



L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

July 2012 - N° 16

OUR DECEASED CONFRES



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.

René was born on 22 December 1927 in Betekom (Belgium). From 1941 to 1948 he studied humanities at our college in Rotselaar, followed by the novitiate in Meerssen, where he made his first vows on 8 September 1949. He continued his formation at the scholasticate in Oirschot, and was ordained priest on 20 March 1955.

Because he was destined for the Congo, he was exempt from military service on condition he followed a six-month course in medicine in Leuven. Then Mgr. Jansen, Prefect Apostolic of the Diocese of Isangi, wishing to dedicate some priests to teaching, asked him to obtain a teaching diploma. This was why René did not arrive in the Congo until 1958, when he took up his post as professor in the training college of Elisabetha (later known as Lokutu). One year later, in view of the approaching independence, problems began which climaxed in a bloody rebellion in 1964, just when René was on leave in Belgium. While waiting for a calmer situation, he spent his time serving as chaplain to Belgian troops in Germany.

Returning to the Congo in 1966, he was appointed director of the training college mentioned above. In 1975, the Provincial called him back to Belgium to join a teaching team in the college at Rotselaar. For his part, René asked to return to the Congo (then renamed Zaire), and was appointed parish priest in Yabaondo, an extensive territory with many activities. When Robert Yernaux suffered a fatal accident, he was recalled to the training college as a professor. Then, two years later, when four Congolese left for the novitiate in Uganda, René was asked to go as assistant novice-master to Adrien Van de Hulst. Then a local war put an end to this project and René, with the two novices who remained, was able to go back to Zaire.

His return to Belgium was a real relief for him and his family, and allowed him to help his own father who was seriously ill. But a longing to return to Zaire encouraged him to start a project for taking in children on the edge of Kisangani; but quite soon he went back to the diocese of Isangi to take over from Father Jan Tachelet in Yabwanza. He was

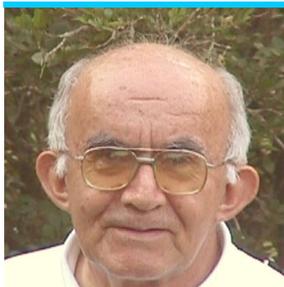
parish-priest and also responsible for the development project. In 1993 he was sent to Kisangani to be bursar of the large formation community there, and chaplain to a nearby military camp. When in 1996 some Congolese confreres arrived to strengthen the formation team, René judged that the time had come for him to retire and bring to realisation a dream he had had, namely to write his memoirs. At the end of his book, he makes his project clear: "We were on the watch. It was necessary that, following us, there would be young men capable of taking up the baton. That was what we were able to achieve."

Having finally returned to Belgium in 1996, he felt at home in the community in Rotselaar and began to write his memoirs, which took a lot of time for the good reason that he had no journals to consult. That is why his idea was not to write a history, but rather to speak about events as he had experienced them. Being conscious of his own somewhat aggressive temperament, he wanted to be prudent. In 1999 he wrote to me: "Here is a copy of the book entitled 'The Life of a Missionary in the Congo'. Please check whether I have falsified certain situations. Thank you for your remarks."

His successive moves and his many functions remind me of Father de Montfort who wrote: "I am like the ball in a game of tennis." In the light of the many conversations I have had with him, I interpret the expression of Montfort: "I am like a ball in the hands of my religious and political superiors." Despite this feeling, he retained a certain sense of humour, and wrote at the beginning of his memoirs: "'The Life of a Missionary in the Congo' is meant to be a book that expresses my joy, despite the many difficulties and setbacks I have experienced. Stepping back a little, I remember especially the beautiful moments... Joy in love fills my heart as I recall my years spent in the Congo."

During the last months of his life, René was plagued by a problem that, once again, was beyond him. To fight against it was his only recourse, but of what use was that when the sickness was incurable? I have the feeling that finally he achieved a state of surrender. An example: on the eve of my departure for the Chapter in Rome, he surprised me when I visited him. The whole time I was there, he seemed delighted. Then, as he accompanied me to the exit from the home, he greeted everyone we passed, telling them proudly that I was "the superior". It was as though he wanted to soften old wounds.

All his life he had difficulties with superiors, religious or otherwise, but before the "Big Boss" he showed special respect. This is how I interpret his attachment to the celebration of the Eucharist right up to the point where it became physically impossible. Also, in his many letters he always mentioned the Blessed Virgin and emphasised his belonging to the Company of Mary. I have the impression that, during his last, physically difficult, days, he was consciously preparing himself to meet the Lord. We want to accompany him on this great pilgrimage.



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.

Died in Bogotá on 27 May 2011 aged 84 with 64 years of religious profession. He was buried in our cemetery in Choachí.

Father Carlos was born on 27 September 1926 in Junin, Cundinamarca, the parish from which the majority of the first Colombian Montfortian vocations came. He made his first profession in San Juanito, Meta, on 2 February 1947 and was ordained priest on 28 September 1953 in the former Major Seminary of Alban, Cundinamarca.

He began his ministry as a teacher in the Junior Seminary in Choachí, Cundinamarca, from 1954 to 1960. He spent almost the rest of his life as a parish priest in what is now the Archdiocese of Villavicencio, Meta: Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Acacias, San Martin, the Cathedral of Villavicencio, the Holy Spirit parish (1971-1984) also in Villavicencio, Guamal and again Acacias (1987-1989). In 1968 he was rector of the Major Diocesan Seminary in Restrepo. Between 1990 and 1993 he served in various capacities: in the parish of Puerto Carreño, Vichada; he took part in a course of studies organised by the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM); the St Luis Beltran parish in Medellin. In 1994 he was again in Acacias and then in Cubarral, Meta, as parish priest (1995-1996). In 1999 he returned to Acacias and in 2000 was in the parish of the Holy Spirit in Villavicencio. After this (2004-2005) he was a curate in Sacred Heart parish in Acacias. His last years of ministry (2006-2007) were spent as a curate in Guamal, Meta, helping the young diocesan priest Guillermo Sanchez, who always showed great gratitude and affection for him as he had been an altar server in his parish. Father Carlos was his mentor and support throughout his journey to his priestly ordination. Finally in 2008, due to ill health and somewhat against his natural inclination, he was sent to the rest-home for priests in Choachí, Cundinamarca.

Father Carlos was always an active and dynamic person, not only in the exercise of his apostolate, but also in the building field. The apostolic movements and groups rooted in the Diocese of Villavicencio by Mgr. Gregorio Garavito, SMM, were always very dear to Father Carlos, who was their inspiration, promoter and often their director: the Legion of Mary, Cursillo, the movement for the promotion of youth, Charismatic Renewal... always taken up with spirituality, preaching, catechesis, the confessional and the great liturgical celebrations and solemnities in the town and in the country. Always inspired by a great missionary spirit, untiring to the end of his life when he wanted still to be sent into a parish. He built the parish church of the Holy Spirit in Villavicencio. In the presbytery at San Martin he built apartments to let, thus ensuring the self-sufficiency of the parish. In the seminary in Restrepo he built the chapel and laid out sports fields, for he had a great love of sport and of running.

We would like to end this summary with the message of Mgr. Oscar Urbina, the current Bishop of Villavicencio on the occasion of the death of "Carlitos":

"With great regret we heard of the death of Father Carlos Achury, who worked all his life in the archdiocese. But with great hope we entrust him to our Father, who has certainly welcomed him as a faithful and wise servant in the distribution of the bread of the Word and of the Sacraments, who offered himself as bread broken that others might have abundant life. We unite in prayer with the whole Montfortian community. Villavicencio, 27 May 2011."

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom he prayed all his life especially through the Rosary (Carlitos always had his rosary in his hand and in his heart), welcome him as the Gate of Heaven always open, into eternal life.



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.

On 29 December 1922 Karel Jozef Maria Knibbeler was born in Hoensbroek. He went to the minor seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Wijnandsrade. In 1946 he came to the Montfort Missionaries and made his first vows in Meerssen on September 8th 1947.

March 7th 1948 he was ordained priest in Oirschot. After his studies he started to preach in parishes in the neighbourhood of Voorschoten/Haagsche Schouw and Oirschot. From 1959 he worked for the *Bond zonder Naam* (the Nameless Union) until his appointment for Perù in Brazil. He was mission superior from 1966 - 1972 and regional superior from 1982 - 1984. In 1987 Charles returned to the Netherlands, to the community of Schimmert. A few months ago he fell and was taken into care in Vroenhof. When he needed more help he went to the house for the elderly Schuttershof in Brunssum, where he died of heart failure.

Charles was a many-sided person, who knew how to hold on to people, a companionable type with a great sense of humour. He envied the lack of inhibition of the Brazilians. He wanted to be like them! And he came near it. He started a conversation with everyone he met. And it felt as if he was a true friend. Friendship mattered to him, in and outside the congregation. Let us first make mention of Corrie Pot and her family. Charles was able to love people because he had a high regard for them.

In a letter from 1979 Charles writes, that there is no life with more variations than the life of a priest. Surely he thought of his own life being a preacher, director of the *Bond zonder Naam* and being a priest in the slums of São Paulo. All kinds of people shared their joy and sadness with him. He said himself he received more than he had to offer. He was inspired by what he saw and heard.

Basic for his pastoral activities was the conviction that every person is precious. It was that preciousness he wanted to enlighten. Therefore it is no surprise Charles had great sympathy for the Brazilian liberation Theology, because of their point of departure that everyone is equally precious, not least the poor and the simple.

In that line lies his resistance when in the sixties plans were being formed to put a broom through the congregation and separate the wheat from the chaff. It was not that he did

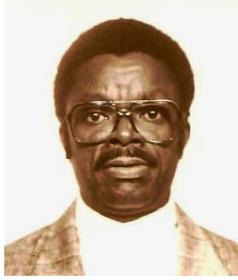
not have ideals or expectations. With the Brazilians he named a person without ideals 'an empty bag that couldn't stand upright'. His ideal wasn't a small elite looking down on the rest. Also the black goats belonged to us, that was his conviction and he didn't like the scribes sitting in front of the Synagogue.

His whole life Charles was inspired by Francis and Montfort. When he switched as student of theology from the Conventuals to Montfortians, it was not because Francis did not mean anything for him. On the contrary. He also found the poverty of Francis in Montfort.

The extra attraction of Montfort was the prominent place of the Virgin Mary. In the Magnificat she shows a deep interest in the poor and the oppressed. In the spirituality of Montfort Charles saw the spirituality of Francis being based in a pastoral form: close to people. Not patronizing but with respect. The fact that two of his brothers were already members of the congregation was also a reason for his transition to the Montfortians. For a family man like Charles, an easy step, but it was not his actual motive.

In the time he was a preacher he received an appointment to prepare for the task of moral theologian at the major seminary in Oirschot. He was not very enthusiastic about that. He preferred direct contact with people. He liked seeing faces and was not interested in bookishness. Lucky for him the professorship did not work out, because the congregation needed him more as a successor of Father Loop at the *Bond zonder Naam*.

This work was perfect for Charles, although he missed an audience in the little Radio studio. He wanted to see live people, make eye contact and speak from heart to heart. May he get lots of that in Gods Heaven!



Brother Jean-Gérard ALMÉUS, S.M.M.
(1938 – 2011)

who died in Port-de-Paix (Haiti), on 3 July 2011,
at the age of 72 with 46 years of Religious Profession.

Born on 22 October 1938 to a family of modest means in Rivière Mancelle, an outlying chapel of Gros Morne, he remained attached to his peasant roots: he carried them in his heart wherever he went on mission. Having spent part of his childhood with the Montfort Missionaries of the community of Gros Morne, he entered the novitiate in Lavaud and made his first religious profession on 1 May 1965.

He shared in the Montfortian mission in parishes, by turns in Anse à Foleur (1965), Jean Rabel (1966), Cap Haitien (1967-68) and Bassin Bleu (1968-70). Starting in 1970, studies in electricity, then in catechesis, took him first of all to Port-au-Prince, then to Rome. He then dedicated himself to the mission of evangelisation at the service of the diocesan Catechetical programme in Port-de-Paix and in caring for disinherited children in the "Three Graces" Centre that he had created for them.

Our confrere was a Christian humanist, a genius in music and in the Haitian culture. A unique poet in his own right, he sang of life. He was always ready to serve, with an exemplary simplicity despite his great talent as a composer. With a smile on his lips even in the most difficult moments, he looked for solutions to other people's problems, especially the sick and the children. He distilled from his meditations on biblical texts the quintessence of the message that he continually expressed in his hymns, which were so many sermons. He wrote more than fifty of them in the Creole language, the language of all Haitians, based on the rhythms of the land.

He gave to the people of God in Haiti and elsewhere, a hundredfold of the gift he had received from God and the Haitian culture. He had the art of bringing together in an harmonious whole, his conviction as a religious, Haitian reality, the biblical message and the missionary thrust inherited from St Louis Marie de Montfort, all set to an attractive and jovial air proper to himself. His numerous hymns are the result of the constant relationship that he forged between the Word of God and the social condition of those to whom he was bound to deliver this Word.

In good times as well as in moments of adversity, especially in the illness and the sufferings he had recently to endure, he remained stoical and jovial at the same time. He spoke of his approaching death with his proverbial good humour, to the extent that one could not imagine that he was to depart this life so quickly on 3 July 2011.

Brother Jean Gérard was our last "Coadjutor Brother". With his original style of being a missionary in Montfort's way, he keeps, and will keep, a special place in the heartfelt memory of our Province.



Father Mario ADOBATI, S.M.M.
(1919 – 2011)

who died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 13 July 2011,
at the age of 92 with 70 years of Religious Profession.

Mario Adobati was born on May 23, 1919 in Costa Serina (Bg), a blessed place of mountains, which gave several vocations to the Montfortian Family, among whom was his nephew Father Pietro Brozzoni, who died at a young age in 1992. Remembering the beginning of his vocation, Fr. Mario wrote: “From a tender age I had a special inclination to the priesthood, which grew with age ... and which showed me and made me understand what might be the ideal for my life ... I felt a particular attraction to Mary, the mother of the Lord; I desired to know her and love her in order to be able someday to communicate to others this same desire. Thanks to her I got to know the Montfort Missionaries and despite some obstacles and difficulties which are never lacking, I entered the minor seminary in Redona.” In fact it was right there that, in September 1932 he began the path of preparation for missionary life at the age of 13. He went to the novitiate in Belgirate (No), and he made first profession on September 8, 1940. He completed his theological studies in Loreto and was ordained a priest on March 19, 1946.

Father Mario expressed his zeal for the Gospel in different forms of ministry: Marian preaching, animation of ecclesial groups, popular missions, parish ministry, and pastoral care among workers and in rural areas. All this took place in the communities of Treviglio, Santeramo, Castellaneta, Ginosa, Arbizzano. In 1978, obedience called him to Reggio Calabria: first in the *Chiesa del Rosario* and then in the *Casa della Madonna*. For about 19 years, Father Mario placed himself at the service of the church in Reggio through parish animation, Marian preaching and the ministry of confession. He also received diocesan responsibilities: collaborating in the area of adult formation, as episcopal delegate for religious life, and as spiritual director of groups and institutes of women religious. In 1997 Father Mario was in the parish of Monte Mario, where his presence in the community and with everyone was appreciated. His joyful character favoured his pastoral work among the sick and the elderly. He was also available for other parish activities, especially for confession.

He went to *Villa Montfort* in 2006, in light of the first diminishment in his health. Gifted with a serene and cordial character, he participated in community life, with interest in and appreciation of the confreres. He did not lack a sufficient amount of astuteness, and he knew how to assert himself when he felt provoked. In the early months of 2011, the signs of physical decline became more evident, until the day when, assisted lovingly by his family, he fell asleep in the Lord on July 13, in the fullness of his years. The funeral, on the memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, was celebrated together with the funeral of Father Lino Teolato in the Shrine of *Maria Regina dei Cuori*.

Father Mario rests in the cemetery of Costa Serina, his native place, where other Montfortian confreres await with him the final resurrection.



Father Lino TEOLATO, S.M.M.

(1933 – 2011)

who died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 15 July 2011,
at the age of 78 with 59 years of Religious Profession.

Lino Teolato was born on February 20, 1933 in Abano Terme (Pd). At 10 years of age, he left his land and went to the Montfortian seminary in Redona. In his request for admission for religious profession, remembering this moment, he wrote: “My first thought was to become a priest; but at the minor seminary, little by little, alongside the priestly vocation there also grew a religious vocation and now these two vocations form but a single desire and ideal for me ...”

He made his first profession on September 8, 1951 in Castiglione Torinese. He pursued theological studies in Loreto (An). He was ordained a priest on March 16, 1957 in the basilica of the Holy House. A few months later he began the study of music. He wrote this to the Father Provincial: “I am applying myself to what you have ordered me to do because, above all, I desire to obey. I will do music, if that is what you want, as best as I can. Naturally, I continue to have in my heart a desire for the missions, and if one day I am destined for the missions, I would go even if I have to swim.”

After a year in the Via Romagna, in 1958 he went to the scholasticate where he taught philosophy. Between 1963 and 1966 he was in Rome to pursue a doctorate in philosophy and a specialization in Mariology and pastoral theology. After a few months in the missionary community of Treviglio, he was named the Superior of the scholasticate in Rome. In a letter written to the Provincial about this destination, Fr. Lino wrote: “In my religious life I resolved to obey always, and I can do no less now, even if the temptation to make an exception this time has a certain attraction ... I am young, I have never been a superior ...” In 1972, after two mandates, Fr. Lino began a long period of parish ministry: first in Monte Mario, in Rome, from 1973 to 1985; and then in Ginosa (Ta) at *Cuore Immacolato* from 1985 to 2006. He was gifted with a kind temperament, which made him a weaver of dialogue and communion when fraternal life was marked by tension. From 1975 until 1980 he was named provincial counsellor. For a long time he was a spiritual director for the secular institute of “Missionaries of Mary Queen of Hearts.”

When illness knocked at the door of his life in his last years, Fr. Lino experienced the loving kindness of many confreres. Long months spent in the hospital in Siena allowed him to encounter the sadness and suffering of many people. The desire to be always useful in pastoral service always kept him from the offer of going to *Villa Montfort*, where nevertheless he went during Holy Week of 2011. He became completely unable to speak, so he communicated via text messages sent from a cellular phone. One could see in these messages both his suffering and his abandonment to God.

He ended his earthly pilgrimage on July 14, 2011. The funeral, on the memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, was celebrated at the Shrine of *Maria Regina dei Cuori*, together with the funeral of Fr. Mario Adobati. Fr. Lino rests in the cemetery in Bergamo.



Brother Louis LEBRETON, S.M.M.
(1926 – 2011)

who died in St Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 21 July 2011,
at the age of 85 with 52 years of Religious Profession.

Born on the 21 July 1926, Brother Louis died on his 85th birthday. For sure, "P'tit Louis", as we used to call him, had been completely dependent on others for everything for many months, but nothing gave any hint of such a sudden and quick death, when he had spent a normal morning with us. He who had been so terrified of death was given the grace of passing into eternal life consciously, but above all quickly.

He has certainly been welcomed by his Jesuit uncle, Father Francis Lebreton, his father's brother, who died a martyr in China in 1939 and was beatified. Brother Louis had added these words to a photograph of his uncle Francis: "A photo of Uncle Francis who was beatified. A saint among the Saints of heaven. Dad's brother. Let us ask for graces through his intercession. Blessed Francis Lebreton, pray for us." Yes, we associate this Blessed martyr with our own celebration of the Passover of his nephew Brother Louis. Louis was 13 when his uncle was martyred in China. No doubt this uncle had an influence in the religious and Montfortian vocation of P'tit Louis. Yet he took his time in letting this vocation come to maturity in him. He was an agricultural labourer near Montfort-sur-Meu when Father Bouchet noticed him and guided him towards the community of the Montfort Missionaries. He was 27 years old when he began a form of postulancy, first of all at the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu, then in Chézelles, working in the garden then on the farm. This lasted for 5 years! And it was only on 19 March 1958 that he began his novitiate with his first profession a year later.

Afterwards his journey was very simple, marked by his fidelity to his work as well as to personal and community prayer.

- Six years in Montfort-sur-Meu as a gardener (with Brother Auguste).
- Thirty years in Chézelles, on the farm and in the garden.
- Finally, in 1998, he came to Saint Laurent.

As much as he could, he busied himself with cultivating his flower-beds, an occupation during which the language he used to insult the slugs, greenfly and weeds, was just as expressive and colourful as his flowers were varied and tinted.

Little by little his health deteriorated until he could no longer contemplate the flowers that grew beneath his window. May the Lord welcome him into his everlasting gardens!



**His Excellency Bishop Paul MARCHAND, S.M.M.
Bishop of the Diocese of Timmins, Ontario (Canada),
(1937 – 2011)**

who died in Gracefield, QC (Canada), on 24 July 2011,
at the age of 74 with 54 years of Religious Profession.

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the sudden death, with no warning whatsoever, of our dear confrere, the Bishop of Timmins, Ontario, Mgr. Paul Marchand, s.m.m. He died on 24 July 2011, at our Montfort Villa at Poisson-Blanc Lake, Gracefield (Gatineau). Perhaps an hour earlier, he had concelebrated the Eucharist with those of our confreres who were there, and everything seemed normal. But at lunchtime, when he was late, one of us went to his room to discover, with astonishment, the death of our confrere lying on his bed. Mgr. Marchand was 74 years old, with 54 years of religious profession and 49 years of priestly ministry.

His life among the Montfort Missionaries was known especially for his preaching of parish retreats. He continued this ministry as director of our Centre for Christian Renewal at Drummondville from 1967 to 1973, and again from 1979 to 1982. From 1983 to 1987 he was by turns the director of the Hostel and director of the Shrine of Mary Queen of All Hearts in Montreal. Then he was parish-priest of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Vanier, Ottawa, from 1987 to 1990, before being appointed Provincial of the Montfort Missionaries in Canada, from 1990 to 1993.

After this he was appointed as auxiliary Bishop in Ottawa, being ordained bishop on 20 August 1993 in the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre Dame. On 8 March 1999, Mgr. Marchand was appointed Bishop of Timmins.

Our Episcopal confrere always remained a Montfort Missionary, very convinced of our charism and Montfortian spirituality: "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*, no. 21).

May the Blessed Virgin, whom he so loved and preached, lead him into the joys of eternal life!



**Brother Gustaaf (Staf) ANTHONIS, S.M.M.
(1935 – 2011)**

who died in Leuven (Belgium), on 24 July 2011,
at the age of 75 with 55 years of Religious Profession.

Staf was born on 30 November 1935 in Heist-op-den-Berg. After his primary schooling he began his secondary studies at Rotselaar, but it was soon judged that he would develop better in the school for future Brothers in Bunde (Netherlands) where, for three years, he applied himself to the work of carpentry, despite the fact that this was not his strong point. But, because he really wanted to be a Montfort Missionary, he persevered. After his postulancy he began his novitiate in Meerssen where he made his first vows on 28 April 1956.

He began his religious life as door-keeper, time-keeper, telephonist and sacristan in the scholasticate at Oirschot (Netherlands). His many contacts with the Fathers and scholastics there made him very happy. Because he had to do his military service in Belgium, he did not make his perpetual profession until 2 February 1962, and was then appointed to Leuven in Belgium. He missed the atmosphere of the large scholasticate, but the fact that he had more or less the same duties in Leuven consoled him, especially as he appreciated being near to his own family. He quickly felt himself to be in his element: those confreres who were parish-priests there involved him more and more in the parish life, and on top of that he was always there to welcome pilgrims. Then there were the comings and goings of the Fathers involved in the Marian Apostolate, and a small group of priests studying in the community prolonged his links with the scholasticate.

He followed closely the developments that led to the establishment of the Belgian entity as a Province. A man of relationships, he was well aware of many situations and became an important source of information. With his memories of so many details of confreres he had welcomed to the community or contacted by telephone or letter, he was a sort of walking archive of the congregation. Many times he was asked to put his memories down on paper, but he declined the invitation with a certain irritation. His pride was in being precise, and he was happy to note the confidence the confreres placed in him when he was appointed bursar of the community in 1991.

He had a real talent for making people feel welcome, as many confreres in Belgium, and others from elsewhere, can remember. As for the poor, he reminded you a bit of Father de Montfort and the band of unfortunates who were always following him. We might think that they were on the make, but for Staf they were the friends of God.

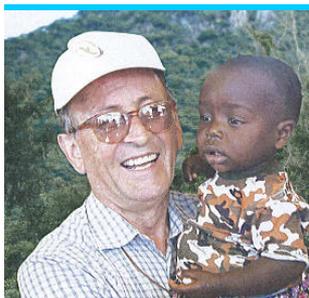
For a number of years now he had a growing health problem, which rendered him no longer able to do the shopping or to carry heavy weights. The doctors diagnosed a problem with his heart and arteries. He underwent a first operation and a second had to take place later. A growth was found in his aorta. After this second arterial operation he remained in intensive care for more than a week, but eventually was able to return to the community. He recovered quite well, and we were all taken by surprise on Sunday 24 July to find him dead in bed. He was lying there, with no sign of cramps or other complications, which indicated that he had died peacefully.

For several months he had confided in several people that he would not live long. He who had always been so vital in gatherings of all kinds became more and more quiet and would regularly excuse himself from being present. In hindsight we can see why.

The liturgy on the morning of his death was remarkable. In a dream the Lord said to the young Solomon: "Ask me for what you want and I will give it to you." Solomon replied: "I am a very young man, unable to govern, yet here I am among this people... Give your servant a listening heart so that he may tell good from evil..." This scene made me think of the young Staf who, thanks to his numerous contacts, was the recipient of so much information, but who had to keep quiet and keep all of this in his heart. I would think that from time to time his prayer must have been very like that of Solomon.

Staf really loved his confreres and the Congregation, and I know he had a very special relationship with the "Mistress of the Congregation". So, for example, every time I left to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes, or Fatima or elsewhere, he was insistent that I must light a candle for him. I always did this, and often it was not the smallest candle.

His stays in hospital left a great emptiness in the community. With great spontaneity his confreres in the community and Staf's friends filled the void. This was a gesture of friendship and of sincere gratitude. Now his body rests among so many confreres who knew him well.



Father Bruno EPIS, S.M.M.
(1942 – 2011)

who died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 26 July 2011,
at the age of 69 with 50 years of Religious Profession.

Bruno Epis was born to a large family on March 1, 1942 in Cantoni d'Oneta (Bg), a small mountain town. He came to Redona in 1953, thereby setting out toward Montfortian life. He pronounced his first vows on September 29, 1960 in Castiglione T. (To). He began his philosophy studies in Loreto (An) and completed them in the scholasticate in Rome. He was ordained on March 9, 1968, and his first obedience called him to the Minor Seminary in Reggio Calabria as a teacher.

In 1972 he went to Malawi. In this African country Fr. Bruno carried out the most diverse pastoral services: pastor, curate, vice-master of novices, youth ministry chaplain, rector of the Intercongregational Theological Institute, director of the retreat house, regional superior, and counsellor of the Delegation. Like mountain people, Fr. Bruno was tenacious in supporting and advancing innovative missionary ideas and projects, knowing how to involve even persons and groups from far away.

Father Bruno was a man of profound vision and a missionary who allowed himself to be immersed in the reality of Malawi with a compassionate heart but also with a critical mind. He was particularly attentive to the liturgy and to the translation of the Founder's writings in the local language in order to spread the spirituality.

In 2008, Fr. Bruno began to experience the first symptoms of illness and he returned to Italy. In time, the pathology was discovered to be incurable, and Fr. Bruno had to undergo various therapies and operations in different hospitals. He went back to Malawi to encourage people and to say “goodbye.” Throughout the course of his illness, he maintained an extraordinary serenity, and he encouraged others, often repeating “Life is beautiful.” Speaking to a group of friends at the beginning of 2011, he declared, “I have lived among people who had nothing. I was stuck because I had everything. To remedy this I was so many times tempted to place my apostolic and missionary role in second place in order to become an “entrepreneur,” forgetting the choice of the apostles when faced with the needs of the poor and the widows: “We will dedicate ourselves to prayer and service of the Word” (Acts 6, 4). Lovingly accompanied day and night by his family, he fell asleep in the Lord on July 26, 2011. Right away a friend circulated this message, taking the voice and heart of Fr. Bruno: “...Dear brothers, sisters, all my family and friends, you have been the fingers and I the hand. Together we have been a fist which has given us strength and courage to overcome the adversities of life and to accomplish extraordinary things. Now I greet you and I go ahead of you to that place where there is no more sadness, hunger or injustice, where we will be one glorified body, and one single family of God.”

After the funeral celebrated at the *Villa Santa Maria*, he returned to his native place, and his people greeted him with a Mass at which many participated. Fr. Bruno rests now in the cemetery of Cantoni d’Oneta.



Father Owen CANNON, S.M.M.

(1921 – 2011)

who died in Romsey (England), on 6 August 2011,
at the age of 89 with 70 years of Religious Profession.

Father Owen Cannon was born in Liverpool on Christmas Day, 25 December 1921, to parents whose roots were in Ireland. He entered the Minor Seminary of the Montfort Missionaries, Montfort College in Romsey, in 1933. After 6 years there, he crossed the English Channel with a few others to begin his novitiate in Chézelles, even though war was imminent in Europe. After the fall of France to the German army, those scholastics from England who were studying in Montfort-sur-Meu managed to make their escape back to Southampton, but Owen, along with the other novices from the British Isles, was captured by the advancing German forces, and sent to an internment camp. He was lucky enough (unlike others in the same predicament) to be able to claim Irish nationality, and so was released, Ireland being neutral in the War. He could not, however, in those wartime circumstances, return to England, and so he made his first Religious Profession in France on 19 February 1941, and then had to spend the next 4 years at Montfort-sur-Meu, studying Philosophy and Theology with the French students. He entered wholeheartedly into the French way of life, and it is said that when he returned

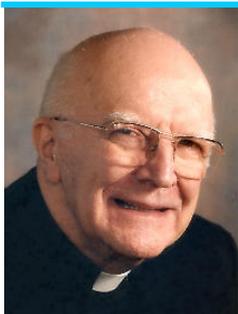
to England on 13 November 1944 after the liberation of France, he spoke English with a French accent.

Owen made his perpetual profession on 19 February 1946, and was ordained priest in Chipping, Lancashire on 29 June 1946. His first appointment was to Montfort College, Romsey, where he taught for a number of years before being sent to University to study Classics. After obtaining his degree from London University, he returned to Montfort College to teach, and in about 1957 was appointed headmaster of the College, then Superior in 1963. He was instrumental in obtaining Government approval of the College as a Secondary School, and in establishing high standards of education there.

In 1966 Father Owen finished his teaching career at Montfort College, but remained in Romsey as priest in charge of the parish there, thus beginning a second stage in his missionary apostolate, that of the care of parishes. In 1977, he was appointed to care for the parish of Twyford in Berkshire, then in 1982 he took on the care of a parish in Homerton in the East End of London, where the British scholastics also took up residence after the closure of the student house in Highgate. In 1993 he retired from full-time parish work, and took up residence in the former Provincial House in Cricklewood, from where he supplied in several of the neighbouring parishes. Then in 2003 he moved to Ashurst to begin a well-earned retirement. But even then, he was tireless in acting as chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom in Romsey, in conducting funerals on behalf of local parish-priests and assisting the chaplaincy work in the Southampton General Hospital, and for a few more years acting as secretary to the Provincial Council.

Father Owen was indeed a prodigious worker, and very competent in all that he undertook. He approached problems carefully and methodically. He never liked surprises. He preferred serenity and predictability. He was a somewhat private person, who wore at times a mask of gravitas, but occasionally he let it slip especially when holding a glass of his favourite drink in his hand.

Almost to the end Father Owen appeared to enjoy good health, and he was approaching his 90th birthday when, after a fall and subsequent hospitalisation, he was discovered to have an inoperable cancer. Within a few weeks, he was admitted to the Nursing Home of the Daughters of Wisdom in Romsey, where he died peacefully on 6 August 2011, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.



Father William DILGEN, S.M.M.

(1919 – 2011)

who died in Brentwood, NY (USA), on 8 August 2011,
at the age of 91 with 69 years of Religious Profession.

Father William Dilgen died at Maria Regina Nursing Home, Brentwood, NY, on 8 August 2011. He was born on 11 December 1919 and professed his first vows on 15 August 1941.

A native of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Brooklyn, he attended Cathedral College, Brooklyn, NY, Montfort Prep Seminary, Bay Shore, NY, and St. John's Scholasticate, Ottawa, Canada. Bill was ordained on 1 March 1947 with his classmates, Frs. Harry McBride, Raymond Graham and Clarence Murphy. They were the first Montfort Missionaries ordained to the priesthood in the United States.

Following his ordination, Fr. Dilgen taught at the former Montfort Prep Seminary and then became a member of the Mission Band preaching retreats and parish missions throughout the entire country. For several years, Father Dilgen directed the Pastoral Year preaching formation for newly ordained at the Montfort Provincial Residence, Ozone Park, NY. After serving as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, Noblesville, IN, he became involved full-time with the World-wide Marriage Encounter, traveled extensively and served in this capacity until his retirement in 2005. He had a profound influence on several generations of lay-leaders of this movement.

Early in his priesthood, Bill was struck with a disease that left him almost completely disabled. He underwent hospitalization and therapy for many months before he could return to ministry. Toward the end of his life, this weakness returned and he spent his last years confined to a wheelchair and finally bed. The witness of Bill's great faith and patience in suffering was a gift to the province. Bill's mind remained sharp almost to his last days. He always longed for news of the confreres in ministry and was deeply grateful for the faithful visits and affectionate care given by his brothers in the Bay Shore Community.



Father Jean HÉMERY, S.M.M.

(1916 – 2011)

who died in St Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 12 August 2011,
at the age of 95 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

It is difficult to make a resumé of 95 years of a life as full as that of Father Jean Hémery. Born in Chateauneuf du Faou in Brittany on 27 June 1916, into a family of farmers, he was 14 years old when he went to the minor seminary in Pontchâteau. He made his novitiate in Celles-sur-Belle, where he made his first profession on 8 September 1937, before beginning his studies in theology in view of the priesthood. But then war broke out and he was mobilised, taken prisoner and spent 5 years in Germany. After returning to his studies he was ordained priest on 21 February 1948.

There followed those years of missionary life in many different roles in which Jean was able to employ all his intellectual talents and his Montfortian convictions.

- 1 year as professor of theology in Montfort-sur-Meu.
- 6 years as a missionary in Dax, a member of the team of Montfortians going from parish to parish.
- 11 years in Paris as Director of the review "Cahiers Marials".
- 1 and a half years in Dreux as superior of the Montfortian scholasticate.
- 1 and a half years in Chézelles as superior of the community and parish-priest.
- 7 years in Rome working in the Vatican in the Secretariat of State, while living in the Montfortian General House. This was after the Second Vatican Council (1969-1976).
- 6 years as superior of the community in Le Rody, near Brest, where he gave many retreats.
- 6 years as superior and animator of the community of Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre.

Jean would never leave Saint-Laurent. For 16 years, from 1988 until 2004, he served in the parish and the basilica, while at the same time dedicating himself to the spiritual formation of the Montfortian associates, especially in the context of the Montfortian Marian Fraternity. He also took part in the last itinerant missions that a small team was still able to organise.

Finally, on 1 January 2005, he came to the Mother House where he would spend six and a half years in prayer, hospitality, intellectual work and communications, aided by the Internet which he appreciated for its ability to keep him in touch with his family, his many friends, and the congregation, in a wide openness to the world.

To the end Jean was blessed with a keen intelligence that he put at the service of his faith and his Montfortian mission: books, numerous articles, circular letters, preaching, spiritual direction, the giving of retreats. Even recently he led a period of reflection for the Foyers Notre Dame.

Then came his preparation for his journey to eternal life. Stabbing pain meant he had to be hospitalised, but he kept on asking that, once the suffering was under control, he might return to die in his community. And so he spent his last two weeks among us, quite lucid regarding his situation, and longing for death so as to meet his Lord, while continually praying the Rosary. He departed this life to celebrate the Assumption of Mary, invoked under the title of Our Lady of the Gates, the shrine of his home-town of Chateauneuf du Faou. She will certainly have opened the gates of heaven for him.



Father Giuseppe FENILI, S.M.M.

(1927 – 2011)

who died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 20 September 2011,
at the age of 83 with 64 years of Religious Profession.

Giuseppe Fenili was born November 19, 1927, to a large family in Sforzatica S. Maria (Bg), a place generous for vocations to the Company of Mary. He entered the Minor Seminary of Redona in 1939. In Belgirate (No), after his novitiate, he made his first profession on September 8, 1947, the year of St. Louis Marie's canonization. The evaluation of his teachers described him as "precise in his person, a gentle character, calm temperament, methodical. Strongly ideal Montfortian ...". In Loreto (An) he did his theological studies and was ordained priest in the Basilica of the Holy House on February 28, 1953. Fr. Giuseppe went to Rome for a doctorate in theology, and from 1955 to 1963 he was a professor in our theologate. Then he was named Superior of the newly born Minor Seminary of Reggio Calabria. In a letter to the Provincial he wrote, "I want to express to you my thanks for the confidence you have in me, in placing me at the head of a house of formation ... The sacrifice begins to be felt, but I will do it gladly for our Montfortian vocations." In 1968 he was Novice Master, in the temporary location in Barzizza (Bg) and Roncà (Vr). In 1970, helping at the parish of Via Cori in Rome, he did a specialization in Spiritual Theology.

In 1973, the novitiate found a place and candidates, and Giuseppe was sent to Santeramo (Ba) as novice master. In 1975 he was elected Provincial Superior. This was a responsibility too burdensome for him, and it eventually affected his health. He finished his service in 1980 and stayed in Rome as spiritual director of the theologate. But it took time to recuperate his health and serenity. In a letter of 1983, he wrote to the Provincial: "Pray a lot for me, that I may know how to see in my life the will of God who is purifying me. When I do not succeed in saying the breviary I say to the Lord that my true and felt prayer is this difficult life." In 1984 he returned to Santeramo to help in formation, through the ministry of confession and a human and pastoral presence in the city hospital and in a nursing home. Fr. Giuseppe was characterized by his generosity, the continuity of his work, his concern for the path of the Congregation and the Province. With a care for the celebration of the Eucharist, he loved the liturgy and sacred chant. In 2005, with not a little suffering, he came to the *Villa Montfort*. He lived there serenely, participating in community life, taking time for prayer, reading and study. He was pleased to write

by hand, and in a beautiful handwriting, a series of brief articles on Montfortian spirituality, expressing his desire that they be published in the journal “L’Apostolo di Maria”. In a “Prayer of an Elderly Person,” found in his breviary, he underlined the following words: “You have given me the Virgin Mary as the mother of my evening. I entrust my days to her: still a son from birth and leading to eternity.” A complication of the cerebral system rapidly sapped his health. He ended his earthly pilgrimage on September 20, 2011. Fr. Giuseppe rests in the cemetery of Sforzatica, his home town.



Father Antonio CORTINOVIS, S.M.M.
(1934 – 2011)

who died in Bergamo (Italy), on 30 September 2011,
at the age of 77 with 57 years of Religious Profession.

Antonio Cortinovis was born on April 24, 1934 in Ascensione (Bg), a place which gave a number of vocations to the Montfortian Family. In 1947, the year of the canonization of our Founder, he entered the Minor Seminary in Redona to begin the path of preparation for religious and priestly life in the Company of Mary. He made first profession in Castiglione Torinese on September 8, 1954. He went to Loreto to study philosophy and theology. He was ordained a priest in the Basilica of the Holy House on March 12, 1960.

His first obedience brought him to Rome to study pastoral theology at the Lateran. In 1961 he was in Redona as a teacher and for the ministry of preaching. In 1965 he began a long period of parish ministry which saw him first in Rome at the Via Cori (1965-1967), then in Ginosa, at Cuore Immacolato (1967-1976), then in Matera (1976-1985) and finally in Rome in the parish of Monte Mario (1985-2002). These were intense years of ministry, during which, in the fullness of his strength and with rich enthusiasm, Fr. Antonio bore fruit with the gifts he received from the Lord. In the dioceses where he worked, he was also called to fill some responsible roles. In Matera, he was the episcopal vicar for the family. In Roma he gave spiritual assistance at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, and he served on the college of diocesan consultants, the Roman committee for the Holy Year, the post-synodal commission...

In 2000 he was elected counsellor and vicar provincial. In 2002, with not a little suffering, he left the parish of Monte Mario, destined for the provincial house as superior. In 2004 he returned to where he started: he was named superior of the community of Bergamo – Villa Santa Maria. Here he continued to dedicate himself generously to the ministry. He was elected secretary of religious for the diocese. Fr. Antonio had a powerful physique. He possessed vigorous and expressive oratorical skills. He was warm in his way of expressing friendship and encouragement. He possessed just enough playfulness and astuteness. Sometimes it went too far to be the centre of attention. Recalling the words and example of his father, he asked to receive Anointing of the Sick in the presence of his community and his family. For Fr. Antonio, it was the beginning of a new way of being a priest and a Montfortian. He had the opportunity to review his entire life with prayerful

calmness. Then he observed that the Lord called him to stop and live a ministry of prayer, suffering, self-offering... He faced the time of illness with courage and Christian fortitude, edifying those who came to visit. During nights of insomnia he sent text messages (sms) to confreres and people close to him spiritually, in which he revealed a great confidence in the Lord, described the path of purification he was living, and asked for the help of prayer so that he could totally abandon himself to the Father. He finished his earthy pilgrimage on September 30, 2011. Many were present at his funeral – from among the confreres, priests, family and friends, as well as parishioners from Rome and friends from Matera. He rests in the cemetery of Ascensione (Bg), his birthplace.



Father Émile RICHARD, S.M.M.
(1935 – 2011)

who died in Alès (France), on 10 October 2011,
at the age of 76 with 55 years of Religious Profession.

Born on 3 October 1935 in Neuvic d'Ussel, in Corrèze in the diocese of Tulle, he was baptised on 12 October: so the celebration of his passing into eternal life coincides with the anniversary of his baptism.

What was the influence of his Montfortian uncle, Father Pierre Besse, on the Montfortian vocation of Emile? We don't know, but we note that Emile followed the usual route among the Montfort Missionaries of those days: minor seminary at the Calvary of Pontchâteau, novitiate in Chézelles with his first profession on 8 September 1956; scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu, interrupted by a lengthy military service of 28 months in Algeria; ordination to the priesthood on 9 February 1964.

Then he left for Madagascar, where Emile was to spend 30 years of missionary work in Brickaville, Vatomaniry, Ilaka, and Vatomaniry once again. To this was added the financial administration of the diocese of Tamatave for 12 years, before he left Madagascar in 1994. It was then that he joined the Montfortian community in La Gardiolle. From there he served in the parishes of St Joseph in Alès, then of Vézenobres.

A Missionary: For him this "who we are" had to be constantly deepened. He was convinced that he had to share what he himself had received: the mission had to be born of a personal and community experience that he had lived.

With his thoroughgoing temperament, he did not always pay great attention to form-filling. Beneath a rather gruff appearance, he was very sensitive, attentive to all the signs made to him, and always available to perform the apostolic services that people needed. For him, the mission was not just a duty, but the expression of being a Christian and being Church. So all the actions of the missionaries had to be related to the real needs of the world.

As the one responsible for a region (Vatomaniry-Ilaka), he was anxious that all the Montfort Missionaries in that region, as well as the Daughters of Wisdom and the

Brothers of St Gabriel and the catechists, should have the same vision in the accomplishment of their respective tasks. Two days of meetings a month served as a sort of "technical control".

Recognised as a good organiser, with a care for the common good, with a good knowledge of the real needs of people, he was called to be the procurator for the diocese of Tamatave by the first Malagasy bishop who was not a Montfortian. It was he who was the originator of a time of leave every 2 years rather than 4 years for the Montfort Missionaries. His requirement of clarity, notably in questions of finance, did not attract only friends to him. (For him a loan was a loan, and not a gift with no return.)

His greatest cross was to have to leave Madagascar. But this cloud had a silver lining: it was with joy that he entered into the diocesan pastoral programme in France. Emile reminds us all that the mission is to listen, to dialogue and to share one's convictions.



Father Dionisio MARTÍNEZ OLMOS, S.M.M.
(1927 – 2011)

who died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 14 October 2011,
at the age of 84 with 59 years of Religious Profession.

Father Dionisio was born on 15 June 1927 in Tenza, Boyacà. He made his first profession in San Juanito, Meta, on 2 February 1952 and was ordained a priest on 18 November 1952 at the Institute of Wisdom in Bogotá. In 1955 he left the congregation and, from 1956 until 1971, he belonged to the congregation of the Brothers of Christian Schools (La Salle). From 1957 until 1962, he taught at the scholasticate of the De La Salle Brothers in Bogotá. From 1963 to 1966, he studied theology and Religious Sciences at the Lateran University in Rome and obtained a Licentiate. He also studied at the Marianum (Rome), and at the Sorbonne in semantics and maternal language (1964-1965).

Having returned to our congregation, he taught in the minor seminary in Choachí and, from 1973-1975, was appointed to the new foundation of La Esperanza in Macuchi, Ecuador. People there appreciated him very much. He renovated the presbytery and the church. In 1981, he spent another year in this parish. In Colombia, he was curate and parish-priest especially in Acacias: Our Lady of Carmen (1982/83), Sacred Heart (1984/89; 1997/2001), where he built the church. He began the parish of the Holy Child by building the presbytery. Similarly, he helped in the construction of the church of Our Lady of Peace. He was parish-priest in other towns in Meta: Guamal (1978/80); Restrepo (1990) and San Martin (1991/92). From 2002 until 2008 he lived in our minor seminary in Choachí, providing pastoral services in the neighbouring parishes. Since 2009, he lived in the "Hogar Sacerdotal", offering a prayerful, silent and peaceful presence with all.

Two anecdotes will provide a glimpse of his serene, quiet and pious personality. When he was in Acacias, building the church of the Sacred Heart, he asked one of the

faithful for some help. This person answered him in a trivial and mistrusting way. Father Dionisio kept silence and when the other had finished speaking, he said to him: "You have finished telling me that; now, what help can you give for the construction of the church?" Finally this person gave him a good sum of money. During these latter years, he was always to be seen with his rosary in his hand.

He had good health, without ever depending on medicines. But in September he fell ill with exaggerated amounts of sugar in his blood. He spent two weeks in intensive care in the SaludCoop clinic in Bogotá. When he was recovering, he suffered an internal haemorrhage which led to his death on 14 October at 10.00 a.m. On Sunday 16 October, we celebrated his funeral in the Unidad Social San Luis Maria de Montfort in Choachí. He was buried in our cemetery close to the seminary. May the Blessed Virgin, towards whom Father Dionisio had a tender and constant devotion, receive him into undying glory.



Father Alphonse BOSSARD, S.M.M.

(1924 – 2011)

who died in St Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 16 October 2011,
at the age of 87 with 67 years of Religious Profession.

Born in Beaupréau on 6 February 1924, it was in this small town where his parents were tradespeople that Alphonse had his secondary schooling at the Diocesan Minor Seminary. Then he continued his journey to the priesthood with the philosophy course at the Major Seminary in Angers. His uncle, also named Alphonse Bossard, was a Montfort Missionary in Malawi, and no doubt he had an influence on his nephew's decision to enter the Company of Mary. In any case they had one interest in common: their love of music and singing. In very different circumstances, both also manifested a strong missionary and Marian bent. While the uncle excelled in his contact with the African people of Malawi, the nephew was to blossom rather in intellectual pursuits in the service of the Montfortian mission. After his novitiate in Chézelles and his first profession on 8 September 1944, he continued his theological studies in Montfort-sur-Meu, and was ordained priest on 21 February 1948. Two years of study in Rome culminated in his successful defence of his thesis on "The Necessity of the Incarnation According to St Thomas", which earned him a Doctorate in Theology. He taught in the Montfortian Scholasticate for a year, before returning to Rome for a further two years of study at the Angelicum. This was followed by ten years of teaching theology in the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu, and two years working in a missionary team.

In 1963 he was appointed Superior of the Scholasticate in Montfort, and it was he who brought about - in September 1966 - the transfer of the scholasticate from Montfort to Dreux, to combine the forces of the Montfort Missionaries and the Redemptorists. Unfortunately the experiment was of short duration, for the upheavals of May 1968 were felt there too! For eight years, Alphonse was responsible for the editing of "Cahiers Marials", which earned him the title of "Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Marian Academy". In 1985, he rejoined the itinerant mission team in Pontchâteau and,

three years later, he was appointed leader of this team. In 1992 he became the Superior of the community of Le Marillais and Rector of the Shrine, a post he held until 1996, when he joined the community of La Chartreuse d'Auray.

In July 2006 he came to Saint Laurent. Gradually sickness took over, with progressive paralysis of his body but never his spirit nor his rather special sense of humour, which amazed the caring personnel who were so devoted to his service, right up to Sunday morning of 16 October, when he passed peacefully away.

The classes he taught, the sermons and conferences he gave in his missions, the books and numerous articles that he wrote, his contribution to the French Society of Marian Studies and the Association of Marian Works - all demonstrate to what extent Alphonse placed his remarkable intellectual gifts at the service of the Montfortian mission, whose Marian dimension he loved to emphasise. May Mary welcome him now into what Father de Montfort called "the heavenly courts" of our God.



Father Anselme PELLEAU, S.M.M.
(1928 – 2011)

who died in St Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 30 December 2011,
at the age of 83 with 62 years of Religious Profession.

Father Anselme Pelleau was born on 12 March 1928 in Saint Pabu in Finisterre, the son of Michel Pelleau and Rosalie Le Floc'h. He was baptised the following day and confirmed on 29 April 1941. From 1939 to 1942 he studied at the college and institution of Saint François de Lesneven. He continued his secondary education at the apostolic school in Pontchâteau from 1942 to 1948. On 8 September 1949 he made his first vows at the Novitiate in Celles sur Belle (Deux Sèvres). After his studies in philosophy at Chézelles (1949-1951), he did his military service at Pontoise until 1952; then he studied theology at Montfort-sur-Meu (1952-1955) where he made his perpetual profession on 15 September 1954 and was ordained priest on 13 February 1955 by Cardinal Roques, Archbishop of Rennes.

In November 1955 Fr. Anselme was sent to Madagascar, where he was to occupy many missionary posts: curate in Ambinanindrano-Be (January 1956 to 1962), teaching in the minor seminary in Anivorano (November 1962 to 1963), curate in Moralambo (July 1963 to 1967), hospital chaplain in Tamatave and ministry in the parish of St Louis (1967), superior at Vatomaniry (October 1968 to 1972), then two years at Anivorano. After having a kidney removed and a period of convalescence in France (March 1974 to 23 April 1975), Father Anselme did not return to the "bush" but was sent to the town of Tamatave: the parish of Saint Joseph (28 April 1975) the Montfortian Residence in Salazamay (January 1976), in charge of the parish of St Louis Marie de Montfort (1979), then hospital chaplain (1981-1986) as well as chaplain to the Foyer St Paul (1982-1983), and finally curate in the Sacred Heart parish (December 1986), followed by various ministries until September 2000.

A tireless missionary, Father Anselme was also a community-minded and prayerful man. One of his missionary companions said of him: "In the evening, we would never eat without having first prayed the Rosary and the psalms of Vespers. I want to emphasise this fraternal life lived in equality of humour and joyful teasing." He was equally very attentive to the life of the poorest people.

From November 2000 onwards, he lived in the "Holy Spirit" house in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, where his health declined gradually. His later years would see him sinking into almost total silence; except during the night when we could hear him singing endless scales over and over again, as though to banish his daytime silence... He died on 30 December 2011. Father Anselme, you were faithful in little things; enter into the joy of your Master!



**Brother José (Víctor FERNÁNDEZ), S.M.M.
(1926 – 2011)**

who died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 30 December 2011,
at the age of 85 with 62 years of Religious Profession.

Brother José was born on 20 December 1926 in San Bernardo Cundinamarca. He made his first Profession in San Juanito, Meta, on 15 August 1949. He did not prepare to be a priest because of his small stature. He worked as a tailor and shoemaker in our formation houses: first in San Juanito until 1955, then in Choachí for five years, and, in 1964, he was at the major seminary in Albán. In 1965, he collaborated in the production of the review 'El Heraldo de la Reina' in Bogotá. Next he was appointed to Cúcuta, where he served as catechist and sacristan for two years. From 1968 to 1974, he looked after a shop in the mission of Sunape, Vichada. For the next four years he was a catechist at the mission centre of Primavera, Vichada. In 1979 he was helping Brother Mateo in Puerto Carreño. From 1980 to 1982, he worked in the orphanage in San Juanito. For the next four years he was in charge of the property of 'El Guadual' in San Juanito. From 1991 to 1994, he served as catechist and in charge of the shop in San Luis del Tomo, Vichada. In 1995, he looked after the properties of 'Jamaica' and 'La Esperanza' and cared for Brother Domingo. The following year, he returned to San Luis del Tomo where, for 10 years, he served as a catechist and in charge of the shop. In 2006 and 2007, he collaborated as sacristan at San Benito, Villavicencio and, from 2008 until his death, he lived in retirement in the 'Hogar sacerdotal' in Choachí.

We always remember this Brother with gratitude and admiration for the good services he rendered to the Province during his long life, for his sense of humour and, especially, for his cordial relations with all the confreres and with everybody. He was loved by all, and everyone has good memories of his simple, humble, silent life of work and piety. May the Lord keep him in his glory as he shares in eternal happiness, and may he intercede for Montfortian missionary vocations as Brothers, of which the congregation has such need so as to live out its fraternal religious life and its commitment to the mission, respecting charisms and forms of service.



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

July 2011			<u>Age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
26	Br. Jean Labbé	La Hillière (France)	102	85
November 2011				
22	Br. Georges Rineau	La Hillière (France)	90	71
December 2011				
21	Br. Laurent Vrignaud	Nantes (France)	80	61
28	Br. Jean-Marie Guerineau	Cholet (France)	75	55
29	Br. Georges Gersdorff	Ophasselt (Belgium)	89	72

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

June 2011			<u>Born</u>	<u>Profession</u>
26	Sr. Felisa de la Inmaculada Ana Graciela Vieira Moreno	Bogotá (Colombia)	07-11-18	02-08-49
July 2011				
06	Sr. Éliane-Léonie de la Croix Anne-Marie Thévenot	Cap-Haïtienne (Haiti)	12-12-39	02-08-63
14	Sr. Noël-Marie de St Jean Suzanne Le Moign	La Chartreuse (France)	04-11-21	02-08-44
15	Sr. Anne-Marie Langlois René-Marie du Précieux Sang	Ottawa (Canada)	27-01-23	02-08-50
18	Sr. Cesarina dell' Annunziata Claudia Bassi	Marina di Ravenna (Italy)	16-07-23	02-02-44
18	Sr. Marcelle Gratton Madeleine de la Providence	Ottawa (Canada)	01-06-26	02-02-45
20	Sr. Simone Burgaud Marie-Josèphe de Montfort	St Laurent (France)	18-05-24	02-08-47
August 2011				
08	Sr. Lise Adam Lise de Notre-Dame	Montréal (Canada)	08-05-32	02-02-55
12	Sr. Jean Baptiste de Montfort Armande Rousseau	St Laurent (France)	08-04-08	02-02-32
16	Sr. Anne Margaret of Montfort Anne Beglan	Romsey (England)	05-02-33	22-08-68
22	Sr. Marie-Louise du Divin Cœur Louise-Marie Joncour	St Laurent (France)	10-09-24	02-08-50

25	Sr. Stéphanie de la Sagesse Aline Guimbretiere	St Laurent (France)	02-04-12	02-08-46
26	Sr. Robert-Marie du Christ Anne-Marie Jean-Marie	Port au Prince (Haiti)	31-03-26	02-02-57
26	Sr. Thérèse-Marie de Jésus Georgette Boutin	Montréal (Canada)	04-03-20	02-02-47
26	Sr. Mary Hoyler Mary Agnes of the Holy Child	Romsey (England)	22-07-20	02-08-50

September 2011

01	Sr. Marie-Yvonne de la Passion Agathe Poulin	Ottawa (Canada)	27-10-24	02-08-43
01	Sr. Odette Lorho Marie-Pierre de l'Eucharistie	St Laurent (France)	13-07-20	02-02-41
02	Sr. Maria Laura della Sapienza Lucia Russo	Valperga (Italy)	26-10-23	02-08-50
06	Sr. Francisca Linares Urrea María Inés de la Pasión	Bogotá (Colombia)	16-11-19	27-01-47
08	Sr. Elisabeth du Sauveur Simone Huyghe	Brugge (Belgium)	17-09-18	02-02-45
09	Sr. Renée Nauts Pauline de St Louis	Tournai (Belgium)	02-05-21	02-08-44
11	Sr. Yvonne de Marie-Immaculée Marie-Josèphe Biraud	St Laurent (France)	12-10-20	02-08-44
17	Sr. Cecilia Teresa Giuseppina Giavarini	Clusone (Italy)	03-10-28	07-09-48
24	Sr. Fernande Fortin Yolande-Marie de St Dominique	Port au Prince (Haiti)	30-12-36	02-08-59

October 2011

02	Sr. Martha de l'Enfant Jésus Catherine Winum	New York (United States)	11-01-11	02-08-32
03	Sr. Jeanne-Renée Louise Couratier	St Laurent (France)	25-09-20	02-08-45
08	Sr. Angelica dell'Eucarestia Odilia Mereu	Clusone (Italy)	14-11-30	02-08-51
27	Sr. Jeanne Belhumeur Aimé de la Croix	Ottawa (Canada)	04-10-27	02-08-55

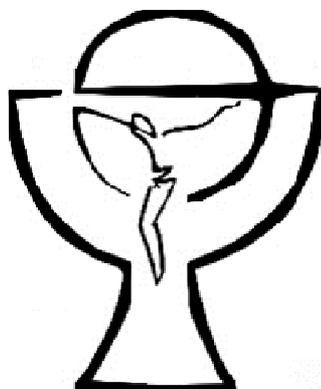
November 2011

09	Sr. Riccarda del Crocifisso Maria Scotti	Valperga (Italy)	03-04-22	02-08-46
10	Sr. Imelda dell'Immacolata Adele Irace	San Remo (Italy)	12-05-21	02-02-40
11	Sr. Berthe-Marie Joséphine Hermans	Tournai (Belgium)	31-10-21	02-02-45
13	Sr. Theresia Inechein Maria von Kreuz	Montréal (Canada)	23-02-29	02-08-61

14	Sr. Marie-Hélène Neuhaus Marie du Sauveur	Fribourg (Switzerland)	13-03-17	02-02-37
19	Sr. Marie-Bernadette Volland Pierre de Sainte Anne	St Laurent (France)	23-11-16	02-08-44
22	Sr. Reine Roudaut Reine de Saint Yves	St Laurent (France)	01-07-19	02-08-41

December 2011

07	Sr. Thérèse Mercier Emma de Jésus	Montréal (Canada)	09-04-23	02-02-46
12	Sr. Fabiola Correa Arango Esperanza de Cristo Rey	Bogotá (Colombia)	09-04-38	02-02-63
12	Sr. Marie-Madeleine de Ste Anne Josephine Loughran	Romsey (England)	23-11-11	02-02-32
13	Sr. Marie Cornec Guillaume-Marie	La Chartreuse (France)	06-08-18	02-02-45
17	Sr. Gerarda Elisabeth van Rossum	Wijchen (Netherlands)	08-04-23	02-08-44
23	Sr. Françoise Laporte Jacinthe-Marie de la Croix	Ottawa (Canada)	16-10-41	02-02-61
24	Sr. Marguerite Faucher Louise du Cœur Immaculé	St Laurent (France)	17-07-14	02-08-54
29	Sr. Paulette Chevrier Rose de l'Assomption	Ottawa (Canada)	17-11-13	02-08-39



« ... 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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