

## *OUR DECEASED BRETHREN*



**Father Jacob (Jacques) HAAN, S.M.M.  
(1931 - 2007)**

Died in Nijmegen (The Netherlands), on 16 December 2007,  
aged 75 with 53 years of Religious Profession.

Jacques was born on December 17, 1931 in Schaesberg. After he entered the Montfortian novitiate in Meerssen, in 1953, he made his first vows on September 8, 1954. On March 27, 1960 he was ordained a priest in Oirschot by Mgr. Bekkers. His first appointment was for Malawi, where he worked for ten years as a missionary. In 1970 he left for two years for Zimbabwe as priest for the migrant Malawian people.

Jacques returned to the Netherlands in 1972 and got an appointment as chaplain in the army. He worked in different places. He also worked for three years in the Luckerheide clinic in Kerkrade and in a home for the elderly in Veldhoven and in Oirschot. While living in the community of the Holy Land Foundation he worked in the parishes of Millingen and Kekerdom and later on as chaplain in Boldershof with the handicapped, a place started by the Daughters of Wisdom. After that he became rector with the Dominican sisters of the Holy Family in Nijmegen. When he got ill, the sisters took him into their nursing home Rosa. He lived there till one day before his 76th birthday, when he suffered a severe brain haemorrhage.

Jacques was always a quiet person. That is how we knew him at the preparatory seminary in Schimmert. It did not change over the years. He lived a somewhat withdrawn life, contemplating. He experienced his stillness as a handicap. During the years he belonged to the community of Berg & Dal and later of the Holy Land Foundation, he usually listened to the conversation. Suddenly he would tell a story, a memory or sketch a situation. At that moment we saw a different Jacques, but ending his little talk he returned to his silent self, with a friendly smile. Being the shy person that he was, he would rather listen than speak. It was not easy for him to

meet people, but when someone needed him, he was there. As chaplain in the army he was the listening ear for the soldiers on exercise. The best period in his life were his years with the mentally disabled at Boldershof in Druten/Geldermalsen. He once said: "They don't have any trouble with schisms, doctrines etc., they just believe in God. That makes me sometimes jealous."

Jacques did not lead an easy life. He knew many doctors. Especially his last years were tough. Speaking became more and more difficult, his memory faded away, there was hardly a story to tell. Therefore it was not an easy task to visit him, because we do not always know the art of just simply and silently being with someone. You went inside Jacques' room just to greet him, without staying long. Therefore we admire those who really persevered in accompanying him: Yvonne Vijgen, Antoinette Smits and not least Els Viering. It was nice that in the last months of his life he had good days, while participating in group therapy in Rosa Home. He clearly enjoyed it.

According to his repeatedly mentioned wish, Jacques will be buried at the Holy Land Foundation, with the confreres of the community that was so dear to him. We hope and pray, that he really may enjoy the inexhaustible presence of God. If you want to meet Jacques there, you'll probably have to look for him in the background. You will recognize him, smiling like on his good days.





**Father Henricus (Henk) STOOP, S.M.M.  
(1943 – 2007)**

Died in Anderlecht (Belgium), on 31 December 2007,  
aged 64 with 45 years of Religious Profession.

Henk was born on 23 March 1943 in Heiloo (Netherlands). He did his secondary schooling in Voorschoten and Schimmert. He made his first vows in Meerssen on 8 September 1962, and his perpetual vows in Oirschot. He was ordained a priest on 8 March 1969 by the Montfortian Bishop of Reykjavik (Iceland), Mgr Frehen.

After a pastoral year Henk left, full of enthusiasm, for his first post in Wenge in Zaire (D.R. of Congo), in the diocese of Isangi. The “Rebellion” had left Zaire and our mission at the brink of the abyss. With a lack of personnel a rescue plan had already been established, in which the emphasis was placed on teaching and the catechism. With the new thrust given to the Church by the Council, Henk got himself involved in the renewal of mission work, putting the emphasis on the training of catechists and the development of basic communities. He knew his people very well, and in his own intelligent way knew how to get along with the village people, the children and the catechumens. After some years of involvement he came to the conclusion that the official church was not going far enough; and so he clashed with the bishop who was very conservative, while Henk was trying to move on in a progressive way. This affected him deeply, so much so that in 1991 he entered into a period of crisis which he lived through in his own way: reflecting deeply while remaining honest with himself and God. He was able to rest for a year in our meeting house, “Le Carrefour” in Banneux. It was Madame Leontine Willems who pointed him in the direction of St Bernadette’s parish in Anderlecht, where Henk was able to bloom once again. In the midst of this typically mixed community on the edge of Brussels, a society of both Flemish and Wallon people, Henk felt at ease, and Leontine remained an important collaborator. This says a lot for Belgian good nature and for Henk’s ability to adapt: “a Dutchman” respected and appreciated by the folk of Brussels.

Henk had a critical mind and was always looking for the reason for events. He would almost always find the right words, sometimes rather strong but nevertheless reflecting his convictions. And remarkably, in spite of his studious spirit, he never lost himself in books but loved to go about among the simple folk. That is why he loved the bush and later his parish of St Bernadette. He loved to listen to the people, and he knew how to listen... In this way he learnt a lot from them and tried to pass on the Good News. Henk also had a connection with Mary, partly without his wanting it, and partly because he was a Montfortian. Without his wanting it: he was born on 25 March, the feast of the Annunciation; and one hour before 1 January, the feast of Mary, Mother of God, he died. Surely Mary was waiting for him and will be his companion even more from now on.

After a period of grave illness which he endured with courage, assisted by Leontine, his loyal and generous helper, he was able to fall asleep in peace, surrounded by his beloved ones, with a smile on his lips. Everything was accomplished, and accomplished well. May he rest in peace.



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**Father Hubert HECHTERMANS, S.M.M.**  
**(1920 – 2008)**

Died in Leuven (Belgium), on 6 January 2008,  
aged 87 with 66 years of Religious Profession.

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Hub was born in Hasselt on 20 January 1920. At the age of fourteen he arrived in Rotselaar, and it was there that he finished his secondary studies. When the War broke out, he began his novitiate with several others in Rotselaar, where he made his first vows on 8 September 1941. During the War years, the Belgians were unable to cross the border to the major seminary in Oirschot (Netherlands), which explains why he did his philosophy and the first two years of theology in Rotselaar. These were difficult but exciting years. People talk about them still! The team spirit which developed during those difficult years marked Hub and his contemporaries.

When the war ended in 1945 the Belgian students had to make their way to the official scholasticate to complete their studies. There they found a special atmosphere: the seminarians, supported by their teachers, were able to get involved in all sorts of studies of and approaches to our founder. A good number of writings from this time have been preserved. Hub was ordained a priest on 20 March 1947, shortly before the canonisation of Montfort (20 July 1947).

In Belgium the Marian Apostolate was faced with a heavy programme: articles for “*Médiatrice et Reine*”, big pilgrimages and gatherings everywhere. No doubt Hub was singled out during this period, for his first letter of appointment (the only one he received during his long life) spoke of an exception being made: “Given the present circumstances, we find ourselves obliged to dispense some Fathers from the year of Eloquence. I appoint you to the Marian Apostolate in Leuven to collaborate on our two magazines...” And Hub was very happy with that. On 15 August 1947 he began his work, and in the next issue of “*Médiatrice et Reine*” he had already taken on 10 of the 32 pages as his own. The Marian devotion of his childhood, and in particular devotion to the “*Virga Jesse*” of Hasselt, gradually took on a greater place in his life, owing to his studies of Montfort.

The years following the Council called for adaptations, and the magazine had to adopt a more professional approach. For this purpose, Hub followed courses in journalism at Nijmegen. And like a good journalist he was always on the lookout for news which fitted the magazine’s aims; that meant continual study, often into the night. Two series of enthusiastic articles written by him later appeared in book-form: “*Alles of niets*” and “*God neemt de maat*”. He continued to write letters until a few days before he died.

Hub is worthy of praise, but there we run into a problem: he was very shy. Aware of his own limitations, he preferred to be seen as a simple person and never wanted to be proposed as an example. That is why this lovable man never wanted to take on the role of superior. But folk loved to come into contact with him. In hundreds

of letters they poured out their joys and sorrows to him. Hub's replies were so human, perhaps because he himself had experienced all kinds of trials: the early death of his mother and later of other close members of his family caused him great grief. When he was the victim of injustice or found himself in situations of helplessness, he could barely restrain his tears. Because he was so human, he was loved by everyone.

Such a long and rich life cannot be described in a few words, but I would like to mention two things. First of all, his gift for leading pilgrimages. Every pilgrimage was very well prepared, and he had the gift of recounting how history and events intermingled. Finally, in pursuing his continual studies for the magazine and the pilgrimages, he was able to put together a unique collection, for the congregation, of books, pamphlets, pictures, photos, etc. Right up to the present time this collection is cared for by Denise Delvaux.

Dear Hub, I know you don't like to be praised, but today I am going to do it anyway – I can't stop myself! On the Feast of the Epiphany, you followed your star. May Mary, the Morning Star, present you to the Lord.





**Father Harry LEMMENS, S.M.M.**

**(1926 – 2008)**

Died in Rotselaar (Belgium), on 6 January 2008,  
aged 81 with 59 years of Religious Profession.

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Henricus Gerardus Lemmens was born in Maastricht (Netherlands) on 14 June 1926. He was a Belgian by nationality, and his family lived at Neerpelt.

He did his secondary studies at the Apostolic School in Rotselaar, which later became Montfort College. After making his novitiate among the Montfort Missionaries in Meerssen (Netherlands) he made his first profession on 8 September 1948 and was ordained a priest on 28 March 1954 at the major seminary in Oirschot by Mgr Mutsaerts. He then returned to Rotselaar, where he lived without interruption until his death.

After completing classical studies at Leuven University he became professor of classical languages at the school in Rotselaar. This was his life, his work and his hobby. He spent his holidays guiding groups in his beloved Greece. But he was also at home in the libraries of Leuven. He continued to research and to study.

Classical history and religion were his passions and, along with the art of sculpture, they continued to intrigue him when he was well and truly retired. During Montfortian pilgrimages and wanderings, he showed his great interest. Harry was a person filled with enthusiasm who could pass on his passion to his pupils and his colleagues. He was a faithful religious, who renewed his Consecration daily during the Eucharist, the breviary and the Rosary, even when this became more difficult.

Harry died in Rotselaar on 6 January 2008, and was buried in our cemetery there on 12 January.

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**Father Eugene LYNCH, S.M.M.**

**(1928 – 2008)**

Died in Litchfield (USA), on 19 January 2008,  
aged 80 with 59 years of Religious Profession.

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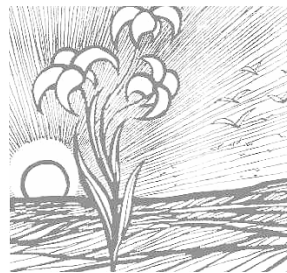
**FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY**  
**BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL**

<b>November 2007</b>			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
16	Br. David EMMANUEL	Bangkok (Thailand)	64	45
19	Br. Jean René ANDRIEUX	La Hillière (France)	87	64
22	Br. Marcel BIDET	La Hillière (France)	85	68



**FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY**  
**DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM**

<b>November 2007</b>			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
16	Sr. Saint Camille (Marie-Joséphine CLOAGUEN)	La Chartreuse (France)	97	76
20	Sr. Françoise du Rosaire (Francine LE BORGNE)	La Chartreuse (France)	87	67
<b>December 2007</b>				
9	Sr. Ruth María de Nazareth (Arcelia Robayo RUIZ)	Bogotá (Colombia)	70	44
20	Sr. Lucie de Marie (Lucie QUAIS)	St Laurent sur Sévre (France)	97	74
<b>January 2008</b>				
13	Sr. Marie-Renée de Montfort (Renée MOQUET)	St Laurent sur Sévre (France)	91	68
15	Sr. Gemma di Maria Ausiliatrice (Gisella MURINO)	Menaggio (Italy)	85	67
15	Sr. Lilia Carmel of the Sacred Heart (de Melquiades Carvalho Laura Rita)	Limbe (Malawi)	69	39



**« I am the Resurrection and the Life;  
whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live » Jn 11, 25**