Pray for us !



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

January 2010			<u>age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
11	Br. Lucien ALLARD	La Hillière (France)	81	61
30	Br. Éloi CATAPHARD	Montréal (Canada)	93	76
February 2010				
11	Br. Ernest DÉRY	Laval (Canada)	98	83
13	Br. Marie Alphonse NDOURI	Brazzaville (Republic of Congo)	83	52

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

December 2009			<u>age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
10	Sr. Marie-Yvonne de Saint Goulven (Albertine SALOU)	La Chartreuse (France)	91	71
12	Sr. Marie-Anne du Divin Cœur (Léone RICHARD)	St Laurent (France)	83	53
15	Sr. Marie-Cécile (Cécile PINAUD)	St Laurent (France)	97	72
23	Sr. Marie-Gustave (Jeanne-Marie BILY)	St Laurent (France)	95	71
29	Sr. Anne de Marie Médiatrice (Marie-Thérèse KERSAUZON)	La Chartreuse (France)	84	54
January 2010				
3	Sr. Lucie de Saint Pierre (Marthe NADAUD)	St Laurent (France)	87	66
6	Sr. Jean du Thabor (Marie-Yvonne PREMEL-CABIC)	La Chartreuse (France)	103	83
7	Sr. Monique-Marguerite (Cécile COULOMBE)	Ottawa (Canada)	85	65
11	Sr. Albert de Marie Immaculée (Marie-Antoinette BOUTAUD)	Magnac (France)	76	51
12	Sr. Albert-Marie de Montfort (Marie-Camille FRANÇOIS)	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	83	60
12	Sr. Marguerite du Calvaire (Flavie PIERRE)	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	90	68

12	Sr. Marie-Flore de St Cyrille (Marie Lolimante POULARD)	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	73	47
12	Sr. Marie-Claude JEAN	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	31	3
12	Sr. Marie-Emmanuel du Rosaire (Léonie TRIBIE)	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	79	47
13	Sr. Christine-Marie de Montfort (Marie-Françoise TRENCIA)	Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	79	52
16	Sr. Madeleine Laurette (Thérèse DUGAL)	Ottawa (Canada)	94	70
20	Sr. Jules de l'Enfant-Jésus (Simone LAROSE)	Ottawa (Canada)	96	76
23	Sr. Colette-Marie du Saint-Esprit (Colette AMABLE)	Bréhan (France)	76	49
24	Sr. Louise-Madeleine de la Sagesse (Madeleine HURTAUD)	St Laurent (France)	86	62
26	Sr. María Isabel MATEUS CAMARGO	Bogotá (Colombia)	63	39
26	Sr. Benedicta de la Sagrada Familia (Rosa Margarita RUÍZ TAMAYO)	Bogotá (Colombia)	89	54
26	Sr. William Mary of the Sacred Heart (Rose TAAFFE)	Brentwood, NY (USA)	79	54

February 2010

4	Sr. Marie-Noël de Montfort (Marie-Louise DURGEAUD)	St Laurent (France)	86	62
7	Sr. Angélique de la Providence (Marie-Anne LE HER)	La Chartreuse (France)	93	70
11	Sr. Albertine-Marie de l'Incarnation (Thérèse VACHON)	Ottawa (Canada)	78	57
21	Sr. Marie-Françoise de la Croix (Reine GUIZIOU)	La Chartreuse (France)	95	73
21	Sr. Bernadette-Marie de Jésus (Louise CRAPEZ)	St Laurent (France)	88	66

March 2010

13	Sr. Anne of the Trinity (Anne MALCOLM)	Edmonton (Canada)	89	60
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« ... I am not ashamed,
for I know him in whom I have believed
and am confident that he is able
to guard what has been entrusted to me
until that day. »
(2 Tm 1, 12)

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