



# L'Écho montfortain

IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER...

June 2013 - N° 17

## OUR DECEASED CONFRES IN 2012



### Father Philip BOSMANS, S.M.M.

(1922 – 2012)

who died in Mortsel (Belgium), on 17 January 2012,  
at the age of 89 with 69 years of Religious Profession.

Official name: Philip Louis Marie. He was born 1<sup>st</sup> July 1922 in Gruitrode and went to secondary school from 1934 till 1941 in the montfortian Seminary in Rotselaar. He consequently did his noviciate year and took his first vows on 08/09/42 as a montfortian. Due to the war he stayed in Rotselaar and studied philosophy and partly theology in order to be ordained priest in Oirschot (NL) on 07/03/48. Phil had a large heart for common people, something he inherited from his parents, a very simple family where at some point simple life came very close to poverty. From his youth he cherished this simple life and, I might say, cultivated it ... he would not let it be poisoned by false values, a sort of optimism which was very typical in the postwar years: happiness is to have more, to be more, to act more ... Already from an early age he was fed with the cultivation of the heart by his parents.

In the years he was a student, he met coalminers, listened to them, loved them. His natural ability to go over his limits was encouraged in Rotselaar by the talented Fr. Willy Loop, who would appear later again in his life. These were also the beginning years of the canonization of Montfort which was highly enthusiastically commented in school. This inspired Phil, especially Montfort's preference for the poor. Reflecting on his choice in life he writes in 2001: "I chose to become a montfortian because the message of Grignon de Montfort touched me deeply. He addressed himself to the poor, the small, the outcast and to people who were no longer interested in the Church or ignored by the Church, forgotten ... From Montfort I received my love for Our Lady, Mother of God. Later, I often went to Banneux where I put all my initiatives in the hands of the Virgin of the Poor."

Montfort had taught him that God is present in all people, especially in the small ones. When VTM (Flemish commercial broadcast cooperation) asked me: where did he get the inspiration for his one-liners, what was the reason of their success, I was taken by surprise. It was only afterwards I realized that his simplicity was his strength. He had a

touch of God's simplicity in his heart and that's why he could bring a dying candlelight back to fire. He was a man of God amongst his people. It reminds me of one his one-liners: "Give a man a feather and he gets wings". His superiors recognized him as the ideal itinerant missionary and sent him after his ordination to France, also to learn French, but more so to discover the style of the popular missionary. There he came in touch with the priest-labourers. He was very much impressed by their way of living but once back in Belgium he was asked to reinforce a small group of itinerant missionaries. He successfully started his mission with a preference for lower-class neighbourhoods. He listened to them, he prayed with them: "My university is the living human being", he would say later. He wanted young people to accompany him hoping that they in turn would stimulate others. Phil had the gift of the spoken and the written word. Already in 1952 he published his first book, title and subtitles reflect his passion: "Struggle between heaven and earth. Letters to young companions.", with a quotation of E. Poppe: "Times are so difficult that only saints bring salvation". Looking back later in life, he seems to be more modified, but in fact says something similar: "I am but a small, silly ass but to the world naïve, a dreamer, a loser. But I don't give a damn because I believe in the culture of the heart."

Itinerant missions took place from October till Easter. The then bishop of Liege, Mgr. Kerkhofs, had asked the montfortians to undertake a sort of 'summer itinerant mission', a trip with the statue of Mary of Banneux passing all streets in Limburg, a unique way to keep the faith alive. It was a very tiresome job, every day the same but in different streets: teaching, praying, processions and vigils, in short there was little difference between day and night. This 'broke his neck', a blood disease which appeared to be lethal. He was 32 and his illness would last 3 years. The good priest Martin Aerts and his housekeeper Leontine Franck (angels he called them) took care of him in Horpmaal, the small village where he became ill. Later Phil said: sometimes things that seem disasters happen to be grace.

Since his superiors thought he was no longer good at anything at all, he could do what he liked. Fr. Willy Loop, who in the Netherlands had given a strong structure to the work of wireless preacher Henri De Greve, founder of Bond zonder Naam (Association Without a Name), asked Phil to start something similar in Flanders. It was then that his slumbering talents really started flourishing. One initiative followed the other, without planning, inspired by the needs of the moment: the One-liners, Vitamins for the Heart, Home Anne-Françoise, MIN (Men in Need), and so on. Paradox: he who wanted to become free of all structures, founded an organisation which spread all over the World. He was very much appreciated, especially with his books which are estimated 9 or 10 million copies! What was the secret of his language? I repeat what I wrote in the beginning: the simplicity that our Creator has put in the heart of every human being but which flourished abundantly in Phil.

In 1991 he discreetly withdrew from the Association – he wanted to prevent that by merging with the movement it would collapse. On the 18th December 1993 he had a very bad car accident; and on top of this he had a CVA. He was half paralysed. Against his will he entered his final stage in life. It broke him physically but his inner dynamism remained intact. He was a missionary till the very end. A final quotation: "To let things go that's the secret. This is only possible when you have faith ...". Phil was a bird that fitted in no cage. He needed space ... space to do what? ... he had no idea, it surprised everyone, including himself. And yet he was 'devoted', 'tied' to engagements and to people. His fundamental choices in life were sacred to him, his priesthood, his being a monfortian

and his choice for the poor and the victims of injustice. Powerless he searched for release and its source was his steady hope, his belief that love overcomes and breaks all frontiers.

Ulrich Schütz of *Bund ohne Name* in Germany: “Bosmans is a great preacher because no one notices he is preaching. He is spokesman and helper of people in need because he loves them. And he is a hidden mystic, who meets God in silence but who has seen God in the face of people ...”. Looking back on Phil’s life all those people he moved come into focus, thousands who made the Association possible but also those he mentions when he was completely dependant on decisive moments: his unforgettable parents, priest Martin Aerts and Leontine Franck and all those who surrounded him these last years in Kontich. A special thanks goes to Jef Van Kerckhoven, his special friend and house-mate.

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**Father Odilon DEMERS, S.M.M.**  
**(1928 – 2012)**

who died in Trois-Rivières (Canada), on 26 January 2012,  
at the age of 84 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

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It is with sadness that I give notice of the death, this morning, 26 January 2012, of our confrere Odilon Demers, at the Sainte-Marie Hospital in Trois-Rivières.

Our confrere was born in Béthanie, in the diocese of Sherbrooke, on 17 January 1928. On 15 August 1948, he made his first religious profession in the chapel of our novitiate of Sainte-Marie in Nicolet. He was ordained priest on 13 March 1954, in Ottawa Cathedral, by Mgr Marie-Joseph Lemieux, O.P.

After one year of study and of sacred eloquence at our Villa du Rosaire in Nicolet, our confrere worked for four years among the native Americans in Vancouver Island.

From 1959 to 1972 he was teaching in the Montfort Seminary in Papineauville, than after a further year of study at the Pastoral Institute run by the Dominicans in Montreal, Odilon became the director of our magazine “Regard de Foi” for more than 15 years. For 22 years he was a contributor to, and in charge of our missionary magazine “Les Nôtres”.

From 1984 to 1987, he was superior of the Provincial House in Montreal, while at the same time, from 1975 onwards right up to the present day, being in charge of our summer camp at Lake Poisson Blanc.

There are some people who pass through life in an inconspicuous way, without much fanfare, but who nevertheless leave a lasting and significant mark. Odilon was one of these. What lasts is a confrere who was not conspicuous, yet talented, devoted and always ready to render service. What remains is his talent for writing in our Canadian Montfortian reviews; and his various artistic canvasses painted with his own nimble fingers. Dear Odilon, may the Blessed Virgin, whom you loved and preached, herself lead you into the joys of eternity.



## **Father Michelangelo CORNA, S.M.M.**

**(1938 – 2012)**

who died in Sanremo (Italy), on 27 January 2012,  
at the age of 73 with 54 years of Religious Profession.

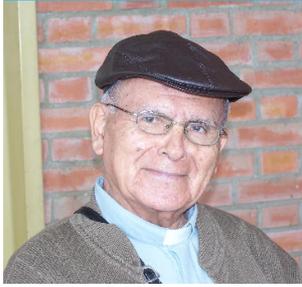
Michelangelo Corna was born in Mapello (Bg) on 4 July 1938. That same year his Montfortian uncle, Father Umberto, was ordained priest in Loreto. He entered the Apostolic School in Bergamo on 20 August 1949. That same year, another uncle, Father Attilio, became a Montfortian priest in Loreto. A third uncle embraced the religious life among the Servites of Mary. There can be no doubt that this family context contributed to the blossoming of his own vocation.

After his secondary schooling, he went to Castiglione for his novitiate year, and made his first vows on 8 September 1957. His teachers describe him as jovial, extrovert, distracted and naughty. He showed an aptitude for languages, and also for teaching and preaching. He began his studies in philosophy and theology in Loreto, and finished them in Rome, where the scholasticate had been transferred during that period. He was ordained priest on 9 March 1963. Father Michelangelo was destined for the training of young Montfortians and for teaching, with a diploma in philosophy obtained in 1965.

In 1973, with a number of Italian confreres, he began an important missionary venture for the Company of Mary: the foundation of the congregation in India, in Bangalore. It was a task of sowing the seed; others would harvest the crop. Our confrere made himself close to both the poor and the lepers, so much so that a small suburb on the periphery came to be called “Michelangelo Nagar”, which means “Michelangelo’s town”.

In 1979 he was obliged to leave India for various reasons. So he went to Caravaggio, the location of the Mission Procure: from there he continued to follow with particular attention the Indian foundation, which was just beginning. From 1983 to 1986 he was a Provincial councillor, and superior of the community in Treviglio from 1983 to 1990. He was put in charge of parish missions as their Director, and with other confreres, he worked with enthusiasm and energy for the development and enrichment of this form of Montfortian ministry, even though he sometimes seemed weak in the areas of organisation and co-ordination. In 2000 he joined the community known as “God Alone” in Caravaggio with the specific aim of dedicating himself to parish missions. He was the superior there until 2003. Father Michelangelo was a brilliant preacher, capable of capturing the attention of his listeners. He accompanied pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Lourdes and Fatima. He made himself freely available for the ministry of reconciliation in the Marian shrines.

It was precisely in Fatima in 2008 that he suffered a heart-attack. From then on he had to take account of a state or precarious health that necessitated frequent stays in hospital. Sister Death took him almost by surprise on 27 January 2012 in San Remo, where he was staying with the Daughters of Wisdom for a period of rest. His funeral took place in Bergamo, and Father Michelangelo is buried in the cemetery of Mapello, his birthplace, where his uncle, Father Umberto, was already buried.



**Father Jacinto LADINO AGUDELO, S.M.M.**  
**(1927 – 2012)**

who died in Villavicencio (Colombia), on 28 January 2012,  
at the age of 84 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

Father Jacinto was born on 13 July 1927 in Cáqueza, Cundinamarca. He made his first profession on 2 January 1948 in San Juanito, and was ordained priest on 27 September 1953 at the former Major Seminary of Albán. He became a teacher, first of all in the minor seminary in Choachí from 1954 to 1957, then in 1958 at the major seminary in Albán. In the 1960s, he was an itinerant missionary in various teams, promoting the magazine “El Heraldo de la Reina” linked with the “Better World” movement.

In the 1970s he was in the parish of “El Ave Maria” in Cúcuta, first of all as a curate and later as parish-priest. In 1980 he transferred to the parish of “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” in Acacías, as parish-priest until 1986, with, in 1984, responsibility for San Luis Beltrán, Medellín. Then, for 14 years, he was once again parish-priest of “El Ave Maria” in Cúcuta, where he built the parish church. From 2001 to 2003, he served as parish-priest at “Sgdo. Corazón”, Acacías. In 2004 he became parish-priest of “Espiritu Santo” in Villavicencio, and from 2005 until his death, he was a curate in this same parish.

Father Jacinto was always a zealous missionary who spent his life mainly in parish ministry, in itinerant preaching and in broadcasting. He was passionately attached to the Blessed Virgin, our beloved Mother, and spread the Consecration to Jesus through Mary according to the Montfortian way. He also loved the Eucharist and taught others to love it. To this end, he did not rest until he had built, as parish-priest, next to the church, a very beautiful “little house of prayer” where people came to pray in turns before the Blessed Sacrament. Endowed with many human qualities, he was able to do many different things with competence in various domains: music and singing, electricity and mechanics, study and preaching. He made great progress in computer science, in which he was self-taught. He was a man who was very anxious, yet dynamic, energetic and critical, and he possessed an agreeable tone of voice and smile that he kept until just a few months before his death. He died of cancer of the head and pancreas - a sickness which quickly exhausted him. Two days before his death, the Bishop anointed him and granted him a plenary indulgence. During his last weeks, he was assisted by several generous parishioners and especially by his sister Maria de Jesus Ladino, a Good Shepherd Sister, who was for Father Jacinto a sister, mother, friend and wise counsellor. Once he was condemned by the doctors, he died peacefully in his parish house. The Virgin that he so loved and made others love, came for him on a Saturday. May “Jacintico” continue to intercede before the Lord of the harvest for Montfortian vocations, for which he showed so much interest and solidarity.



**Father Medardo RODRÍGUEZ RODRÍGUEZ, S.M.M.**  
**(1921 – 2012)**

who died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 13 March 2012,  
at the age of 90 with 68 years of Religious Profession.

Fr. Medardo Antonio was born on 27 December 1921 in Santa Rosa de Ubalá-Cundinamarca. The son of Juan Clímaco Rodríguez and Ermelinda Rodríguez, he was baptised on 26 February 1922. He made his novitiate in San Juanito in 1943, making his first profession on 2 February 1944. His perpetual profession was on 2 February 1949 in Albán-Cundinamarca, and he was ordained priest there on 14 August of that same year.

His missionary vocation was lived out in various places and situations, thanks to his availability and generosity. After his ordination, he was sent the following year to be a teacher in Choachí until 1953. After this he was an itinerant missionary in the department of Caldas (1955), then a curate in the parish of 'Nuestra Señora de Belen' in Bogotá (1956). The following year he returned to the missionary team in Sogamoso for three years. After this he was appointed as parish priest to the parish of 'Nuestra Señora del Carmen' in Puerto Lopez - Meta (1958-1961). When he finished his mission there, he was sent as a missionary to the Apostolic Vicariate of the Vichada, to the mission of Sunape (1962-1964). Then he returned as a teacher to Choachí (1965-1967). In 1968 he worked for a further year with the missionary team of Manizales, and afterwards in the parish of 'La Grama' in Villavicencio - Meta, also for a year, before being sent to the mission station of Sunape in the Vichada (1970-1972).

He was parish-priest of 'Nuestra Señora de la Inmaculada' in Restrepo-Meta (1973-1978); chaplain to the Nazareth College of Bosa in Bogotá (1984-1985); parish curate at 'Maria Reina' in the town of Villavicencio (1986-1987); in the parish of 'San Judas Tadeo' (1990), and finally once again parish priest of 'San Cristobal' in the little village of Castilla La Nueva-Meta. This was his last period of service in charge of a parish community.

From 1992 to 2006 he was a curate in various communities: San Martin, 'Ave Maria' in Cucuta, 'Nuestra Señora del Carmen' in Acacias-Meta, 'St Louis Marie de Montfort', 'San Jose Obrero' and 'San Benito' in Villavicencio.

When he retired he went to the Home for the elderly and sick confreres in Choachí-Cundinamarca until February 2012, when Father Medardo had a fall and suffered a broken hip. He was then taken to Bogotá to undergo an operation. While recovering from his surgery, on 13 March, he died.

A teacher, an itinerant missionary, a parish-priest, a curate - he dedicated his youth to the missions in the countryside and the parishes, especially in the Diocese of Villavicencio, which was then being formed. He was a tireless missionary, who in spite of his limitations, even in the retirement home, went to different apartments to pray the Rosary with other lay people who were also retired or sick. He was very keen on catechetics, teaching children with patience and the elderly with wisdom. Like Father de Montfort in his own life, he was always a priest in the right place: the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



**Brother Marcellin (Louis BELLION), S.M.M.  
(1920 – 2012)**

who died in St Laurent sur Sèvre (France), on 14 March 2012,  
at the age of 92 with 75 years of Religious Profession.

Louis Marie Joseph was born in the village of La Ferrière, the son of Louis Marie Julien Bellion and Marie-Françoise Poupet. He was born on 13 January 1920 at 2:10 in the morning. He was baptised on 13 January 1920 in Mésanger (Loire-Atlantique). His parents were farmers. Louis had 4 sisters and 2 brothers. Brother Marcellin would preserve his bonds with his family all his life, with great fidelity and love - he spoke often of them. Maybe his parents had plans for Louis, the eldest boy. But God and Marcellin had their plans too. In any case, Marcellin, after a spell in Pontchâteau (1932-1933), prepared himself for his first profession which he made in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre on 19 March 1936 with a dispensation, because he was only 16 years old. His perpetual profession was also made on 19 March in 1950 at St Laurent.

After two short spells at Saint Laurent (1937-1938) and Montfort sur Meu (1941), it was at Pelousey (the Apostolic School) that he spent the greater part of his religious life: first from 1936 to 1937, then 1938 to 1940 (he was to serve in the army from 2 September 1940 until 1 March 1941), and finally from 1941 until 1986.

In Pelousey, Marcellin became a poultry farmer, specialising in day-old chicks, then in guineafowl and turkeys. From small beginnings his breeding programmes expanded and soon he was famous throughout the region. It was with well-deserved pride that Brother Marcellin attracted admiration for his breeding programmes... Yet all his hard work never prevented him from being faithful to the times of prayer of the seminary or the community. He was careful to take the time for spiritual retreats during the little free time he had; and it is significant that the only letter of complaint he ever wrote to the Provincial was concerning the cancellation of a Province retreat...

He left Pelousey for Saint Laurent from 1986 until 1995. There he took on the service of the sick and the care of the plants and flower-beds (a task at which he excelled). In 1987 he gave witness in this way to the service he gave to the sick and aged: "They feel that there is kindness towards them. Loving them: that is sure; knowing how to speak a good word, to have a bit of a laugh with them, to joke. A good word: that's what is important for the old fellows."

From March 1995 till June 2006, Brother Marcellin was back in the East in the community of Notre-Dame du Chêne. There too, his kindness, his welcoming attitude accompanied by discretion, his taste for the beauty of the flowers, made everyone appreciate him. As he began to feel his age, he returned to Saint Laurent in 2006 for a well-deserved "retirement". The reduction in his activity had no bad effect whatsoever on his prayer-life: on the contrary, his prayer showed itself the support and the soul of his religious consecration. In his last days, as his strength deserted him little by little, Brother Marcellin did not cease to pray his Rosary: this prayer seemed to clothe him, as though it were one body with him. May God welcome him as he knew how to welcome God in his life and admire him in his creation.



**Father Stefano DE FIORES, S.M.M.**  
**(1933 – 2012)**

who died in Catanzaro (Italy), on 14 April 2012,  
at the age of 78 with 58 years of Religious Profession.

Stefano De Fiores was born in San Luca (Reggio Calabria) on 2 October 1933. The following year, his family moved to Polsi, the site of a celebrated Marian shrine. It was there in 1946 that he met a Montfort Father who suggested to him the idea of becoming a priest in the Company of Mary. So at the age of 13 he left his beloved Calabria for the Apostolic School in Bergamo. At the end of his secondary schooling he entered the novitiate in Castiglione (To). He made his first profession of vows on 8 September 1953, and went on to do his studies in philosophy and theology in Loreto. There he was ordained priest in the church of the Holy House on 21 February 1959.

During his first years as a priest, he was involved in formation and teaching in both the novitiate and the scholasticate. At the same time he obtained a degree in theology at the Pontifical Lateran University, and a doctorate in spiritual theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, with his thesis on: “*The spiritual journey of St Louis Marie de Montfort in the period leading up to his priesthood.*”.

There followed a period of intense activity by way of research and teaching at the *Marianum* and the Gregorian, which made him one of the most celebrated and appreciated Mariologists, an expert in Marian theology and especially in the cult of the Blessed Virgin and in Marian apparitions. He wrote a commentary on Chapter VIII of *Lumen Gentium*, entitled “*Mary in the mystery of Christ and the Church.*” He collaborated with Pope John Paul II in the drawing up of several documents. He wrote articles for the *Osservatore Romano* and other Catholic reviews, especially “*Madre e Regina*”. He was the director of the work involved in producing the *Handbook of Montfortian Spirituality*. His books were published by a number of publishing houses, and translated into various languages.

In 1990 he founded, along with several colleagues, the Italian Interdisciplinary Mariological Association (AMI), of which he was the president for a number of terms. He also established the review *Theotokos*. In 1983 Father Stefano was awarded the medal of the *Marian Library of Dayton*, and in 1990 he received the Laurentin Prize “*Pro Ancilla Domini*” of the *Marianum*. He was the untiring organiser of the National Congresses of Rectors of Italian Shrines, of national Marian Weeks, and of international Mariological Meetings. He was often asked to host Italian television programmes on Marian themes.

Within the congregation he was appointed to various responsibilities: superior and director of the Montfortian Marian Centre, superior of the Province of Italy from 1986 to 1989. Blessed with a jovial character, full of humour, he enjoyed conversation. His brilliant intelligence always let his serenity and wisdom shine through. He maintained strong links with his own place of origin, and returned there often for Paschal ministry, and it was there precisely on Holy Saturday that he was suddenly struck down with a serious heart disease. Hospitalised in the clinic of Santa Lucia in Catanzaro, despite all efforts to save him, he finally came to the end of his earthly pilgrimage on 14 April 2012.

The news of his death was widely reported in the Italian Catholic press. His funeral, attended by the Bishop of Gerace-Locri, the Superior General and a number of confreres, took place in the parish of Santa Lucia. And it is in the cemetery of his birth-place that Father Stefano will henceforth rest in peace.



**Father Gúber Hernán GÓMEZ SANDÓVAL, S.M.M.**  
**(1929 – 2012)**

who died in Choachí (Colombia), on 22 April 2012,  
at the age of 82 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

Father Gúber Hernan was born on 22 September 1929 in Susacón-Boyacá. The son of Manuel Gómez Dávila and Ana Isabel Sandoval Castañeda, he was baptised on 14 December of that year in the parish church of his native village. He received his secondary education in the minor seminary of Choachí, and began his novitiate in San Juanito on 2 February 1948, the same year that the civil war that was to ravage the population began in Colombia. So it was in the midst of war that he made his first profession on 2 February 1949.

He studied Philosophy and Theology in the major seminary in Alban, and was ordained a priest on 18 July 1954 in Bogotá. The following year he was appointed parish curate in the Cathedral in Villavicencio, where he was also chaplain to several hospitals in the town. A year later he went to Restrepo, also as curate. In 1957 he was sent to teach in the minor seminary in Choachí. In 1958 and 1959 he was asked to be the ordinary confessor for the novices of the Daughters of Wisdom, an experience that he always appreciated.

From 1960 to 1963 he was the bursar in the minor seminary in Choachí, after which he became the chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom in Bogotá (1964-1966). After this he was appointed as extraordinary confessor for our novitiate in Funza-Cund. From the novitiate, Gúber left to form part, first of all, of the itinerant mission team in Bogotá (1968-1970), then finally to be the superior of this team (1970-1975). He always loved this experience, and spoke about it often, though he thought about it also with nostalgia since he was asked to close this community, a thing that he would not accept to do, and that had to be carried out by another confrere.

After this he went to Cúcuta, first of all as parish-priest of the San Rafael parish (1976-1979), and then as parish-priest of Ave Maria parish (1980-1986). Then he became parish-priest of San Isidro Labrador parish in Guamal-Meta (1987-1992), then of the most recent parish of Maria Auxiliadora in Acacias-Meta until 1997. Tired out by his apostolic work, and having to bear the cross of sickness, he went to Choachí as the first superior of the Home 'San Luis Maria de Montfort' for sick and retired confreres. This was his last service as a superior, because after 2005 he had to take care of his own health until his death at the dawn of Sunday 22 April 2012.

A parish curate, a teacher, chaplain, confessor, itinerant missionary, parish-priest and superior of communities, Father Gúber Hernan devoted his whole life to the service of the Church. His undoubted love for the congregation led him to be always available and dedicated. From his youth onwards he carried the cross of sickness, as a true friend of Jesus and his Cross. Always smiling and extroverted, he bore witness to his love for and trust in God. His love for and devotion to the Blessed Virgin lighted up his spiritual journey. He loved the music of his native region, Boyacá. Without pretension and with great humility, he asked that nothing should be said of him or of his work than that he was “the legitimate son of Manuel Gómez Dávila and Ana Isabel Sandoval Castañeda.”



### **Father André WUYTS, S.M.M.**

**(1939 – 2012)**

who died in Herentals (Belgium), on 10 May 2012,  
at the age of 73 with 51 years of Religious Profession.

André was born in Leuven on 31/01/1939, did his secondary studies in 1959 in what used to be the minor seminar in Rotselaar and consequently he went to Meerssen for his noviciate with the smm. On 08/09/1960 he did his first vows, went to Oirschot to study philosophy and theology and was ordained priest on 19/03/1966.

From 1966 to 1968 he did his pastoral training in Winterslag II and became assistant priest in the H. Heart parish in Winterslag I. In 1970 he became religion teacher and headmaster in the Institute for Technology in Maaseik. In 1977 he went back to the Montfort college in Rotselaar to teach religion and to become tutor. Afterwards, in 1983 he became part time teacher, this time in Lubbeek, but dedicated himself more and more to preaching in view of the Days of Belief. A year later he is involved in the activities of Le Carrefour in Banneux but continued his preaching work. After a short sabbatical he became parish priest in Attenhoven (Holsbeek) and at the same time he started animating Montfort Pilgrimages to Lourdes and Fatima and most of all to the Holy Land together with Chris Moons, his house partner. In 2004 he became the superior of the Flemish regional Community. But from 2007 his health started deteriorating. He limited his activities to retreats, recollections and services in the parishes in the neighbourhood of Herentals. In 2007 he went for the last time to the Holy Land. A short time before Easter 2012 he was diagnosed with cancer and metastasis. In less than 5 weeks time his body was completely undermined. He remained conscious till his last day. Early in the morning he died at home in Herentals.

His way of life suggests he didn't have an easy life. He had many talents as a teacher and a preacher and he was very often praised for his qualities. He understood the art of liturgy. The pilgrimages in general, but those to the Holy Land (Israël, Jordania, Egypt, Syria) in particular, were even more fruitful to him than to his companions. Through those pilgrimages he came into contact with the Commandery of Godfried of Bouillon (The Temple knights) and became Knight chaplain.

André bravely accepted his illness. He knew very well that his life was nearly over. He took care of all aspects of his funeral both the administration and the content of the service. At first he thought of asking the H. Sacrament of the extreme unction on Ascension day but on his doctor's advice he received it on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Father Mat Thijssen gave him the H. Sacrament and André prayed consciously with him. I know that André was very much devoted to Mary, more in particular the Hail Mary. He prayed it several times. Personally I put the accent on the second part of this prayer: "Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for André, now in the hour of his death." The few words he managed to utter in the last hours of his life were: 'thank you', 'thank you.' We would like to thank his house partner Chris, who very often was a great support to him.



**Father André MARIE, S.M.M.**  
**(1923 – 2012)**

who died in Nice (France), on 13 May 2012,  
at the age of 89 with 67 years of Religious Profession.

Father André Marie was born on 12 March 1923 in Paris, the son of Eugène Marie, a cook, and Anne-Marie Daniel. After his secondary education (in Orgeville par Pary, [Eure] from 1936 to 1941, and at Coat an Doch [Côtes du Nord] from 1942 to 1943), André Marie joined the Montfort Missionaries. He made his novitiate in Chézelles where he made his first profession on 8 September 1944. From 1944 until 1951, he was in Montfort-sur-Meu for the scholasticate. His studies were interrupted by his military service which he did in Vitré, St Briec, Auray and Nagold, from April 1945 to February 1946. It was at Montfort-sur-Meu that he made his perpetual profession on 15 September 1950 and was ordained priest by Cardinal Roque on 18 February 1951.

After his year of sacred eloquence (1951-1952), Father Marie was appointed a curate at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (1952-1955), then sent to Angoulême to work in the *Oeuvre de Marie Mère des Pauvres*, founded by Father Le Bideau (1955-1956).

From 1956 until 1981, Father André Marie was a military chaplain in Germany (Trève, 1956-1957; Kaiserslautern, 1971-1977; Saarburg, 1978-1981), in Algeria (Aïn Temouchent, 1959-1960; Telagh, 1960-1962; Bône, 1962-1963; Blida, 1963-1964) and in France (Lunéville, 1964-1971; La Vallonne (Ain), 1977-1978).

When he left the Forces chaplaincy, Father Marie rendered service in various ways to the community in the Tombe-Issoire in Paris (1981-1984), in Dinard (chaplain and manager of the "priory centre" from 1984 to 1986), in Le Rody (1986-1989), and in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (1989-1991).

In 1991 Father Marie went to the diocese of Nice where he served in many parishes (Breil-sur-Roya, Puget-Théniers, then Nice in the Saint-Roch quarter where he visited many retirement homes, then finally in Notre-Dame-de-la-Roya and in Saint-François-de-Sales). In September 2009, he entered the retirement home of the "Pauliani Foundation" in Nice, where he died on 13 May 2012. May he rest in peace!



**Father Ronald MITCHELL, S.M.M.**  
**(1942 – 2012)**

who died in Ashurst, Southampton (England), on 30 May 2012,  
at the age of 69 with 44 years of Religious Profession.

Ronald Mitchell was born on 14 October 1942 in Belfast, Northern Ireland to Patrick and Anne Mitchell. He was baptised two days later in St. Peter's church, Belfast, in the diocese of Down and Connor. He received his primary education at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and his secondary education at St Mary's Grammar School, Belfast. After some higher studies at Queen's University, Belfast, he became a Civil Servant, until, through his membership of the Legion of Mary, he came into contact with St. Louis Marie de Montfort and his spirituality. Inspired by this, he entered the novitiate of the Company of Mary in Ashurst, Southampton, England, where he made his first profession of vows on 8 September 1967.

He followed philosophy and theology courses, first of all in St Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, England, and then (as the Montfort Missionaries in Gt. Britain & Ireland joined forces with the English Jesuits for priestly training) at Heythrop College in Oxford and later in London. At the end of this time he obtained a degree of Bachelor of Divinity and a Diploma in Pastoral Theology. He made his perpetual profession of vows in the Montfort house of studies in London on 8 September 1972, and was ordained priest in St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on 7 July 1973.

After a year serving as assistant priest in St Gabriel's parish in Upper Holloway, London, Fr. Ronnie was appointed in 1974 to the Montfortian Retreat and Pastoral Centre in Monaghan in the Irish Republic, where he quickly became a renowned retreat preacher. He was appointed Superior of the Monaghan house in 1980.

From 1981 until 1988, he was novice-master for the Province of Gt. Britain & Ireland, first of all in Hendon, London, then in Dublin in the Irish Republic. In 1988 he was appointed Superior of Montfort House, Barrhead, Scotland, where he remained until 1994, acquiring a reputation as a great preacher, particularly in Catholic Charismatic circles, among whom he was often referred to as "the healing priest".

He took a Sabbatical in 1994-95 at the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, taking a course in Personal, Moral and Spiritual Development, and obtaining an M.A. degree from the Open University. He was subsequently appointed once again as Superior of Montfort House in Monaghan, Ireland, where he remained until that house was closed in 2002. He was then appointed to Montfort House, Liverpool, from where, in collaboration with Fr. Bob Douglas, he conducted Parish Missions and Retreats, many in his beloved Ireland.

In 2006, he was appointed Superior of St Joseph's, Ashurst, where he worked hard to promote Montfortian Spirituality and to provide a welcoming spiritual centre for all who came to the house.

In 2009 he was elected Superior of the Vice-Province of Great Britain & Ireland, and remained in Ashurst, from where he continued to conduct retreats in various places, as well as carrying out his duties as Vice-Provincial Superior.

His sudden and unforeseen death on 30 May 2012 was a great shock to the Vice-Province, as well as to his many friends in Great Britain and Ireland. He will be sorely missed by all. May Our Blessed Lady, to whom he was always affectionately devoted, welcome him into the Kingdom of her Son, Jesus Christ.



**Brother Raffaele (Giuseppe FASSINA), S.M.M.**  
**(1932 – 2012)**

who died in Arbizzano (Italy), on 5 June 2012,  
at the age of 79 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

Giuseppe Fassina was born on 26 June 1932 in the parish of Onana in the township of Tombolo (Pd). He entered the Apostolic School in Redona-Villa S. Maria on 13 September 1948 at the age of 16, and began his postulancy. Later he transferred to Castiglione (To) where he was admitted to the Coadjutor Brothers' Novitiate on 7 November 1949. He made his first vows on 25 February 1951 as Brother Raffaele, and made his perpetual profession on 2 February 1956 in Redona-Villa S. Maria.

He belonged to that generation of Brothers who spent all their energies in support of the formation of future Montfort Missionaries. After his perpetual profession he stayed at Redona-Villa S. Maria, working very hard at the Montfortian Typography (Timon), dedicated to the printing of the *Apostolo di Maria*, things written in support of the popular missions, and publications of the Montfortian Marian Centre. He also dedicated himself to the promotion of the review.

In 1967 Brother Raffaele was appointed to the Apostolic School in Arbizzano, which had been open for scarcely a year. From that time onwards his presence in that community was uninterrupted right up to the end of his days. As a matter of fact, in 1984, his superiors asked Brother Raffaele to go to the Casa della Madonna in Reggio Calabria, but Providence dictated otherwise.

It was in the community of Arbizzano that Brother Raffaele continued his work for the promotion of the *Apostolo di Maria* in the Province of Verona and the outlying districts. From the expertise he had acquired in the Procure in Redona, he created a group of promoters: every month he would take the magazines to them in their homes, and once a year he would gather them for a feast-day. He cultivated the missionary flavour of the magazine, welcomed any passing missionaries with open arms, and was very conscious of the needs of the missions. In this way he was fulfilling the wish he had expressed to his superiors on the occasion of his perpetual profession, "to quickly join our dear confreres in Madagascar - this was the desire that motivated my entry into the religious life, and that will be the fulfilment of my most holy aspirations." He promoted pilgrimages and also accompanied them in collaboration with the confreres in the community.

In Brother Raffaele's Curriculum Vitae, there are no great headings: more than any words, it was the witness of his vocation that mattered. A brother loved by all, a good man despite his rather distant and reserved character; somewhat morose, yet capable also of overcoming his rigidity and those moments of incomprehension in community life.

Even when his health showed the first signs of fragility, Brother Raffaele did not give up his commitments. He kept at it just so long as his strength would let him. He died quietly, as though he did not want to disturb anyone, on the morning of 5 June 2012. His funeral was celebrated in the little church in Arbizzano, attended by many of the confreres and parishioners. Now Brother Raffaele rests, as he always wanted, in the cemetery of Arbizzano.



### **Father Joseph SAMSON, S.M.M.**

**(1930 – 2012)**

who died in St Laurent s/S (France), on 10 June 2012,  
at the age of 81 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

Father Joseph Joachim Marie Samson was born on 29 July 1930 in Gouaihic, in the township of Moustoir'Ac in Morbihan, the son of Joachim Samson, a carpenter, and Josèphe Menahèze (the sister of Father Joachim Menahèze smm). He was baptised the following day, 30 July, in the church in Moustoir'Ac.

After his secondary schooling at the Apostolic School in Pontchâteau (1942-1949), he entered the novitiate in Celles sur Belle where he made his first profession on 8 September 1950. From 1950 until 1952, he was at Chézelles for his philosophy; then there was his military service in Saumur (1952-1953). He studied theology in the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu (1953-1956), where he made his perpetual vows (15 September 1955) and was ordained to the priesthood by Mgr. Riopel, the auxiliary Bishop of Rennes (5 February 1956). His formators judged his piety to be "serious and enlightened", his intellect "above average" and his spirit "good but paradoxical". This judgement is a good description of Father Samson: a strong and deep faith that he would always express in a reasonable way, a fine and open intellect, without pretension, a spirit full of humour, paradoxical and sometimes disturbing.

His first appointment was to the apostolic school of the Calvary at Pontchâteau, where he taught English and history from 1956 to 1966. He took a degree in English (1960), then a second degree in philosophy (1963), and higher studies certificates in French literature (1960) and in general sociology (1963). He continued to teach English and philosophy in the seminary of Les Naudières in Rezé-les-Nantes (in collaboration with the Society of African Missions of Lyon) from 1966 to 1969, then in the seminary of Couëts (in Bouguenais near Nantes) from 1969 to 1974.

From 1969 until 1981, he was a Provincial Councillor in Paris, with special responsibility for vocations and the foreign missions, while at the same time carrying out pastoral ministry in the parish of Malakoff.

He was elected Provincial in February 1981; a post that he occupied until January 1987. These were very difficult years for Father Samson, which would affect his health for the rest of his life.

It was in September 1991 that Father Samson took up again a pastoral ministry in the parish of Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, which he continued until September 2005.

He led many groups, especially groups of those preparing for baptism. His pastoral charity made a deep impression in his visits to the sick and the aged.

His own illness obliged him to relinquish his parish ministry in 2006. "In retirement" in the Saint-Esprit house, he was to live out the final years of his life tortured by this obscure sickness that came from within and completely disfigured his personality. His long agony came to an end on 10 June 2012, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The emotion felt very strongly by his friends and confreres during his funeral in the chapel of Saint-Esprit on 13 June, showed how all had been affected by Father Joseph Samson. The last picture left to us of Father Samson was that of the holy man Job, a passage from whose book was read during the funeral (chapter 19): a man gifted by Providence, but then marked by trials and torments, a man of suffering and, sometimes, of revolt, but always in the hope of an Encounter with God: "After my awakening, he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God" (Job 19:26).



**Father Joel MARTÍNEZ JIMÉNEZ, S.M.M.**  
**(1930 – 2012)**

who died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 13 June 2012,  
at the age of 82 with 60 years of Religious Profession.

Father Joel was born on 8 April 1930 in Gamma-Cundinamarca, the son of Absalom Martínez Garavito et María Jiménez Acosta, who had nine children, of whom four were consecrated to serve the Lord: two priests, Fr Hugo, a Salesian, and Fr Joel, Montfort Father. Of their three daughters, two were Dominican Religious of the Presentation - they have already gone to rejoice in the eternal banquet prepared for the friends of God. Father Joel was baptised on 13 July 1930 in Junin-Cundinamarca, and confirmed in Gamma-Cundinamarca on 21 February 1936.

He received his secondary education in the minor seminary of Choachí between 1944 and 1949. On 2 February 1950 he began his novitiate in San Juanito-Meta, and one year later made his first profession there on 2 February. He made his perpetual profession on 2 February 1957 in the major seminary of Alban-Cundinamarca, where, three months later, on 19 May, he was ordained deacon. At the end of that year, on 24 November, he was ordained a priest in the parish church of Suba.

During his first year as a priest, he carried out pastoral work in the parish of 'Nuestra Señora de Belén' and also in Sogamoso, Sunape and Alban. Afterwards he joined the mission team in Manizales. From 1960 until 1962 he was a curate in 'La Grama' in Villavicencio-Meta, and also a teacher in the Caldas college. Then he returned to the Mission Team and acted as bursar until 1970. From 1971-1979 he was parish-priest and superior, and during this period he also studied Catechesis for the Family. In 1980 he was appointed as parish-priest to San Martín-Meta. There he was chaplain and a teacher in the National College of 'San Martín', and Director of the Parish College of 'María, Madre de la Iglesia'. From 1971 to 1985 he was chaplain to the Penal Colony of Acacias. From 1991 until 1994, he acted as the procurator of the Apostolic

Prefecture of the Vichada. After this (1995-2004) he was parish-priest in 'San Benito' and in charge of the diocesan apostolic movements. At 'San Benito' he set to work to inspire the parish community for the building of a new church, which is notable for its size and beauty. From 2005-2006 he was the director of the retreat house of 'Villa Montfort' in Cumaral-Meta; from there he left to take charge of the old house of the minor seminary in Choachí until 2008. Because his health began to fail, he had to go into the Home for sick confreres, also in Choachí. Here he fought to rebuild his health but finally, on 21 May 2012, he was rushed to the 'San Rafael' Clinic run by the Brothers of St John of God. Here he gave back his life into the hands of God the Father.

Father Joel was a strong and valiant man, audacious, capable of risking all for Jesus; a missionary, teacher, chaplain, bursar, procurator, inspiration of lay people, director of apostolic movements and of retreat houses; a builder and great inspiration for the church community. Right up to his last moments, he wanted to remain close to the people to preach the Word of God.



### **Father Ivo LUCON, S.M.M.**

**(1929 – 2012)**

who died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 22 June 2012,  
at the age of 82 with 60 years of Religious Profession.

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Ivo Ugo Lucon was born on 28 October 1929 in the parish of Villa del Conte (Pd), in the township of S. Giorgio in Bosco. In August 1943, following in the footsteps of his brother Aldo, he entered the Apostolic School of Redona-Villa S. Maria, while one of his sisters would become a Daughter of Wisdom.

After his secondary and higher studies, he continued his formation journey with the novitiate in Castiglione (To) which ended with his first profession on 8 September 1951. Then he went to Loreto for his studies in philosophy and theology. He made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1956 and was ordained priest in the church of the Holy House on 16 March 1957. His pastoral year was spent in the community of Arona (No) and, in 1958, his first obedience sent him to the Apostolic School in Redona, as a teacher of mathematics and religion.

In 1966 he was transferred to the new Apostolic School in Arbizzano (Vr), where he was bursar for ten years.

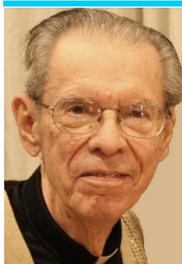
In 1978, after a year of updating in catechetics, Father Ivo left Arbizzano for the scholasticate in Via Prenestina. At first he was teaching in the high school, then he took charge of the bursar's office in 1980. This job did not prevent Father Ivo from being available for the spiritual direction of those students who came to him. At the same time he gave himself some precious opportunities for pastoral work, in particular in the service of the new suburbs growing up on the outskirts of Rome.

In 1983 he was appointed to the community of Viggiano (Pz), a small Lucan town where there was a celebrated Marian shrine. Shy and reserved, a little apart from the pastoral concerns of the other confreres, Father Ivo had the secret of making himself

appreciated for his availability to listen to the simple people, in particular the ageing and the sick, as well as for his fidelity to his commitments and for the zeal he showed. In the service of the parish and the shrine, he busied himself in particular with the areas of San Salvatore and Vignes. For many years he taught religion in the secondary schools of the region, combining constancy with patience in his relations with the young, even outside class-times. Also Father Ivo acted as religious chaplain for the residents of the Villa Agri hospital. Finally he made himself available for confessions in the parishes of the valley.

When the residence in Viggiano was close in 1995, Father Ivo was appointed to the community of Redona-Villa S. Maria. For more than ten years he gave assistance to the activities of the Propaganda office, in particular in the Pilgrimage office, while at the same time being available for any ministry that was suggested to him from time to time.

Beginning in 2007, direct collaboration with the Propaganda office became less and less. His health was not what it had been, and as it gradually failed, Father Ivo spent the last months of his life in the Villa Montfort. Taken to hospital in the San Francesco clinic, he died on 22 June 2012. After the funeral in the church of Our Lady Queen of All Hearts, Father Ivo rests now in the cemetery in Bergamo.



### **Father Patrick GAFFNEY, S.M.M.**

**(1928 – 2012)**

who died in Bay Shore, NY (USA), on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012,  
at the age of 84 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

Fr. Patrick Gaffney died July 1, 2012 at the Montfort Missionaries Community in Bay Shore, New York. He was 84 years old, professed 63 years and lived 58 years as a Montfort priest. Father Gaffney was born in New York City and raised in the Montfort parish of St. Mary Gate of Heaven, in Ozone Park. Both his mother and father were deaf and mute, and they raised a large family. The children communicated by sign language before they spoke English. Even later in life, at moments of critical illness in hospital, Father Pat often would unconsciously revert to sign language to speak with his sisters and brothers. Two of his sisters became Daughters of Wisdom.

After finishing seminary studies in Litchfield, Connecticut, he attended the Angelicum University in Rome, where he received his S.T.D. He returned to Litchfield as professor and then superior of the USA Province Scholasticate from 1958-1968. New perspectives on formation after the Vatican Council saw the transfer of the scholasticate to St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where unfortunately the first years produced a public scandal and disastrous divisions among the seminarians and staff. Half the scholastics left; the Montfort name became something of a *cause célèbre* in the United States. Into this turmoil and suffering, Father Gaffney was sent as the new superior, bringing to bear his faith, charity and wisdom. His role as formator and guide saved a whole generation of priests in the Province.

From 1968 till 1991 he taught Theology at St. Louis University, eventually becoming the first non-Jesuit chairman of the Theology Department. He became a trusted

advisor to the Cardinal Archbishop, and a founder of an Institute for Lay Theological Formation. Priests, seminarian and religious sought him out for spiritual direction and guidance. In 1991, Father Pat left the University and returned to our Montfort house in Litchfield, dividing his energies between the Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the retreat house, and considerable efforts in writing and editing works in Montfortian Spirituality. In addition to regular columns in Queen of All Hearts Magazine, he was editor of the English language version of the *Dictionary of Montfortian Spirituality* and also the English translation of Montfort's *Cantiques-Hymns*.

From 1996 until his death, he was a member of our community at Bay Shore, New York, still deeply involved in Montfortian Spirituality through internet teaching and writings.

To fully appreciate Father Gaffney's life and ministry, one looks to St. Paul: "*This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us*" (2Cor 4:7). Shortly after receiving his doctorate in Rome, he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Astounding his doctors for well over 50 years, he taught and ministered with grace and humor despite endless hospitalizations, surgeries, drug complications and weakness. For the scholastics and students he formed, for his friends and confreres, Father Pat lived St. Paul's words: "*Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed*" (2Cor 4:10).

Father Gaffney wanted no grandiose obituary, no listing of his academic and ecclesiastical achievements. Perhaps he would let us quote from his English translation of Montfort's Cantique 77, *The Devout Slave of Jesus in Mary*:

*Sing out my soul! Make known  
To the glory of my Savior,  
Mary's great mercy  
Toward her poor servant.*

*Would that I had a voice of thunder  
To proclaim far and near:  
The happiest people on this earth  
Are those who serve her best.*



**Father Ramón RAMOS RINCÓN, S.M.M.**  
**(1919 – 2012)**

who died in Choachí (Colombia), on 19 July 2012,  
at the age of 92 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

Father ‘Ramoncito’ was born on 27 October 1919 in Choachí-Cundinamarca, the son of Jose Santos Ramos and Catalina Rincon. He was baptised three days later in the parish of San Miguel Arcángel. He did his novitiate in San Juanito-Meta (2 February 1938-1939). In 1944 he made his perpetual profession and five months later was ordained priest.

He was a teacher of mathematics and Greek in the junior seminary (1945-1947), an itinerant missionary twice (1948 and 1957-1959), and an excellent parish-priest and pastor several times:

- in the parish of Calvario-Meta (1949-1954) - a small village lost in the mountains. Here he showed himself an excellent pastor of souls, and he directed the building of a church.
- in the parish of Medina-Cundinamarca (1955-1956) - once again in only two years he managed to build a new church.

From 1960 to 1967 he went to Restrepo-Meta, where he directed the building of the Major Seminary of the recently-created Diocese of Villavicencio, where generations of priests were trained for this particular Church.

- in the parish of San Isidro Labrador in Guamal-Meta (1968) - he had the Culture Hall built.
- in the parish of San Benito (1969-1994) - this was his longest stretch as a parish-priest, where he directed the restoration of the church, a restoration which lasted until the definitive one carried out by Father Joel (RIP). In this parish he created the most solid and persevering youth group in the diocese; the relations between the youth and Father Ramoncito have remained close to this day. From here he went as a parish curate to Nostra Señora del Carmen in Acacias (from 1995-1998).

At the age of 80 he arrived at the Home for sick and retired confreres until his final departure for the House of the Father.

An extraordinary missionary, deeply rooted in the faith of his forefathers in Choachí and in Montfortian spirituality; an excellent teacher, preacher, highly-thought-of parish priest, builder, guide of the young, friend of children; he remained to the end greatly attached to his two ‘Socii’: The Blessed Virgin and the Child Jesus, who accompanied him to the end, and for whom he worked always in his workshop (‘La madriguera’): his work-place for the building of little wooden altars in honour of the Blessed Virgin with her Child, that he afterwards gave to people who visited the house. This was his way of propagating love and devotion to the Mother of God.



**Father Roger CHAREST, S.M.M.**  
**(1916 – 2012)**

who died in Brentwood (USA), on 16 August 2012,  
at the age of 95 with 75 years of Religious Profession.

Fr. Roger Mary Charest died August 16, 2012 at Maria Regina Residence in Brentwood, New York. He was 95 years old at his passing, professed 75 years and a Montfort priest for 70 years. He came from a large and loving Franco-American family in Fall River, Massachusetts; after preliminary studies in Bay Shore, his novitiate was made in Nicolet and his scholasticate in Eastview, Canada. From 1943 till 1949 Fr. Roger Mary worked in Canada, first as Socius to the Novice Master and then as professor at the Minor Seminary at Papineauville.

Returning to the new United States Province in 1949, Fr. Charest began what was to become his life's work and special vocation – our Montfortian Marian Spirituality. He founded our magazine, *Queen of All Hearts* and worked on it in one capacity or another till its final issue. He stabilized Montfort Publications, which printed and propagated St. Louis Marie's writings in English and the works of various authors who explained or elaborated Montfort's spirituality. He was a charter member of the Mariological Society of America. The Legion of Mary was his special interest and he hosted Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion, at Bay Shore. A skilled preacher with irrepressible energy, Fr. Roger Mary gave conferences on Devotion to Mary in 48 states here in the United States. Founding Montfort Pilgrimages, he organized more than 40 pilgrimages to Lourdes, France and led countless other trips to Marian Shrines, to Rome and the Holy Land.

From 1961 till 1967 Fr. Charest served as Provincial Superior of the United States Province during the tumultuous years around Vatican II. He oversaw the establishing of a second Minor Seminary in Pacific, Missouri and the transfer of the scholasticate to St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, as well as new mission calls to Indonesia. But always, his heart brought him back to our Marian Spirituality and Montfort Publications in Bay Shore.

Fr. Roger Mary was filled with optimism, energy and joy. His smile was infectious. His 95 years as a faithful disciple and slave of Jesus in Mary allowed him to incarnate the virtues of his holy Mother. When overwhelming circumstances brought about the end of his beloved *Queen of All Hearts* magazine, and then, his need for supervised care in a nursing home, he accepted both with grace and with a heart of faith and obedience. In his final years, Fr. Charest lost all recognition and memory, even the ability to speak... but his smile from deep within radiated the gentleness and goodness that filled his soul to the end. "*O admirable Mother, present me to your dear Son as his slave now and for always, so that he who redeemed me through you, will now receive me through you.*" Amen.



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## **Father Jean-Claude LE BORGNE, S.M.M.**

**(1923 – 2012)**

who died in Cumaral (Colombia), on 26 August 2012,  
at the age of 89 with 68 years of Religious Profession.

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Father Jean-Claude Le Borgne was born in Finistère, France on 26 July 1923, the son of Alain Le Borgne and Françoise Ollivier. He received the grace of Baptism the following day in the parish of Cléder. He began his novitiate in Chézelles on 8 September 1942 and made his first profession of vows the following year on the same date. His perpetual profession was on 8 September 1949 in Montfort-sur-Meu. On 19 February 1950, in the same place, he was ordained to the priesthood. All his studies, both philosophy and theology, were made in his native land.

In the year of his ordination, he received his obedience to leave for Colombia to serve in the mission of the Plains of Saint Martin. However, he was appointed right from the start to teach philosophy and moral theology in the Major Seminary in Albán, a ministry which he carried out from 1950 until 1956. The following year and until 1958 he was appointed parish-priest of Puerto Lopez. In 1959 he became the Director of the Minor Seminary of Choachi (Cundinamarca). He stayed there until 1966.

From 1967 until 1969, he was director of the Montfortian Scholasticate in Madrid (Spain). In 1970, he was appointed parish-priest of La Grama in Villavicencio (Colombia), staying there until 1971. Then he was appointed Director of Missions in Sunape. There he began a long period at the service of the Sikuni indigenous communities, which lasted until 1989. Then he left Sunape in 1990 to take charge of the Mission Centre in Santa Teresita in the Tuparro. It was there that the new millennium took him quietly by surprise. The following year he was appointed parish curate in St Luis Beltran in Medellin, where he stayed until 2006. In 2007, holy obedience sent him to be administrator of the farm at the Villa Montfort in Cumaral (Meta). And it was there that, yesterday, 26 August 2012, he suffered a stroke while enjoying his evening meal, which nevertheless gave him time to make his peace and calmly render his soul to God.

What can we say of this wise and holy man, this accomplished missionary, this great priest? Truly words cannot express what Father Jean-Claude was and what he did for our beloved country. We recall certain experiences, as when one day he shared with us in a fraternal atmosphere, and told us that when he was a child and was returning from the countryside, where he had gone to look after the flock as a little shepherd, his father was not concerned about the sheep, but rather asked him how many rosaries he had said during the day. Or, to give another example, one of the last things he said when asked about his stay at the Villa Montfort, he said: "I am on the threshold of Paradise; I give my time to prayer and the spiritual life. I read a lot, especially the works of the saints. I am happy."

Father Jean-Claude, with your worker's hands, present our prayers to the Lord of the harvest, that he might send labourers to his harvest, good missionaries for the Company of Mary. Peace in heaven and glory on his tomb.



**Father Harie (Rikus) OOSTERBOS, S.M.M.**  
**(1923 – 2012)**

who died in Waterschei, Genk (Belgium), on 29 August 2012,  
at the age of 89 with 67 years of Religious Profession.

Rikus, born on 19 June 1923 in Opoeteren, studied humanities at the minor seminary in Rotselaar. His desire to join the Montfort Missionaries coincided with the Second World War, which is why, with the other Belgian candidates, he did his novitiate and his first year of philosophy in Rotselaar. There he made his first vows on 8 September 1944, and at the end of 1945 he rejoined the bigger group of scholastics in Oirschot, where Mgr. Theunissen ordained him a priest on 28 March 1950.

Convinced that he was going to be a good missionary, he was appointed to the Congo, but, before going there, he followed a course to make him personally aware of the difficulties of life in tropical countries and to equip him to transmit this art in the service of the people. In 1951, he went out there for the first time. He worked first of all in Opala, then, after a brief stay in Yabwanza, from 1952 to 1956 he was the director of the school in Wengé and in charge of the health service. In 1960 he was called to Isangi to teach.

1960, the year when the colony gained its independence, was a pivotal year for the missionaries: the start of the rebellions which were to become catastrophic in 1964, especially in the East of the Congo (our own area). That same year, 1960, Rikus returned to Wengé, this time as superior, and it was there that in 1964, along with his confreres, he fell into the hands of the rebels. A long and hellish journey brought them finally to Stanleyville, where they were released. We do not possess any written testimony in his own hand, but we do know that he suffered terribly, he who did not express himself easily in words or cries, but who was possessed of a violent temperament. Immobilised several times, his hands and feet tied up, this man of action suffered, and his eyes expressed his anger and suffering. With the others, he got out alive, but marked for life.

Back in Belgium, he had every right to a period of rest, but quickly Rikus committed himself to working in the parish of Rosmeer as a provisional aid. The dean of the sector begged the Provincial, Father Vanderhallen, to let him have him definitively. But he (Father Vanderhallen) was not happy with the idea of those who had returned from the Congo going to take on parishes to left and right. Also, with Mgr. Jansen, he hoped to remain available for the Congo. But then a medical report put rest to the idea of a return to tropical climes for Rikus. This was when the plea of the bishop of the diocese convinced the Provincial: "Parish apostolate is his element."

So, from 1967 to 1972, he was parish-priest in Rosmeer, and, from 1972 to 1996, in As. He gave himself wholeheartedly to this ministry, while at the same time remaining very aware of the development of the diocese of Isangi, which had to rise up from the ruin brought about by the rebellions. So he looked after the assets of the diocese and was a great help to the Mission Procure. Because of the sudden death of the superior of the community in Genk in 1996, he accepted to succeed him as a temporary measure, a temporary state that lasted until 2001, when he was replaced. With great diligence, he continued acting as bursar to the community until 2009, when he was at the end of his

strength. Since that time, as far as possible, he continued to take part in the life of the community (Eucharist, Rosary, meals), until on 6 August 2012 he surprised his confreres by asking for the Sacrament of the Sick. Later on, it became evident that he suspected that he was the victim of an incurable illness. The following day, in a medical check-up at the hospital, he was diagnosed as having a cancer of the liver with metastasis. He refused any medical treatment, which, in his view, would be of no use, and asked to go back to his community where he was accorded all possible care. One of his last pronouncements was: "They were very kind to me."

On 22 August he asked to be transferred to palliative care at the hospital in Waterschei. He who had shown great strength of spirit, died quickly. He died on 29 August, aged 89. His funeral took place in the church of Boxbergheide (Genk) on 1 September 2012, and he was buried in the community cemetery in Rotselaar.

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**Father Emmanuel GUYADER, S.M.M.**  
**(1919 – 2012)**

who died in St Laurent s/S (France), on 30 September 2012,  
at the age of 92 with 71 years of Religious Profession.

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Father Emmanuel Guyader was born on 10 November 1919 in Commana (Finistère), the son of Jean-Baptiste and Alice, née Prouff, who were both farmers. He was baptised the same day. Emmanuel had a brother and two sisters (one of whom has died).

He did his secondary studies in the *Apostolic School* of the Calvary at Pontchâteau from 1933 to 1939. His novitiate began in 1939 in Celles-sur-Belle, but was broken by the "youth camps" (June 1940 to March 1941; war makes its demands!), and it was at Chézelles that he finished it and made his first vows on 8 September 1941. Then he set off for the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu. There again, he had to interrupt his studies when he was called up for military service (July to December 1945). He made his perpetual profession in Montfort-sur-Meu on 20 February 1947, was ordained deacon on 20 December 1947 in the cathedral in Rennes, and priest on 21 February 1948 in Montfort-sur-Meu by Cardinal Roques, the Archbishop of Rennes.

Our young missionary was first of all a mathematics teacher at the Calvary of Pontchâteau (1948-1949), then assistant director of the magazine "*The Reign of Jesus through Mary*" in Dax (1950-1951). After this he returned to the teaching of scientific matters in the apostolic school in Pontchâteau (1951-1960), and in Pelousey (1960-1962), then again in Pontchâteau (1963-1966). A specialist in figures and calculation, Father Emmanuel began a long career as bursar: first in Pontchâteau, while also helping with the missions and pilgrimages (1966-1968), then in Chézelles where he carried out this rather sombre service from 1968 until 2002, the year when this community was closed. From there he went to Le Rody until 2006, the year when our community in Finistère came to an end. After four years in La Chartreuse, he was welcomed into the community of the Holy Spirit in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, where he died on 30 September 2012.

Father Emmanuel Guyader was an upright and serious man in his work. His last years saw him somewhat “disoriented”; yet he never forgot the way to the community chapel or the dining-room... Emmanuel could not make himself understood, but he loved to be in community, in good company, with his confreres, so much so that he would wander sometimes into the corridors or even into the attic, in search of a brother. In community he was gentle, affectionate, agreeable, smiling, sparkling, loving to make people laugh. Yes, he was “disoriented” but certainly not “lost” with regard to fraternal service and charity (his solid foundation remained intact): he would often share his biscuits with his neighbour at the diabetic table; one day, when the confrere charged with giving a stole to a handicapped priest was absent, it was our Emmanuel who went out of his way to bring the stole... which goes to show that, even though Alzheimer’s disease was undoubtedly present, it had not affected the essential thing: the presence of love in the heart, even though reason might have flown away...

A fall in his room, followed by an operation on his femur in the Cholet hospital, consumed his strength. He gradually faded away. He was no longer to be seen walking and even jumping in the corridors of the Mother-House; now he is running about in the House of the Father.



### **Father Emmanuel GUIL, S.M.M.**

**(1926 – 2012)**

who died in Rennes (France), on 13 October 2012,  
at the age of 86 with 66 years of Religious Profession.

Emmanuel Gil was born on 23 March 1926 in Malestroit, the son of Jean-Marie and Marie-Sainte (née Guicquelais). He received his secondary education at the *Apostolic School* of the Calvary in Pontchâteau from 1939 to 1945, during the second World War, which necessitated for him, and his fellow-pupils, a temporary displacement to the Chateau of Carheil. Father Emmanuel would remain forever attached to Malestroit, and especially to the community of the Augustinian Sisters of Mother Yvonne-Aimée. One significant event from Emmanuel’s childhood was the moment when, having experienced difficulties in walking, his parents took him to stand on the tomb of Father René Mulot (the first successor of St Louis Marie de Montfort) at Questembert while begging for a cure; little Emmanuel saw his legs strengthened, and he became the great walker that we knew. A great walker in the footsteps of Father de Montfort!

It was at Chézelles that he did his novitiate, made his first vows on 8 September 1946, and studied philosophy (from 1946-1948). For one year he did his military service in Germany, then went to the scholasticate at Montfort-sur-Meu for his studies in theology (1949-1953). There he made his perpetual vows on 29 June 1952 and was ordained priest by Mgr. L. Hardman SMM, the Bishop of Zomba in Malawi.

After a year of Sacred Eloquence in Celles-sur-Belle (1953-1954), Father Emmanuel was appointed to Angoulême as a missionary in the community of the shrine of *Notre-Dame d’Obezine* (1954-1962). He often spoke of his experience in Angoulême,

notably about Father Jean-Baptiste Le Bideau and his work “*Mary Mother of the Poor*”, which concerned itself with children and young people in difficulty. From 1962 to 1964, he was a missionary at Pontchâteau. Then he was appointed assistant novice-master at Chézelles and a youth chaplain in Île Bouchard (1964-1968). After a short break as teacher of liturgy in Celles-sur-Belle (1968-1969), he spent a further twelve years in Chézelles (1969-1981) as a much-appreciated preacher of retreats and prayer-weeks, superior of the community and in charge of the parish. A motor accident allowed him, one might say, to take a year’s renewal at the *Institut Catholique* in Paris, where he followed the famous “Barrau year”, a *year of ongoing formation for the clergy* (AFPC - 1981-1982). On 8 September 1982, he left for the *Maison Natale* of St Louis Marie de Montfort in Montfort-sur-Meu, where he stayed for ten years (1982-1992). With the Daughters of Wisdom, the Brothers of St Gabriel, and his big smile, he was to welcome visitors and pilgrims. There he led and directed many retreats in the “*footsteps of Montfort*”, and especially on the *Secret of Mary*. The chapel of Saint-Lazare and the church in Iffendic were the almost daily witnesses of his prayers, and the paths leading there by his meditations. From 1992 to 1994, he spent a short time at *Notre-Dame du Marillais* before joining the community at the Calvary in Pontchâteau, where he was the superior for three terms (1994-2006). During this period he was also a Provincial Councillor (1993-2005). His sense of evangelical hospitality opened the Calvary up to people from many places. His caring and his respect for others, his love of peace and concord, brought them grace and unction.

In 2006, he launched a new project: the opening of an international community at the *Maison Natale* of St Louis Marie in Montfort-sur-Meu. This international dimension has since that time replaced the inter-Montfortian aspect of the *Maison Natale*. He spent this new stage in serenity and the desire of one who would wish to live here below the contemplation of the after-life. He was the soul, one might say, of this grace-filled place. His ministry was one of listening and welcoming; the dispenser of the Lord’s mercy. Then this international experience was transformed into an international novitiate. And he received a new mission: prayer and self-sacrifice for the novices; “I pray,” he said to the Lord, “that among these novices of today and tomorrow, there may be true mystics, men who really do live from God and with God.”

It was at the dawn of a new novitiate year that Emmanuel died on Saturday 13 October, Our Lady’s day... He knew what awaited him with his heart disease; he knew especially who it was that was awaiting him with an open heart to welcome him...

Father Emmanuel Guil leaves us with his unforgettable smile (in Hebrew his family name means “smile”!); he leaves us his passion for St Louis Marie de Montfort, his enthusiasm for Montfortian spirituality, his love of the Montfortian Family, his open and dynamic vision of the Montfortian charism. May he enter into the joy of his Master!



**Father James CREE, S.M.M.**  
**(1924 – 2012)**

who died in Ince Blundell (England), on 29 October 2012,  
at the age of 88 with 62 years of Religious Profession.

Father James Cree was born on 2 May 1924 in Glasgow, Scotland, to Adam Cree and Annie, née Lappin. He was baptised two days later in the church of Our Lady and St Margaret in Glasgow. He received his primary education at Our Lady and St Margaret's school, and went from there to Holyrood Secondary School from 1936 to 1939. Called up for military service during the Second World War, he served in the Cameronians, fighting in North Africa and in the Allied landings at Anzio, Italy. At this time he made a promise that, if he should survive the war, he would offer his whole life to God. So, when the war ended he entered the novitiate of the English Province (as it was known in those days) in Ashurst in 1949. He made his first religious profession of vows as a lay brother on 7 October 1950, taking the religious name of Francis Xavier.

Brother Francis spent his first year after profession at St Joseph's, Ashurst (the novitiate), working on the farm and in the garden, and as a general handyman. In 1951 he was appointed to the Junior Seminary, Montfort College, in Romsey, where again he worked on the farm, eventually becoming the main dairyman. After 10 years of this work, he was appointed in 1961 to St. Mary's Scholasticate in Church Stretton, Shropshire, where he remained until 1968, mainly employed in fund-raising by making and distributing Christmas cards and calendars. When the English scholasticate was transferred to Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire, Brother Francis went there too, and continued his fund-raising activities from there. In 1970, he was appointed to Montfort House, Liverpool, where he continued his fund-raising and was instrumental in founding the Montfortian Lay Associates group.

In 1983, Brother Francis's life took a new turn when he was appointed as a parish assistant and bursar in the parish of Our Lady and St Dominic in Homerton in the East End of London. During this time, his desire to be a priest manifested itself, and in 1986 he began the study of philosophy and theology at the Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury. He was ordained priest on 7 July 1990 in the church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Glasgow. His first appointment as a priest was to Montfort House, Monaghan, Ireland, where he was involved in various activities, including the giving of retreats (1990-1995). He also acted as the local bursar.

Father James was appointed to Montfort House, Barrhead, Scotland in 1995, where he continued to exercise his priestly ministry in retreat work, and also acted as local bursar. Around this time he began to suffer difficulties with his legs, and had to spend some time in a Nursing Home in Hawick in Scotland. After a remarkable (though incomplete) recovery he returned to Barrhead, where he remained until he was appointed to act as chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom at their retirement home in Lytham St Anne's. After some time in this role, he himself retired to Montfort House, Liverpool; but he continued to act as chaplain to a local convent, until his ailments became such that he had to enter a local nursing home run by the Augustinian Sisters. It was there that, after a number of alarms, he finally died peacefully on 29 October 2012, while Mass was

being offered in the chapel for his intentions. Both as Brother Francis and as Father James, he was loved by everyone especially for his infectious laugh, and he never let his ailments get him down. May the Lord and Our Blessed Lady receive him into the dwellings of eternity.

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**Father Lionel DES GROSELLER, S.M.M.**  
**(1931 – 2012)**

who died in Montréal (Canada), on 9 December 2012,  
at the age of 81 with 61 years of Religious Profession.

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It is with sadness that I advise you of the peaceful death, this morning, 9 December 2012, of our confrere Lionel Des Groseillers, in the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital in Montreal, after a heart attack. I was a witness of an agony of appreciation and thanksgiving on his part for his priesthood as a Montfortian religious and for the people who had worked with him.

Lionel was born in Montreal on 16 October 1931. He was the nephew of the late Father Leo Marie Fournier, s.m.m., and the cousin of the late Father Armand Fournier, s.m.m. On 15 August 1951 he made his first religious profession in the chapel of our novitiate of Sainte-Marie in Nicolet. He was ordained priest on 1 February 1957, in the Oratory of the Hotel-Dieu in Montreal by Cardinal Paul-Emile Léger.

In 1960 he left for a six-year stretch as a teacher in Haiti in the Montfortian college of Notre-Dame de Lourdes in the diocese of Port-de-Paix. From 1966 to 1973, he was to be found at our Montfortian seminary in Papineauville, whether for a period of rest, or as a teacher or as chaplain and curate. From 1974 to 1978, he exercised his ministry at the Shrine of Mary Queen of All Hearts.

From 1978 to recent days, Lionel had a long period either as curate or as parish-priest or superior in our parishes, either in Vanier, at the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes; or North Bay, in the parish of St Vincent de Paul; or Jonquière, in the parish of Marie-Médiatrice; or Montreal, in the parish of Our Lady Queen of All Hearts, linked with the parish of Saint-Fabien.

Lionel was a very devoted confrere in his priestly ministry and proud to be a Montfortian religious. He loved to repeat often with Montfort: “God wills or permits everything, and that is why everything pleases me.” He put many of his talents to work, whether as a singer, a composer or a poet. He was a great traveller - distance meant nothing to him - whether in Quebec or Ontario, Europe or the Holy Land.

His funeral will take place on Thursday 13 December at 10:30 in the parish of Our Lady Queen of All Hearts. His body will be laid out in the same place on Wednesday 12 December from 14:00 to 17:00, and from 19:00 to 21:00, and before the funeral beginning at 9:00. May the Blessed Virgin, whom he so loved and preached, welcome our dear Lionel to “everlasting joy”!



**Father Ignacio de Jesús GONZÁLEZ LESMES, S.M.M.**  
**(1928 – 2012)**

who died in Bogotá (Colombia), on 12 December 2012,  
at the age of 84 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

Father Ignacio de Jesús Gonzalez Lesmes was born on 18 April 1928 in Junín-Cundinamarca. The son of Luis Maria Federico González Camacho and Consolation Lesmes Cruz, he was baptised on 29 April following. From 1942 until 1947 he studied at the Junior Seminary of Choachí-Cundinamarca. Then he made his novitiate at San Juanito in 1948, making his first vows in the Company of Mary on 2 February 1949. He studied Philosophy and Theology at the Major Seminary in Alban-Cundinamarca from 1949 until 1954, and his perpetual profession took place there on 2 February 1954. He was ordained a deacon on 18 July of that year in the parish of Nuestra Señora de Belén in Bogotá, the cradle of the Montfort Missionaries in Colombia. Here also he was ordained to the priesthood on 17 October 1954.

His first appointment was as a curate in the parish of San Pedro in Jagua in 1955. The following year, 1956, he was sent to the Cathedral of Villavicencio as a curate. From 1957 until 1971, Father Ignacio worked in the Episcopal Curia. There, he dedicated himself to the role of director of CARITAS, director for education and chaplain in the Villavicencio hospital. With all the energy of his youth, he travelled around the territory of the nascent church, in particular in Villavicencio, devoting himself above all to the poorest and most deprived people, always seeking out the most excluded and going into the remotest places. Working side by side with the lay people, he spent himself in evangelisation and the promotion of justice and peace in the region.

From 1971 to 1978, we find him preoccupied with the situation of the indigenous people of the little villages of Planas and Puerto Trujillo - in Meta - and in the Sunape - Vichada. The situation of the indigenous people of the Sikuni group in this region was painful. Father Ignacio, listening to the cries of those “without a voice”, took the side of the indigenous peoples. Going about from one place to another, day and night, alone or in company with others, he had to make a stand against those who would appropriate the land of the indigenous peoples to the detriment of their life and culture. This led him to experience very difficult times when even his life was in danger more than once. His action, however, succeeded in arousing national debate, and, through the press, left behind memories “of a priest who fought for the rights of the indigenous Sikuni people.” The elders among the indigenous people remember him, and still ask what has become of “Father Gonzalez”; and, through their oral traditions, the younger generations retain their recognition of this little man, missionary and priest who, while respecting their culture, their ambitions and their human desires, fought for them. From 1978 to 1980, he experienced more difficult years, being persecuted, misunderstood, rejected, and hunted for his life in the regions of Planas and Puerto Trujillo. From native long house to long house, he managed to escape the clutches of a number of “colons” who refused to accept his witness and sought to kill him. In these circumstances and in the midst of many difficulties, he was sent to the nascent mission of the United States province in Nicaragua in 1981. He arrived as a curate in Santo Tomas - Chontales. This country was also having

a difficult time. The struggle against the dictatorship of Somoza was experiencing one of its most difficult periods. “Nicaragua without Somoza” was the cry of the simple people of Nicaragua. All over Central America, people were experiencing internal conflicts, and there was born a prophetic style of protest against the totalitarian and unjust governments. “Nachito” made his own the cause of the people of Nicaragua: we see him fighting for the liberation of people, evangelising, organising the community and promoting social action in various sectors of Santo Tomas. His heart rested there. He wanted to die in Nicaragua and to be buried in the manner of the indigenous people, wrapped in a big palm-leaf and placed in the earth with two or three of his belongings.

On returning to Colombia in 1997, he worked as a curate in the parish of Nuestra Señora del Carmen for a year. The following year, he took up again his pastoral activity in the places that had seen the struggles of his youth: from his base as curate in the parish of St Joseph the Worker in Puerto Gaitán, he visited the people of the region of Planas and Puerto Trujillo. The situation there was completely changed: the Sikuni were experiencing the process of losing their culture; there were drug traffickers, guerrillas, paramilitaries and a situation marked by death, violence and grinding poverty. He travelled around this area that he knew like the palm of his hand, making his prophetic voice heard and choosing always those regions that were furthest from God and society. “There goes the ghost car,” the people said, joking, because his small stature prevented them from seeing who was driving it! He continued with this missionary activity until 2006, when he became part of the missionary team in Planas. In 2007, he had to travel several times between Villavicencio and Bogotá to receive medical treatment. In 2008 he returned to be a part of the new missionary team based in La Loma near Puerto Trujillo. From there, he served the people of Puerto Trujillo, El Siare, Carranguero, El Rincon del Indio and other small villages.

In 2010, he was appointed as a curate to the parish of the Holy Spirit. His health was very poor, and he experienced some critical moments, but, like the Phoenix, he rose up from the ashes of death to continue his mission, always with that little wicked smile that so characterised him. This year, when we handed back the parish to the Archdiocese of Villavicencio, he was welcomed into the Community of Nazareth (Acacias) as curate in the parish of the Sacred Heart. In September he suffered a stroke that left him speechless and immobile. On Thursday 29 November, he had to be taken from Bogotá to Sasaima, to see his friend Dr. Athom who examined him. Back in Bogotá on the 30th, he had to be hospitalised as a matter of urgency in the San Rafael Clinic, where he remained in good hands for various medical examinations. Father Parmenio celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick with him, and on Monday 10 December, he received the blessing and the kiss of peace from Father Provincial. On the Tuesday, when he was due to leave hospital, an intestinal haemorrhage prevented his departure. This worried him: he wanted to walk, to go out... On the morning of the 12th, his situation worsened. Immediately he was taken to the recovery room, but remained there. His heart, which was working at only 20% capacity, could no longer put up any resistance. He died of a heart failure. That is how the saints die. It is very significant that his death occurred on the very day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the dawn of the evangelisation of the American Indian, Our Lady appeared in Tepeyac to a little native called Juan Diego. She spread her veil over the whole of America, but especially over the indigenous peoples. The Lord decreed that, on the very feast of his beloved mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Father Ignacio Gonzalez should leave us to go to meet God, our Father. Surely she is at the gates of Heaven to welcome her “Nachito” with open arms, accompanied by numerous men and women who,

throughout Latin America, fought for the poorest among the poor, the Indians. And no doubt, he will be welcomed also by so many of the Sikuani people who lived the Gospel to the full. Here is a prophet, a missionary, a Montfortian, a man of God who knew how to read the will of God and put it into practice. Peace on his tomb and glory in heaven.

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**Father Allan WILLIAMSON, S.M.M.**  
**(1923 – 2012)**

who died in Trois-Rivières, QC (Canada), on 16 December 2012,  
at the age of 89 with 69 years of Religious Profession.

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It was with sadness that we learnt this morning, 16 December 2012, of the death, brought about by pneumonia after just a few hours in the Sainte-Marie Hospital in Trois-Rivières, of Father Allan Williamson.

He was 89 years old. He made his first vows at our novitiate in Nicolet on 15 August 1943. He was ordained priest in Ottawa Cathedral by Mgr. Alexandre Vachon, on 2 February 1949. Our dear confrere was the nephew of the late Fr. David Williamson, s.m.m. Starting in 1949, for a period of six years, he taught English in our minor seminary in Papineauville, then was Prefect of Discipline at the same place for 5 years running.

From 1960 to 1965, he acted either as Principal, or as chaplain or as a teacher at the Training College of the Daughters of Wisdom in Dorval.

In 1967, he became, for a period of six years, the Superior of our scholasticate of St John in Vanier, Ontario. After a year's re-training in France, we find our confrere in the archdiocese of Ottawa, especially in the field of adult Christian education for four years.

After this, for 21 years, our confrere dedicated himself to Montfortian missionary work, either as director of the Mission Procure, or as a missionary in Papua for three years, or as a preacher of mission appeals, or as a collaborator at the Procure.

From 1999 onwards, his health not allowing him to continue an active apostolate, he retired to the Shrine in Montreal, then to Nicolet, and finally to the Cénacle Saint-Pierre in Trois-Rivières, at Pointe-du-Lac.

Our confrere was of a calm and serene disposition. He was a good sportsman, and above all a great music-lover, himself playing the organ. His favourite expression addressed to someone leaving after a conversation with him was always: Have courage!

His body will be laid out at the Cénacle Saint-Pierre on Wednesday 19 December 2012 from 14:00 until 16:00, then from 12:00 to 14:00 the following day before the funeral in the chapel of the Cénacle Saint-Pierre. He will be buried in the parish cemetery of the Visitation in Pointe-du-Lac. May the Blessed Virgin lead our confrere into the joys of Eternity!



## FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

### BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

<b>January 2012</b>			<u>Age</u>	<u>Profession</u>
14	Br. Joseph Babonneau	La Hillière (France)	86	69
24	Br. Michel Vion	La Hillière (France)	84	64
<b>February 2012</b>				
15	Br. Narcisse Bernard	La Hillière (France)	94	77
28	Br. Claude	Hyderabad (India)	77	57
28	Br. Louis Peron	La Hillière (France)	90	74
<b>March 2012</b>				
05	Br. Thomas of Tolentino	Chennai (India)	83	64
15	Br. Albert Selvaray	Chennai (India)	66	48
18	Br. Guy Martineau	Clermont-Ferrand (France)	78	58
24	Br. Arnaldo Bellucci	La Hillière (France)	85	68
26	Br. Louis-Bernard Pariseau	Laval (Canada)	75	54
31	Br. Sylvain Bazin	St Laurent (France)	80	61
<b>April 2012</b>				
02	Br. Léo-Paul Cossette	Laval (Canada)	87	69
<b>May 2012</b>				
09	Br. Pierre Guillet	La Hillière (France)	84	65
28	Br. Felix Onésimo Miguel Alegre	La Aguilera - Aranda de Duero (Spain)	84	66
<b>June 2012</b>				
07	Br. John De Britto	Hyderabad (India)	86	67
<b>July 2012</b>				
19	Br. Amos Kandulna	Kanke (Inde)	60	36
29	Br. Henri Rozen	La Hillière (France)	89	73
<b>August 2012</b>				
05	Br. Roland Bertrand	Villejuif (France)	69	50
19	Br. Laurent Le Floc'h	La Hillière (France)	90	73
<b>September 2012</b>				
14	Br. Jean Bulteau	La Hillière (France)	82	63

**November 2012**

25	Br. Jean-Marie Jan	La Hillière (France)	86	69
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**December 2012**

04	Br. Robert Martel	Lanaudière (Canada)	67	46
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**DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM****January 2012**

			<u>Born</u>	<u>Profession</u>
09	Sr Régina Daoust Marie-Hervé de l'Eucharistie	Ottawa (Canada)	07-04-17	02-02-36
19	Sr Marguerite-Marie Gorrissen Marie-Claire du Divin-Coeur	St Laurent (France)	04-11-19	02-02-41
24	Sr Huguette Malissart Marie-Bernard de l'Eucharistie	Oblate de la Sagesse Larnay (France)	26-07-12	27-06-47

**February 2012**

02	Sr Yvette Savignac Louise-Marie du Rosaire	Ottawa (Canada)	23-03-16	02-02-37
05	Sr Mary Hamill Mary Bernard of the Bl Sac.	Edmonton	14-04-17	02-02-43
09	Sr Pauline van de H. Johannes Anna Jongen	Houthem Valkenburg (Netherlands)	25-06-14	02-02-46
20	Sr Isolina Maria Isola Vicentini	Valperga (Italy)	10-04-32	02-02-56
23	Sr Aline Piet Germaine de la Paix	St Laurent (France)	10-10-23	02-02-46
23	Sr Hilda Landry Céline-Françoise du Calvaire	Ottawa (Canada)	20-04-31	02-02-52
26	Sr Ana Dolores Rincón Rincón	Bogotá (Colombia)	31-08-38	02-08-64
27	Sr Dorothy Reilly Montfort of Jesus Crucified	New York (USA)	12-12-27	02-08-47

**March 2012**

02	Sr Elvira dell'Immacolata Livia Bettoni	Clusone (Italy)	31-03-14	02-08-44
06	Sr Maria Huberta Mertens Maria Huberta	Houthem –Valkenbourg (Netherlands)	18-02-19	02-08-39
07	Sr Madeleine Frouin Madeleine de Saint Joseph	St Laurent (France)	30-06-21	02-08-44
14	Sr Monique Chagnon Monique de l'Eucharistie	Montreal (Canada)	29-04-15	02-02-36

28	Sr Maria Innocentina Alessandra Maringoni	Clusone (Italy)	27-11-22	02-02-48
30	Sr Thérèse de St-François Templéreau	St Laurent (France)	03-12-13	02-02-36

#### **April 2012**

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16	Sr Germaine Lefort Henriette-Bernadette	St Laurent (France)	02-11-27	02-08-50
16	Sr Alice Paquin Alice du Rosaire	Sound Beach, NY (USA)	12-05-20	02-02-52
18	Sr Berthe Maillet Bernard du Sacré-Cœur	St Laurent (France)	22-06-29	02-08-56
21	Sr Fernanda degli Angeli Livia Rossi	Valperga (Italy)	14-06-27	02-08-52
29	Sr Blanche Brown Gertrude de Jésus	Ottawa (Canada)	09-09-18	02-08-39
30	Sr Gilberte Pelletier Monique-Madeleine	Ottawa (Canada)	30-12-19	02-02-45

#### **May 2012**

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04	Sr Thérèse de l'Énfant Jésus Jeanne Voisin	St Laurent (France)	23-10-20	02-08-49
05	Sr Maria Luigia dell'Eucaristia Emilia Mora	San Remo (Italy)	23-02-26	02-02-46
12	Sr Jeanne d'Arc Nicknair Jean Louis of the Immaculate	Port Jefferson, NY (USA)	16-07-34	02-02-54
17	Sr Teresa Maria di Gesù Antonia Rota	Roncola, BG (Italy)	13-06-23	02-02-45

#### **June 2012**

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28	Sr Thérèse Séguin Montfort Marie-Louise	Ottawa (Canada)	13-04-18	02-08-47
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#### **July 2012**

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02	Sr Marie-Véronique Anne Guyon	La Chartreuse (France)	12-08-25	02-02-44
02	Sr Mary Clare de Montfort Jean Sanderson	Romsey (England)	10-09-22	02-08-50
07	Sr Élodie du Sacré-Cœur Maria Salou	La Chartreuse (France)	22-06-20	02-02-46
07	Sr Marie-Reine du Sacré-Cœur Renée Mandon	La Chartreuse (France)	18-02-23	02-08-46
09	Sr Gabriel de Jésus Hostia Nelly Perdomo	Bogotá (Colombia)	08-06-29	02-08-49
10	Sr Maria Henrica van Jezus Hermina Hendrika Lauwrier	Wijchen (Netherlands)	11-12-17	02-02-40

13	Sr Éva Roy Alice de l'Eucharistie	Ottawa (Canada)	11-02-13	02-02-31
18	Sr Françoise Jegou Ambroise du Sacré-Coeur	La Chartreuse (France)	01-05-19	02-08-39
26	Sr Alice de Saint Charles Geneviève Dekeirsschieter	St Laurent (France)	10-02-24	02-02-47
27	Sr Cecilia Latorre Martínez Hernando de la Pasion	Bogota (Colombia)	28-08-28	02-08-49
28	Sr Maria Lucia di Gesù Pietra Sineri	Clusone (Italy)	29-06-17	02-08-39

### August 2012

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05	Sr Anne-Marie Tastard Anne-Marie du Rosaire	St Laurent (France)	24-07-12	02-08-42
10	Sr Madeleine Catteau Madeleine du Calvaire	St Laurent (France)	17-09-26	02-08-49
10	Sr Marilyn Lieber Catherine of the Eucharist	Virginia Beach, VA (USA)	16-03-32	02-08-52
16	Sr Yvonne Perras Thomas du Précieux-Sang	Ottawa (Canada)	01-07-13	02-02-33
21	Sr Marie-Odile de Jésus Nicole Beausire	St Laurent (France)	13-10-25	02-08-49
21	Sr Alain du Rosaire Jeannie Le Borgne	La Chartreuse (France)	25-10-14	08-09-34
22	Sr Cristina Maria Annunciata Ghirardi	Valperga (Italy)	06-05-11	02-02-38
24	Sr Agnès de la Trinité Marie-Julienne Lefevre	Tournai - Vertefeuille (Belgium)	04-03-14	02-08-39

### September 2012

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01	Sr Antonietta della Visitazione Antonietta Uzzi	Roma (Italy)	29-09-37	02-02-65
04	Sr Maria Parvula Catharina M. Hubertina Brouns	Wijchen (Netherlands)	09-06-25	02-02-47
09	Sr Flora Maria di Gesù Margherita Santi	Valperga (Italy)	18-05-26	02-08-52
18	Sr Yvonne Sauvé Joséphine de la Providence	St Laurent (France)	02-01-15	02-02-37

### October 2012

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02	Sr Ana Teresa Alvarado Elizabeth de la Santa Familia	Villavicencio (Colombia)	25-11-36	02-02-64
14	Sr Emma Maria Anna Maria Cuoghi	Clusone (Italy)	06-06-35	02-02-59
19	Sr Marie-Benjamin de la Sagesse Cécile Cavrois	St Laurent (France)	25-01-26	02-02-48

24	Sr Marie du Mont Carmel Livia Bonhomme	Bonneau (Haiti)	04-05-44	22-08-68
31	Sr Adrienne de la Sagesse Marcelle Chêne	St Laurent (France)	23-06-12	08-09-36

### November 2012

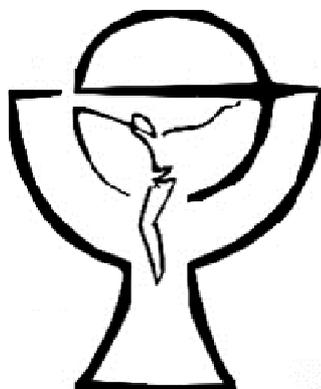
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08	Sr Johanna Maria Jongen Mathia Maria	Houthem Vroenhof (Netherlands)	27-09-18	02-08-40
15	Sr Marie-Suzanne du Sacré-Cœur Suzanne Fougeray	St Laurent (France)	08-10-13	02-02-35
15	Sr Marie-Madeleine de N. D. Madeleine Robin	La Chartreuse (France)	22-07-13	02-02-55

### December 2012

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03	Sr Marie-André du Sacré-Cœur Francine Manceau	St Laurent (France)	08-09-08	02-08-49
05	Sr Rose-Marie de Jésus-Hostie Lysse Bazile	Port-au Prince – Ségur (Haiti)	28-11-30	02-08-60
08	Sr Marguerite-Marie de Saint Henri Juliette Vitour	La Chartreuse (France)	18-06-32	02-02-56
11	Sr Damien de la Croix Paulette Bonningues	St Laurent (France)	23-02-25	02-08-50
12	Sr Marie-Louise de la Ste Face Agnès Lecomte	St Laurent (France)	21-01-10	08-09-31
14	Sr Thérèse de l'Immaculée Louise Brisseau	St Laurent (France)	31-10-20	02-02-45
17	Sr Marie-Josèphe Gourdon Cécile de l'Eucharistie	St Laurent (France)	07-03-20	02-02-47
28	Sr Jean de la Providence Léonie Premel Cabic	La Chartreuse (France)	13-04-16	08-09-36
29	Sr Alice Chartrand Alfred de l'Immaculée-Conception	Ottawa (Canada)	26-01-33	02-08-54
30	Sr Madeleine Mailhot Joseph-Alphonse	Ottawa (Canada)	13-12-19	02-02-40
30	Sr Suzanne-Marie du Carmel Marguerite Dubreuil	St Laurent (France)	14-03-19	02-02-44
31	Sr Rita Lemire Angéline de Jésus	Montréal (Canada)	17-02-22	02-02-41



« ... 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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