



L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

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OUR DECEASED CONFRES



**His Excellency Archbishop François GAYOT, S.M.M.
Archbishop Emeritus of Cap-Haïtien
(1927 – 2010)**

who died in Rome (Italy), on 16 December 2010,
at the age of 83 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

A true Haitian! Born on July 12, 1927, in a family of ten children in Port-de-Paix, North West of Haiti. Blessed with a brightest intelligence, after primary and college studies, he went to the Montfortian religious who had been missionaries in that diocese ever since 1871. There he has developed his vocation for which he had discovered already a first sign when he was about six years old, in the local cathedral where he was an altar boy.

A good religious! He did his Novitiate and his scholastic studies in France. Ordained a priest in that same country in the Congregation of the Montfort Missionaries, he had his first appointment in the parish of Jean-Rabel, North West of Haiti, first as an assistant pastor and afterwards as a parish priest.

After his first appointment in his native country, he had to go back to France for further and specialized studies: on the one hand he studied general sociology and on the other hand ethnology and socio-cultural anthropology. During his research at the

École pratique des Hautes Études at the University of Paris, he pursued studies on “general linguistics” and of physical anthropology in order to complete his studies on Haitian voodoo and Creole.

It was in 1966 that he was elected as first Provincial of the Montfortians in Haiti until 1974, when Pope Paul VI appointed him Bishop and entrusted him with the pastoral care of Cap-Haïtien. Later on, in 1988, Pope John Paul II decided to establish the second ecclesiastical Province of Haiti and made him the first archbishop of that new metropolis.

After 29 years of Episcopal ministry in Cap-Haïtien, he pursued his ministry as a religious in Port-au-Prince and had his residence at the Provincial House of the Montfortians in Sapotille.

Unfailing missionary! Since he had had a pied-à-terre in Port-au-Prince after his immersion in Jean-Rabel’s parish, he also had there his first experience of itinerant mission for evangelization and he exercised that ministry for ten years. He would leave the missionary house for 3, 4 or 6 months and then he would come back to prepare more missions. Thereby he has been able to travel, riding a horse, through all dioceses of the country and meet there the people in the remotest and the poorest regions of Haiti. Through these long expeditions and through conversation with others, he discovered a people filled with hope and blessed with purest Gospel values: a spirit of poverty, a welcoming availability and a sense of sharing.

He was a man of hope, a man of prayer, a man of learning. A responsible man, he had a deep sense of the Church. His creativity being unequaled, he has been able to set up on a national scale commissions and polyvalent centers for assistance in all domains. Archbishop emeritus since November 5, 2003, everything seemed to be centered upon him at the level of the Conference of Bishops. How many times did he preside over that Conference? He even declared in a meeting where he was searching for unity in the body of Church leaders, that an Episcopal Conference must not be the gathering of isolated bishops, but a “school of communion,” namely a body of Bishops who reflect, think, pray and decide together.

That explains why he was until the end still in charge of two rather important Episcopal commissions: that of Pastoral care for Migrants, – for which his four-year mandate had just been renewed at the latest meeting in November, and that of Peace and Reconciliation. To understand his life as a religious and a missionary, one needs only to hear him in an interview that he gave lately about his retirement. He was saying: “Generally, retirement is considered an “idle time” in which one would slow down. As far as I am concerned, this period of my life is one of intense activities. It is made of reflections, for sure, but above all of encounters, preaching and prayers that allow me to relate to people, events and things and to discern which issues are most important to consider in the present conjuncture and for the future of the Church”.

Bishop Gayot was a man of the present and of the future. He has never been a man of the past. He was a genuine Haitian and remains a model: I even dare to say that he is one of the symbols of Haiti.



Father Constantinus (Coen) RAES, S.M.M.
(1931 – 2010)

who died in Sittard (The Netherlands), on 19 December 2010,
at the age of 79 with 59 years of Religious Profession.

On January 14th 1931 Constantinus (Coen) Raes was born in Heerlen. In 1950 he entered the Noviciate and a year later on September 8th he made his first vows. He was ordained priest on 31 March 1957 in Oirschot. That same year he moved to Rotselaar in Belgium for the pastoral year and studies in biology.

In 1960 he was appointed to teach at a school in Elisabetha in Congo and three years later in Isangi. In 1965 he returned to the Netherlands and taught at the minor-seminary in Schimmert. When Ste Marie was closed he worked at the college Sinte Meerten and as rector for the psychiatric clinic 'Maria hilf' in Gangelt (Germany). In 1981 it also included the parish of Gangelt. From 1994 he was superior of the Dutch confreres in Germany.

Coen was a man without pretension or air. He did what needed to be done. He was not too big for his boots and was happy with every encouragement he got from others. During his scholasticate he was characterized as "un homme de devoir", a man who carried out his duty. That was Coen, his entire life: a dedicated teacher and pastor for those entrusted to him. In the footsteps of Montfort he was "un bon père", a good, empathic priest. On the outside a bit robust, on the inside extreme sensitive. This was obvious in 2005 when his only brother died; his death affected Coen deeply. On such moments he enjoyed the sincere attention for his well-being, although he did not take much time telling what happened to him. Since his biology study he kept a warm interest in nature. He talked about it with expertise. Not like some romantic environmentalist, but as a man with respect and admiration for all life surrounding him.

Coen was exited when he got his appointment for Congo. Sadly it was not for long. The situation got worse every year. When the Simba's in 1964 stormed Isangi, he was sent off the altar, with his liturgical vestments on. Together with the sisters and his confreres he was locked up and tortured in the rebel camp. He survived, and never went back to Congo.

Coen knew his pastoral care in Gangelt would end on his 80th birthday on 14 January 2011. It would mean his return to one of our communities ("you tell me which one!"). Finally he would have time to read, follow politics and join the communal prayer. Just before his retirement he heard he had stomach cancer. He hoped it could be treated; meanwhile he bore in mind the worst. It was hard, when he heard treatment was not possible. He was very emotional, but recovered fast in the sober Biblical sense of reality: "A life takes seventy years; if we are strong eighty". Ten days ago he packed his bag and moved from Gangelt to Schimmert. "I don't need more and actually I don't have it" he noticed. That was Coen all over. He didn't use many words, was easily satisfied and kind without exaggeration, a confrere with his heart at the right place.

The last few years Coen bended more and more forward. Visibly past every pride or vanity. That is how we will remember him. May he sincerely enjoy his stay in the house of the Father!



Father Magella LAROCHE, S.M.M.
(1917 – 2010)

who died in Trois-Rivières (Canada), on 23 December 2010,
at the age of 93 with 71 years of Religious Profession.

Our confrere was born on 2 January 1917 in Pont-Rouge in the diocese of Quebec. He made his first religious profession on 15 August 1939 at our novitiate in Nicolet, and was ordained priest by Mgr. Alexandre Vachon in the cathedral of Ottawa on 24 February 1945.

His first appointment was as a missionary in Haiti. He was assigned as a curate to the cathedral parish in Port-de-Paix from 1945 to 1948.

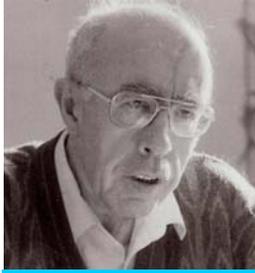
From there he went to Môle Saint-Nicolas until 1951. Then he was appointed parish priest of Bombardopolis, where he remained for 19 years until 1970. Following this, he was chaplain to the Teacher Training College in Lavaud for 20 years. In 1990, after 45 hard years of devoted missionary service, he finally returned to his native country.

He stayed in the presbytery of our parish in Dorval and worked as chaplain to the Dorval Foyer until 2002. Then he spent 5 years of retirement in our residence at the Shrine, followed by two years in Nicolet, before finally retiring to the Cénacle St-Pierre in Pointe-du-Lac (Trois-Rivières).

Our valiant missionary was a voluble and talented story-teller of his numerous experiences in Haiti and even here in Canada. He seemed able to set his hand to anything, even to pulling teeth and breeding tilapia, not to mention his exploits as an occasional doctor.

Our confrere put into effect in his own life the prayer of Montfort: “Such will be the missionaries you have in mind for your Church. They will look kindly on their fellow-men, fearlessly on your enemies, impartially on themselves and, when they look on you, they will be carried away in contemplation” (*Prayer for Missionaries*, 21).

May the Blessed Virgin lead our confrere into the joys of eternity!



Father Louis PÉROUAS, S.M.M.
(1923 – 2011)

who died in Limoges (France), on 29 January 2011,
at the age of 87 with 68 years of Religious Profession.

Father Louis Pérouas was born in 1923 in Rennes. He was ordained a priest in 1949, and died aged 87, after 68 years of religious life.

The development of historical research, with the aim of witnessing to the presence of Christ in the life of anyone who would allow their intelligence to work – such was the priority guiding the labours of our confrere. For his doctoral thesis on the Diocese of La Rochelle, he was awarded “highly honourable mention” and the unanimous congratulations of the examining body. Thus his faith as a baptised person went hand-in-hand with scientific research.

He was a Doctor of Letters. He worked for 29 years for the C.N.R.S. (National Centre for Scientific Research) as research assistant to the director. Louis shed light, through numerous writings, on Marian devotion in the style of Montfort: a devotion rooted in the Gospels... Numerous books helped the Montfort Fathers and Brothers, the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of St Gabriel to understand and follow our common Master: Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.

Having lived in Limoges since 1973, he interested himself in its history, especially its religious history, but also things like emigration, free-masonry, etc. In 1974 he founded the association *Rencontre des Historiens du Limousin (R.H.L.)*. His rigorous research led him to publish a great number of articles and other works on the religious history of the Limousin, for example: “*The people of the Limousin and their priests over five centuries (Editions les Monédières)*; *From the 16th to the 19th centuries, different views on the worship of the saints in the Limousin, and popular religion (Éditions CNRS 1979 pgs. 85-94)*; *Refus d’une religion, religion d’un refus en Limousin rural (1880-1940)*; *The French Revolution, a rupture in Christianity? The case of the Limousin (1775-1822)*; *The pastoral activity of the Bishops of Limoges from the 12th to the 18th centuries in the Limousin countryside*; *Free-Masonry of the Creuse from the 18th century to 1940*; *The Church seen through the prism of history, with a preface by Jean Delumeau*; *Catholicism in the Limousin in the 19th and 20th centuries, seen through the Press*; *Léonard, Marie, Jean and others: Christian names in the Limousin for a millennium (Éditions CNRS 1984, couronné par l’Académie des inscriptions et Belles Lettres)*; *The Revolution experienced in the Limousin*; *The Cult of Saints in the Limousin.*”

Louis tried to rediscover the deep roots of the Faith of the people of the Limousin, and sometimes its limitations... Many of his books testify to this, and his convictions were not merely literary.

He pursued his mission in 4 great areas of Church activity

1. The group of “manual” religious brothers...
2. The group “*Rencontre des historiens du Limousin*”. A beautiful revenge for this researcher who was denied a professorship by the machinations of politics.

3. The Chaplaincy of a geriatric hospital in Limoges with responsibility for a lay chaplaincy... a way of following Father de Montfort in his service of the poorest people.
4. The foundation of the “Acacia” group – the place for dialogue between Christians and Free-Masons... and it was there that his own faith found its real meaning... for “the Word was made flesh” is the inevitable point of contact, of dialogue and sometimes of division between believers and non-believers! Louis did not compromise either on the dialogue or on his own convictions!

From now on, it is under the gaze of the Blessed Virgin that we are called to make our pilgrimage to discover the true face of Christ in fidelity to the memory of Father Louis, who was conscientious in his scientific research work, but also in thanksgiving to the Diocese of Limoges for its comprehensive humanity.



Father Mario ARCIELLO, S.M.M.

(1912 – 2011)

who died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 22 February 2011,
at the age of 98 with 78 years of Religious Profession.

Mario Arciello was born in San Nicola Baronina, in the province of Avellino, on April 5, 1912. When his family moved to Naples, they left him in the countryside with his maternal uncle who was a priest. After the death of his father, in October 1923, he entered the minor seminary in Redona, after a series of contacts between his priest-uncle and Father Gebhard.

His path of formation, begun at Villa Santa Maria, was interrupted in 1930 when he was not admitted to receive the habit. He went back to his family, and then he spent ten months in Tortona, in the institute of the Little House of Providence. In October 1931, he was accepted once again by the superiors of the Company of Mary. After being admitted to the novitiate, he made his first vows on November 13, 1932. He was intelligent, and even brilliant, able to express himself clearly, attached to his opinions, but also a hard worker, generous in rendering service and enterprising. After studying philosophy and theology in Rome and Loretto, he made his perpetual profession on September 20, 1937. We read in his request for admission: “It is now thirteen years that I am living under the wings of the Company of Mary; its Montfortian, Marian and missionary spirit is so rooted in my heart that not only the life of a secular priest but even that of a religious in any other order or congregation does not attract me at all.”

After his priestly ordination on March 12, 1938 in Loretto, he stayed several years in the scholasticate community, first as a professor of philosophy, then as bursar. He continued to exercise this service in Redona, at the Villa Santa Maria, where he was transferred in 1950.

In 1955 he received an obedience to go to Rome, to the Curia, and at the same time he was named provincial bursar. He carried out this charge for about thirty years. In addition to ordinary administration, he was involved in creating the large structures

made necessary by the development of Montfortian presence in Italy. Father Mario took on this responsibility with all his being, at a time that was not easy due to the few financial means and the complexity of the problems to be confronted. He travelled from one community to another without looking out for himself, in order to resolve situations, to speed up business, and to give advice.

In 1983 he left Rome for the foreign mission procure in Caravaggio. In this area, Fr. Mario's entire spirit of initiative revealed itself in supporting missionary projects of evangelisation and human promotion. Those who were able to benefit from his experience, either individual lay people or missionary groups, were witnesses to his humanity and his availability, as well as the strengths which sustained him.

In 2000 he arrived at Villa Montfort in order to enjoy a well deserved rest. There he rediscovered a taste for reading and time passed in peace and simplicity. Father Mario left for heaven on February 22, 2011, full of years, after a life totally given to the Lord and to the Montfortian mission. He rests now in the cemetery in Bergamo.



**Father Joseph Arnoldus (Joep) VAN LIER, S.M.M.
(1937 – 2011)**

who died in Sintang (Indonesia), on 1st March 2011,
at the age of 73 with 51 years of Religious Profession.

Josef Arnold van Lier was born on 13 December 1937 in Roggel (the Netherlands). In 1950 he entered St. Mary Minor Seminary in Schimmert. On 8th September 1959 he made his first profession in Meersen and he was ordained priest on 27th March 1965 in Oirschot. After his ordination, he went to Indonesia and learned the local language and culture in Jogjakarta, in Central Java and then went to Borneo to start working as a missionary. From 1966 to 1978 he worked at the parish of Sejiram and Putussibau along Kapuas River in the Diocese of Sintang West Borneo. In 1978 he was transferred to Sintang and became the pastor of the Cathedral of Sintang and at the same time as Vicar General of the Diocese and head of the Diocesan Social Welfare Commission. From 1985 to 1990 he was the Diocesan Bursar and in 1990 he took a sabbatical year in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. After that he move to Bandung, West Java and became parish priest at St. Paul Parish of the Diocese of Bandung. He was in Bandung from 1991 to 1998 and then went back to Sintang to animate the Montfort Pastoral team in Sintang. When the young confreres were growing, he was ready to let them lead the team but he remained in the community until his death on 1 Mach 2011.

Fr. Joep was an opened minded progressive man, although it was hard sometimes to understand his thoughts. His words sometimes were very sharp and he did not care of the feelings of the other parties but he really had sincerity to help others. He had a very great concern in developing the Dayak people, both spiritually and economically and educationally as well. He was the founder of the Credit Union in Sintang to teach the local people on how to save. He looked for benefactors and collect money for

scholarships. There are now a lot of people from Kalimantan who got their diplomas from universities, work as high rank government officials, in the parliament, or have become businessmen. Even until his death, he was still organizing funds for scholarships.

Fr. Joep always updated himself. He loved reading and writing. He liked to read biblical journals and magazines. Discussing psychology and bible was his favorite theme. When his energy was not so strong anymore, he spent his time writing a book on the local culture and collecting the data on the history of the Diocese of Sintang. He took care of the plants around the garden and became a father for young confreres in the community. A young confrere in the community testifies: "Father Joep was very caring. When we were sitting on the bench beside the house, he came to offer us drinks. If he noticed that we were having some sports, he would prepare cold drinks. We really miss him!"

Yes!! Everybody misses Fr. Joep van Lier, everybody acknowledges all the great deeds he had done for the people of Kalimantan especially in the Diocese of Sintang. The Bishop of Sintang, Most. Rev. Agustinus Agus expressed his gratitude by bringing his coffin to the Cathedral of Sintang, officiating his funeral mass on 3 March and attending the prayer service for seven consecutive days at our community in Sintang.



Brother Marinus (Rinie) VAN DE GEIJN, S.M.M.
(1928 – 2011)

who died in Druten (The Netherlands), on 5 March 2011,
at the age of 83 with 60 years of Religious Profession.

He was born on 31st January 1928 also in Druten. In 1949 he came to the Montfort Missionaries in Meerssen and he made his first profession on 7th October 1950. On that occasion he received the name Johannes Berchmans. His first years as a Montfort Missionary he passed in Oirschot as A.O. doorkeeper. In 1954 he moved to Schimmert and two years later he was appointed to Berg & Dal, where he took care of the administration of the revue "Orante". In 1963 he became director of the brothers in Oirschot and in 1966 he returned to Berg & Dal, where he again worked for "Orante" (until 1987) and as bursar of the community (from 1985). In 1997 he moved to Beuningen and in 2002 to Druten. Because his health weakened two months ago he got a room in a centre for nursing "Kasteelhof" where he passed away.

If we may divide the brothers in our congregation into hard workers and subtle pious souls, then Rinie belonged undoubtedly to the last group. His shape was too fragile to employ the coal shovel, but the more he let the beads of the rosary slip-through his fingers.

When a few weeks ago we together drew up the balance sheet of his life, he told me that the most beautiful time of his life was in Schimmert. With heart and soul he had enjoyed the liturgical ceremonies under the guidance of Piet Janssen. That was typical Rinie. He had something with beauty and harmony. When in Berg & Dal he was

entrusted with care of the chapel, he did it with love and dedication. His notion of God was coloured by serenity, relaxation, order and kindness. You could find the same in his room in the convent of our Lady of Fatima, as was, according to him, the official name of the house. Everything was always neatly ordered, particularly the corner with an icon, a statue of our Lady, candles, etc. The same should be in mutual relations: no dispute, no harsh remarks, no quarrels. He couldn't bear tensions or discord in the community, he prospered best in a calm and friendly atmosphere. Yet he could be grumpy at times, become angry, and make unexpected sharp remarks. Afterwards he regretted it and was unhappy about it.

The turbulent seventies of last century were a hard time for Rinie. The changes in Church and congregation made him feeling insecure. How would everything continue, particularly with the brothers in the congregation? He became nervous of it and asked himself if he should not become more active in the social field, outside the community. Luckily he settled down later.

Striking was his tie with his family. The fact that his mother died so early and that he hardly knew her, bound him strongly to his brothers and sisters. Their well-being - also of nephews and nieces - touched his heart. In public he didn't tell much about it, but in an intimate atmosphere it turned out how much he sympathised when one of them wasn't well. For him it was a real feast when Regina, his religious (Sagesse) sister came visiting for a few days. Together they shared quite some joys and sorrows.

The last years were not easy. Rinie got all kinds of discomforts. In Berg & Dal going up the stairs became difficult and he moved to a small apartment, first in Beuningen and later in Druten. For the care he received there from his brothers and sisters he was extremely grateful. He lived alone but sympathised intensely with his confreres. He was intensely interested in the well-being of everyone, prayed for the sick and those who had passed away. He liked to tell stories of confreres of such and such time. He pitied that because of problems in hearing and walking he couldn't take part anymore in the celebrations of the congregation in Schimmert and Oirschot.

Rinie was often occupied with death, without being afraid of it. It was his wish to be buried in the cassock. He looked for texts that could be read at the funeral, but he added always that the last word was the provincial's. No matter how, he may now sit at the wedding banquet of the Lamb!



Father Mathijs SCHOFFELEERS, S.M.M.
(1928 – 2011)

who died in Maastricht (The Netherlands), on 24 April 2011,
at the age of 82 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

Jan Mathijs Schoffeleers was born in Beek (the Netherlands) on August 31st 1928. In 1942 he joined the minor seminary Ste Marie in Schimmert. On September 8th 1949 he became a member of the congregation. He was ordained priest on 20 March 1955 in Oirschot and was appointed for the mission in Malawi. In 1963 Mathijs started his studies in anthropology in Kinshasa (Congo) and from 1964 till 1967 in Oxford (England). When he returned to Malawi he taught at the Nguludi minor seminary. He obtained his Ph.D. on 11th November 1968. Two years later he became principal at the Catechetical Training Centre in Likulezi. In 1971 he was appointed as professor at Zomba University, in 1976 at the Free University of Amsterdam and from 1989 till his retirement at the Utrecht University. His last active years he spent writing the history of the Dutch Montfortians. In January 2008 Mathijs moved from Leiden to the Vroenhof-community. When he needed more care he was taken into the nursing home and later on into 'De Zeven Bronnen' in Amby, Maastricht, where he died.

In Mathijs' life there were several things that went in an unusual way. The stuttering boy grew into an eloquent man. The missionary in the bush of Malawi became a professor at the University. The respected scholar couldn't, in his old age, arrange his thoughts because of Alzheimer disease. In an almost Oxford way the boy from Geverik became a scholarly recluse in the second part of his life. Thanks to the appreciated help and support of Anja Stoevenbeld his proverbial absent-mindedness could be restricted.

Mathijs was an anthropologist with a theological bias: not dogmatic, not zealous, but convinced that there is more in life than sober rationality wants us to believe. He pictured life as a dramatic pattern of which we could hardly fathom the beginning or the end. That is what he learned from African culture. In a time that people didn't talk yet about intercultural and interreligious dialogues, he looked with a positive attitude towards the non-Christian world and pleaded for a cultural encounter, without one feeling a superiority over the other. He discovered remarkable similarities between Bible texts and African religions. Although he didn't stay a long time in the bush, he was convinced his scientific research was of fundamental importance for the incarnation of the Gospel in African culture.

Being a Montfortian he had a great sympathy for Montfort. In his eyes the founder of the congregation owned a special sentiment for the dramatic aspects of life. Math's own religious experience was for some people rather traditional, because of his idea that religion exceeds all logic. He did not feel ashamed walking in his neighbourhood in Leiden while praying his rosary. Almost naturally he lived in the Mystery, and felt sorry for those who approached life in a sober and professional way. According to his philosophy they missed the plenitude of reality.

Math was a kind of loner, in his own eyes a Montfortian in every way, devoted to the congregation, connected with her history. With pride he pointed to the approach taken by the Montfortians in Malawi: close to people, in solidarity with the poor. He appreciated his election to attend the general chapter in 1999; meeting his confreres from all over the world felt as a warm gift. How the lines and connections in his life related, was for some a mystery. In his eyes it all converged together. He was a very sensitive and vulnerable person. He couldn't easily forget a hard remark someone made. It hurt. He was exceedingly glad meeting someone, and a short time after he withdrew back in his own reality. He preferred painting, drawing and writing poetry instead of writing an article on it. In spite of this he worked hard, from early morning till late in the evening, leaving behind an impressive list of books and articles.

In an admirable way he endured his disease. When the first signs appeared in 2001, he wrote in a confidential letter to the then provincial. He knew the humiliating consequences of his condition. He was resigned to his fate. Sometimes it seemed as if he was happy with it, as if finding a higher meaning in it, maybe a lesson in humility and simplicity. What really went on in his mind, these last years, we do not know. With Montfort he hoped to die between Jesus and Mary. May he share the eternal life in their midst.

Father René MICHIELS, S.M.M.

(1927 – 2011)

who died in Holsbeek (Belgium), on 21 May 2011,
at the age of 83 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

The Obituary will be added in the next edition.



**Father Francis (Frank) LOUGHRAN, S.M.M.
(1915 – 2011)**

who died in Newlands, Blantyre (Malawi), on 25 May 2011,
at the age of 95 with 74 years of Religious Profession.

Fr. Frank was born on the 17th August, 1915 and was the last of eleven children born to his Irish Parents who, like so many others, had left their native land in order to find employment in Liverpool, England.

Being a relatively late vocation he attended Montfort College, Romsey at the age of 14 and stayed there till, at the age of 20, he was accepted into the Novitiate at Celle sur Belle, France where he made his first vows on the 8th September, 1936. He did most of his Philosophy and Theology in France before coming back to England making his final profession on the 20th September, 1941 and being ordained on 8th December 1941.

From the very beginning his eyes were turned to working in the foreign missions and his heart was set on going to Haiti. However, for various reasons, not least the Second World War, it was finally decided that he should instead go and serve in what was then called Nyasaland.

After a dangerous six week journey, travelling in convoy and on a circuitous route, he finally landed in Nsanje, the southernmost part of Malawi, on the 3rd December, 1943, which was also the feast of his Patron Saint, St Francis Xavier.

His first appointment was to teach the Diocesan Junior Seminarians at Nankhunda which he did faithfully and well while at the same time using this opportunity to learn Chichewa and prepare himself for the beginning of 68 years of service to the Church in Malawi.

Having quickly mastered the language and demonstrated his very practical mechanical and building skills, he was asked to move to Limbe where he served as aide to Bishop Auneau and curate in what is now Limbe Cathedral. He then was elected as the Provincial for the Shire Vicariate and helped in the transition and establishment of the first two Dioceses of Zomba and Blantyre. He also accepted responsibility for the establishment and setting up of so many schools in the Southern and Central Regions of Malawi, travelling to them all, finding teachers and paying them their salaries. Shortly after moving to Zomba he was asked to oversee the building of the Cathedral: he designed and constructed what is without doubt a timeless, well lit and well ventilated Church that is still the envy of the other Dioceses in the country.

But it was in parish ministry where he was most at home. We, the younger priests, are in awe as we hear of the life style of Frank and his confreres of that time. For three weeks of every month, he would travel by bicycle moving from one village to the next, eating what the people had to offer, sleeping in the huts that they would make available, hearing confessions for hours at a time, baptizing, marrying and making sure that the children were being adequately prepared for the reception of the Sacraments. He was often heard to say how the fourth week, spent at the Parish, was always the least satisfying.

As a confrere, he was an inspiration. Living a simple life with few possessions other than his well worn tools, he was happy to be of help to one and all. He enjoyed company and had the gift of making people feel at home and somehow knowing what their greatest needs were. Whether it was at table or playing bridge, he revelled in the companionship of his fellow priests.

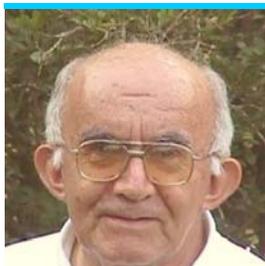
As a missionary he was tireless and dedicated. Nothing would make him happier than to see a full church and the longest line of penitents. He had time for everyone and made sure to help those most in need regardless of the cost to himself. He was especially good at looking out for the newly ordained and making sure that they were equipped with whatever they needed in order to be effective ministers.

As a man he was humble. He had a simple non-complicated faith. He was forever there at the service of the Church and was sure that, provided he did his best, Our Lady would do the rest.

His greatest disappointment came in 1998, when at the age of 93, he was asked to retire from active ministry. His eyesight was failing and his legs were weak, but his desire to serve was as strong as ever. Humbly, he accepted but never stopped praying for those who were to labour in his place and in the service of the people that he so dearly loved.

Frank passed away peacefully on the 25th May, 2011 at the nursing home in Blantyre and was buried on the grounds of his Cathedral on the 30th May.

May he rest in peace and enjoy the company of Our Lady and her Son.



Father Carlos ACHURY GARAVITO, S.M.M.
(1926 – 2011)

who died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 27 May 2011,
at the age of 84 with 64 years of Religious Profession.

The Obituary will be added in the next edition.



Father Auguste DURGEAUD, S.M.M.

(1922 – 2011)

who died in St Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 27 May 2011,
at the age of 88 with 67 years of Religious Profession.

Giving his own body to science, Father August felt himself called since his birth on June 7, 1922, to become a servant of life:

- *“The Lord has given me the first and precious gift of life, by passing through the path of the heart of my beloved parents who loved each other with such love! One could not do without the other. My sisters and my brother whom you have given to me along with my parents, I welcomed them all. The understanding and the affection among us were our riches.”*

A servant of life – Father Auguste wanted to become one from a very young age, by allowing himself to be fascinated by the examples of Fathers Riscours and Bidet, Montfort Missionaries who came to preach the conclusion of the Jubilee of 1925-26.

- *“I was already awakened from that moment to ‘do as they were doing’! A simple desire of a four year old kid, perhaps ... but a desire that never went away.”*

A servant of life – Father August knew how to lead a combat in the face of health challenges.

- *“A little after I turned 21, and in the midst of war (1939-1945), my path was disrupted by another merciless war – that of tuberculosis, which extended over six years in the galley: from 1943 – 1945. This malady was for me an extraordinary path of life as well as human, Christian and Montfortian formation.”*
- *“But from 1949, my life became a little more normal once again. I was finally able to be ordained on June 30, 1952 and to follow a missionary path in a humble way, in service to the congregation, as provincial bursar.”*
It was an act of thanksgiving on the part of Father Auguste:
- *“Thank you, Lord, for the ministries which, through my superiors, you have asked me to accomplish, at Dax and Saint Paul, Paris, La Gardiolle, the Calvary of Pontchateau, Notre-Dame Du Marillais, Saint Gabriel, La Sagesse, and at finally at our mother house of Saint Laurent.”*

A servant of life – Father August has also acted in this way through his sense of welcome, of hospitality, as he knew how to witness this above all when he had the responsibility for a community, which was the case for a good part of his life. Let us think in particular to the ecumenical openness which he had shown in La Gardiolle, in a milieu largely marked by the Protestant reformation: everyone felt welcomed there for sharing and dialogue.

A servant of life – even to the last day. Father Auguste himself gave us the conclusion to his path of missionary life:

- *“I know that this gift, accomplished in all freedom of spirit and of heart, will be returned to me in the heart of God, in Jesus Christ, who died and is risen, and in the fraternal communion of all humanity gathered before Him.”*



Brother René BARANGER, S.M.M.

(1914 – 2011)

who died in Cholet (France), on 15 June 2011,
at the age of 96 with 67 years of Religious Profession.

Brother René left us just before his 97th birthday, which would have been on July 8. He has been our eldest since the death of Brother Paul a year and a half ago, and a valiant dean he was until an unfortunate fall in his room on June 1st, which resulted in a fractured hip requiring hospitalization and remaining immobile, something which he did not withstand well. Following an infection, he left us the morning of June 15, two weeks after his accident. Despite the sadness of his death, the members of his family, who were so present at his side, especially during these painful two weeks, were happy to see his Calvary come to an end. His peaceful face on his deathbed showed how he had rediscovered the peace and serenity which characterized his entire life so well.

He was 30 years old when he made his first profession with the Montfortians, after a 2 year military service and the mobilization during the first year of World War II.

His specialty was “farmer,” a work he learned from his parents who were also farmers. As a farmer, he was effectively at La Chartreuse for 10 years and at the scholasticate in Montfort sur Meu for 7 months. But it was above all at La Gardiolle where he engaged his efforts and his competence in cultivating the vineyard and in wine production. He did this on three occasions: for 5 years, then for 2 years, and finally for 27 years. Little by little, then, he left the farm in order to become more involved with the garden, an activity which he continued at Chezelles for 10 years before rejoining the community of Saint Laurent in 1998. Even there, he helped in the garden as much as he could, showing in this way his love for the earth and his sense of service to the community.

Several traits reveal his human and religious personality:

- He loved to pick flowers from the flowerbeds in order to give them to the ladies who worked in the house.

- As much as he could, he visited the senior citizens club in Saint Laurent to play cards and to share life with others.

- Two years ago, at the age of 95(!) he would still take his bicycle to go to the end of the Daughters of Wisdom's garden to collect chestnuts for the community and for other interested in this gift offered with all his heart.

- Under the hazelnut trees he competed with the squirrels in filling his pockets with hazelnuts, always for giving them away to others!

- But the most characteristic trait of his life was certainly the very simple depth of his religious life which he knew how to nourish at the fruitful spring of the spirituality of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus. Every day, he made his pilgrimage to their tombs: he was still there on May 31, before his accident on the following morning.

He cultivated a joy of living by spreading that joy around him, even playing the accordion so that the grape-pickers could dance after a week of working at La Gardiolle. He was happy in his vocation as a brother in the Montfort Missionaries, and he knew how to make others around him happy.

Without a doubt the Lord is saying to him today: "Enter into the joy of your Lord," in company with Mary, whom he so often addressed to ask her to pray for him "now and at the hour of death."

Father Karel (Charles) KNIBBELER, S.M.M.

(1922 – 2011)

who died in Brunssum (The Netherlands), on 16 June 2011,
at the age of 88 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

The Obituary will be added in the next edition.



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

December 2010			<u>Age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
08	Br. Francis Babonneau	La Hillière (France)	87	70
February 2011				
08	Br. Hervé Kevrarec	La Hillière (France)	90	73
April 2011				
06	Br. Maurice Tande	Loctudy (France)	85	68
16	Br. Joseph Louis Bonyat Ronjanaroon	Bangkok (Thailand)	74	53
June 2011				
09	Br. Marcel Bergeron	Laval - Québec (Canada)	90	73

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

November 2010			<u>Born</u>	<u>Profession</u>
26	Sr. Adeline Rabozaka Adeline de la Providence	Antananarivo (Madagascar)	08-11-45	22-08-69
December 2010				
03	Sr. Béatrice Laporte Marie-Ephrem	Ottawa (Canada)	16-07-16	02-08-34
07	Sr. Philippe-Marie Mary Frith	Romsey (England)	18-12-17	02-02-45
13	Sr. Paul-Marie du Divin Cœur Juliette Horeau	St Laurent (France)	23-03-17	02-08-43
26	Sr. Louis-Marie de Jésus Sagesse Zélie Coulee	Bruxelles (Belgium)	30-09-35	02-02-57
January 2011				
05	Sr. Noël des Anges Joséphine Saliba	Port au Prince (Haiti)	16-09-17	02-08-46
09	Sr. Claudine Imbault Claudine-Marie de la Croix	St Laurent (France)	30-07-44	22-08-67
12	Sr. Agatha van Maria Assumpta Maria Philomena Weerts	Houtem (Holland)	24-03-22	02-02-51
23	Sr. Serafina dell' Assunzione Elisabetta Rota	Marina di Ravenna (Italy)	09-11-21	02-02-44

February 2011

04	Sr. Anne-René Odette Journée	St Laurent (France)	30-07-20	24-09-41
18	Sr. Louise van de H. Agnes Marie-Louise van Lommel	Tournai (Belgium)	04-02-17	02-08-45
25	Sr. María Vitalia Martínez Barrera Elena del Niño Jesús	Bogotá (Colombia)	08-01-25	02-08-45
27	Sr. Marie-Madeleine Braule Marie-Madeleine de la Trinité	St Laurent (France)	07-01-26	02-08-53
28	Sr. Rose-Anne Doherty Philip of the Sacred Heart	Romsey (England)	03-02-36	02-08-56

March 2011

18	Sr. Teresa dell'Immacolata Orsola Laguaragnella	Valperga (Italy)	21-10-25	02-02-54
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April 2011

01	Sr. Geneviève Pilot Geneviève-Marie de Jésus	St Laurent (France)	08-02-21	02-08-44
03	Sr. Sara dell'Eucaristia Maria Chiara Ghisu	Clusone (Italy)	27-04-29	02-02-61
06	Sr. Hermina van de Carmel Cahtharina Hermina Peters	Wijchen (Holland)	16-11-17	02-02-42
07	Sr. Georges du Divin Coeur Mary Gornall	Romsey (England)	17-10-15	08-09-36

May 2011

01	Sr. Anne-Charlotte de la Croix Anne Charlotte Scoyer	Tournai (Belgium)	10-10-32	02-02-60
18	Sr. Marie-Joseph du Rosaire Madeleine Gypteau	St Laurent (France)	28-11-10	02-08-37
21	Sr. Pierre-Marie de la Croix Jeanne Delforge	La Chartreuse (France)	21-07-12	02-02-45
28	Sr. Alice Audebrand Alice de la Providence	St Laurent (France)	21-06-22	02-08-44
29	Sr. Santa Rosalia Maria Ottaviani	Valperga (Italy)	29-06-18	02-02-39

June 2011

05	Sr. Geneviève-Marie de la Sagesse Geneviève Poulain	St Laurent (France)	25-10-25	02-02-57
16	Sr. Marie-Fernande du Sacré-Cœur Andrée Genva	Tournai (Belgium)	19-12-26	02-02-52



« ... 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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