



OUR DECEASED CONFRERES IN 2015-2016



Father Theodorus HUSTIN, S.M.M.

(1923 – 2015)

died in Schimmert (Netherlands) on 10 January 2015,
aged 91 with 69 years of religious profession.

Theodore Joseph Hustin [Thei] was born on October 27, 1923 in Heerlen. He came to the seminary in Schimmert in 1937 and became a Montfortian on September 8, 1945. In the major seminary in Oirschot he was ordained a priest on March 4, 1951 by Mgr. Mutsaerts.

His first appointment was as a teacher at the Mission Trade School in Bunde. Ten years later he became superior until its closure in 1965. He then became director of Huize St Joseph in Bunde (children protection), district catechist and assistant to the basilica in Meerssen. He was vicar in the provincial government until he was elected as provincial (1983 to 1993). In 1994 he became superior of the community of Vroenhof and pastor of the care centre. In 2010 he moved to the community of Schimmert.

In Thei we lose an amiable confrere. Someone who sympathized heartily with the ups and downs of our congregation and also deployed for it. It started with his first nomination for the Mission Trade School. A thorough professional training for brothers stood in high esteem with him. Also their spiritual formation. As superior the brothers had his particular concern.

As a pastor and catechist Thei was dedicated, sincere and creative. His liturgy was groomed to perfection and in his sermons Bible and daily life were intertwined.

As provincial superior, he was punctual and generous at the same time. The same he did later as superior in Vroenhof. His ability to manage was not restricted to his own circle. He has been one of the driving forces in the establishment of the hospice in Valkenburg.

Thei was gifted with many talents. He had a special feeling for beauty. His astonishment to all creation grew into admiration, which he uttered with pen and brush. He has done that until the end. A deeply religious person who integrated the spirituality of Montfort in his personal life. This is evident with the biography of Montfort he made for "Im Dienste der Königin".

He was a people's man. Family, friends, and we montfortians experienced this. He was born as a storyteller. Drawing from a strong memory he could perform many a person or event scene from the past with humour.

In recent years he was a member of the community of Schimmert. He felt at home, enjoying the peace and ability to write, paint and contact with family, friends and colleagues. Since his health deteriorated, it became a problem. They accepted this. He was at ease and content with every day given to him. With that reassurance, he also entered his final night. He died as he lived: trusting in the presence of God.



**Father José Ramón RAIGOSO HERRERA, S.M.M.
(1916 – 2015)**

died in Choachí (Colombia) on 16 January 2015,
aged 98 with 78 years of religious profession.

Father José Ramón Raigoso Herrera, was born on 20 December 1916 in the municipality of Choachí, Cundinamarca. Son of Samuel Raigoso Herrera and María del Pilar Herrera Martínez, he was baptized the following year in the parish of San Miguel Arcangel in the same town.

Two years before, the Missionaries of the Company of Mary had arrived with the Apostolic School in Choachí and young Ramon began his secondary studies in the Seminary; he finished them in 1934.

He began his novitiate on 2 February 1935 at San Juanito – Meta. He made his first profession there on 2 February 1936. In the year 1941, on that same happy day of February 2nd, he made his perpetual vows. September 7th, same year and place, he received priestly ordination. A clear path without setbacks, guided always by Divine Wisdom and upheld by God's hand.

In 1942 he began his pastoral and missionary life in San Pedro de Jagua as assistant to Fr. Fidolo Jimenz. In 1944 he was sent to the Cathedral in Villavincencio, again as assistant, this time to Fr. Martin Pieters. He served there until 1948, as vicar of Fr. Eliseo Achury. In 1949 holy obedience brought him to San Juanito, this time as *socius* to the Master of Novices and economic vicar.

With the year 1950, he was sent as parish priest at San Pedro de Jagua, the place where he was assistant as a newly ordained. In 1951 they widened his ministry and also named him pastor of Medina. Until 1955 he was parish priest only of this last parish.

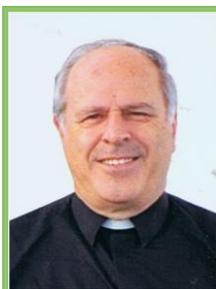
From 1956 to 1961 he offered his services as parish priest of San Martin, the oldest town of the Llanos Orientales. It is now 1962 and we see Ramoncito heading to San Luis de Cubarral to lend his services as pastor. He stayed there until 1965. Leaving the plains and the mountains the following year, he was sent to the capital, Bogota, where he remained until 1974 as assistant to the Provincial and local bursar.

Returning to the Llanos at the age of 74, he lived a long period of service as assistant pastor, first to Fr. Joel Martinez and Jacinto Ladino, then in the parish of Nuestra Senora del Carmen in Acacias. He spent 11 years there. He would be one year in San Martin, two years in Sagrado Corazon, two years more in San Luis de Montfort in Villavincencio; one year in Maria Auxiliadora.

It is now 1998 and he finishes his varied services as assistant pastor. He is then sent to the Centre for Lay Formation Villa Montfort, where he remained for two years.

At 84 years of age, although still strong and in good health, he was sent in 2000 to the Hogar Sacerdotal to rest. He remained here fifteen years. He saw many confreres depart for the eternal banquet, and finally, at the very start of a warm January morning, he left for the definitive encounter with God, where there is neither pain nor sadness, tears nor sorrow. His life was extinguished in an accelerated process. In only 20 days he was taken up, like a caterpillar in its cocoon, waiting for the Good Lord to take him from his bed of sorrow.

“And how is little Ramon”, his superior would ask, to which he would reply with an enormous smile, “Fine!” We seem to see him seated in his chair, ready to eat, serene, calm, smiling, rolling up again and again the cloth napkin that would gather up the crumbs that fell from his mouth. With his cap drawn across, like a child who does not know how to protect himself from the sun, and the phrase “Jesus is my home”, “Jesus is my buddy, my companion, my pal, my colleague”. In the midst of his sick confreres, he became a witness of the God who asks his disciples and missionaries: “Become like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven”. Let us pray that the Lord will receive him into the eternal dwelling places. Peace in his grave and Glory in heaven.



Father John Frederick MATTHEWS, S.M.M.

(1926 – 2015)

died in Thornton, Merseyside (England), on 22 January 2015,
aged 88 with 69 years of religious profession.

John Frederick Matthews was born on 25 September 1926 in Blackpool, in Lancashire, the son of Sidney Matthews and Mary Helen Barry, and was baptised on 10 October 1926 in St Cuthbert’s church in Blackpool. He was confirmed on 16 June 1935 at St John Vianney’s, Blackpool.

After his primary schooling in Blackpool, Fred went to Montfort College in Romsey, where he received his secondary education from 1938 until 1944. He entered the novitiate of the Montfort Missionaries in Ashurst, Hampshire, in 1944, and made his first religious profession there on 27 September 1945. He then began his studies in philosophy at Leagram Hall, Chipping, in Lancashire, where the English scholasticate had been established after the return of the English students from France in 1940. When the scholasticate moved in October 1946 to Church Stretton in Shropshire, Fred continued his studies in philosophy and theology there. He made his perpetual profession in Church Stretton on 8 September 1950, and a short time later (23 September) was ordained Subdeacon, then Deacon on 6

October. His ordination to the priesthood was brought forward as his mother was dying, and it took place in St Cuthbert's, Blackpool (the church where he had been baptised) on 7 October 1950.

Father Fred's first obedience, in 1951, was to Montfort College in Romsey to teach Latin and French. Then he was sent to Southampton University in 1955, to study for a degree. He obtained his BA degree in Philosophy, Latin, French and Spanish in 1958. During the time he was at the University he lived at Nazareth House in Southampton, and acted as chaplain to the Sisters of Nazareth. In 1958 he returned to Montfort College, Romsey, to teach Latin, French and Roman History, a post he held until 1965.

In 1965 he was sent to Barrhead in Scotland to be director of the new hostel seminary that the Province had opened there, and also to act as Vocations Director for Scotland. One year later, however, he returned to Montfort College in Romsey to be Superior and headmaster of the school, a post he held until 1970.

In 1970, Father Fred became the first Provincial Superior to be elected by the confreres of the Province of Great Britain and Ireland (those preceding him having been appointed by the Superior General). He was re-elected in 1976, so was Provincial for a total of 12 years. During his time as Provincial, the Provincial residence was moved from Liverpool to London, initially to Kilburn.

In 1975, Father Fred was made President of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors for England and Wales, an appointment that was renewed in 1981. As such he greeted Pope John Paul II on behalf of all the Religious of England and Wales on the occasion of the Pope's visit to England in 1982.

When his second term as Provincial ended in 1982, Father Fred moved to Liverpool, where he was appointed by Archbishop Worlock to be Episcopal Vicar for Religious for the Archdiocese. He was also a member of the Archbishop's Council. He held these two offices for many years, and so was well-known to all the Religious and priests of Liverpool Archdiocese. During this period, for a few years, he also took on the responsibility of the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Gateacre, which had been entrusted to the Montfort Missionaries. When he finally retired at about the age of 82, he returned to the community in Liverpool, but continued to serve some of the local convents for a few years, until ill health made it necessary for him to enter the retirement home, Nazareth House, in Crosby. As his health deteriorated, he was taken into Hospice (St Joseph's Hospice), where he died on 22 January 2015. He is remembered with great affection by many people, especially the Religious and former Religious that he helped during his years as Episcopal Vicar for Religious. May he rest in peace!



Father Louis SALAÜN, S.M.M.
(1932 – 2015)

died in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France) on 26 January 2015,
aged 82 with 62 years of religious profession.

Louis-Georges-Marie Salaün was born on 12 April 1932 in Ploudalmézeau (Finistère) of Jean-François Salaün and Françoise Perrot. He was baptized on 14 April 1932 at Ploudalmézeau and confirmed on 21 May 1945 at La Chartreuse d'Auray (Morbihan).

From 1943 to 1951, Louis did his secondary studies at the Apostolic School of the Calvary of Pontchâteau where he left for the novitiate at Celles sur Belle (Deux Sèvres) where he made first profession on 8 September 1952.

He began his philosophy studies at Chézelles (1952-1953) which he completed at the scholasticate at Montfort-sur-Meu (1953-1954). He then undertook his military service at Tours (Indre et Loire) from May 1954 to March 1956. Then he returned to Montfort-sur-Meu for his theology. He was appreciated for his musical abilities (he even made a record with Fr. Jean Robert).

The year 1959 saw his perpetual profession in the Basilica at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (August 15th) and, from the hands of Mgr. Puset, SMM, bishop of Tamatave (Madagascar), the sub-diaconate (16 August in the Basilica), diaconate (20 September Montfort-sur-Meu) and priesthood ordination (18 October at Montfort-sur-Meu).

After a brief time at the mission house in Angoulême (May 1960 – September 1960), Fr. Louis Salaün was professor of the 4th year at the Apostolic School of the Calvary of Pontchâteau for one year. Then he left for Poitiers for mathematical studies at the university (1961-1966). He resumed teaching: Rezé les Nantes in the seminary of the Naudières (1966-1968), at the Calvary of Pontchâteau (1968-1970).

In 1970, Father Louis received his obedience for Spain: as professor at the « Colegio Montfort » at Loeches (1970-1976). He did not merely teach mathematics: he educated the young, teaching them to walk in the pathway of human values and solidarity. Then he became the one responsible for the scholastics at the house of Andrés Tamayo in Madrid (1976 to February 1978). From 1978 (February) to 1997, he was at the house in Madrid, calle Boltaña. Fr. Louis Salaün was named regional superior of Spain for 4 mandates from 1975 to 1989. He encouraged the confreres to witness in the midst of non-believing people and those far from the Church. More than a superior, he was a companion, smiling, always available, a cook and launderer, a councillor open to the signs of the times...

Teaching mathematics was not Fr. Salaün's only passion; indeed, he undertook an enormous work, precise and precious in Montfortian Spirituality by editing, in Spanish, the complete works of St. Louis-Maire de Montfort (with Fr. Pio Suarez, SMM). He also collaborated with the Spanish version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (under the supervision of Mgr. José Manuel Estepa Llaurens, today cardinal) and creating an electronic concordance of the Complete Works of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort in French.

It was during his time as regional superior of Spain that Fr. Salaün launched with the Spanish confreres our foundation in Ecuador in the diocese of Machala in 1984, on the occasion of a voyage to Colombia. Mgr. Néstor Herrera Heredia, bishop emeritus of

Machala, who received Fr. Louis in his Diocese, said of him that he was a priest who was virtuous, with burning apostolic zeal, with a clear vision of Church that integrated pastoral and human development, giving preference to the poor and marginalized, a priest who could give example to new generations of missionaries. Fr. Louis was always stirred by our mission in Ecuador; he lived it as if he were present among our missionaries in their visits to the neighbourhoods, the basic ecclesial communities, or out in the campos (suburb). He made numerous visits to Ecuador.

In January 1998 a new orientation was given to Father Salaün: he was named provincial bursar and re-joined the community of rue Beaunier in Paris. Unfortunately, it was at this moment that he was the victim of a cerebral vascular accident that completely upturned his life (1999). After a period of rehabilitation, he moved to the Paris community of la Tombe-Issoire (January 2000). He was rather handicapped on the level of speech, and lost a good part of his “mathematical” abilities. But he kept intact his sense of service and the gift of himself. He did not let himself be beaten down by his illness; he overcame it by changing his ministry: he began a new vocation – he became the cook at the provincial house during the week and at the Tombe-Issoire on Sundays and Feastdays... A new and demanding ministry like cooking! Noon and evening, every day... (One day he said that since he could no longer work as a « father », he became a « brother »). He loved to please and receive guests... One could long remember his menus from Sundays and Feastdays, his “far Breton”, his apple tarts, not to mention his Spanish specialties... He took great pleasure in his cooking... where from time to time a characteristic word in Breton would escape his lips when a tool or a bit of meat fell from his hands, which became more incapable and rigid due to his infirmity... He also kept for a very long time his sense of humour and great little stories...

In March 2009, Fr. Salaün felt he could no longer remain at the Tombe-Issoire, and he joined the community of Saint-Esprit in Saint-Laurent. Some months after his arrival, he said that his health had improved: he could climb stairs, things he could not do; he thought that his cardiologist in the country was better than the one in Paris... But got bored... and wanted to still offer some service, notably with the cooking...

Bit by bit, his health went down; communication became more and more difficult; many handicaps appeared. In mid-December 2014 the decision was taken to move him to the community « Marie-Louise » at the Daughters of Wisdom, where he could benefit from more specialized treatment and also proximity to his sister, Agnes, a Daughter of Wisdom (who had always been very faithful in visiting him at the Saint-Esprit); a decision that was not easy... It was in the Montfortian Family that Father Louis went to join his family in heaven, surrounded by the essential. With his illness, he had learned to empty himself of many things. At La Sagesse, he had carried only the essential: a ceramic cross the colour of the sea, a little cross from Colombia that he always wore, the statue of the Virgin Mary sculpted by Father de Montfort (Notre Dame de la Route), some family photographs (whom he loved very much), and a leather map of Ecuador: the sum of an entire life as a Montfort missionary...

May he who so often put on his apron to serve others, this day be seated at the Table of the Kingdom!



Father Attilio CORNA, S.M.M.
(1924 – 2015)

died on 10 February 2015 at Redona – Bergamo (Italy)
aged 91 years with 71 years of religious profession.

Attilio was born on 9 February 1924 at Mapello (Bg). The example to two brothers who had responded to the Lord's call – Umberto among the Montforts and Domenico for the Servites – kindled in him the desire to imitate them. Everything seemed to be orientating him toward the diocesan seminary, but in October 1937 they opened wide the doors of Villa S. Maria for him. After secondary school, he continued formation in the novitiate at Belgirate (No), and professed his first vows on 8 September 1943. In the scholasticate of Loreto (An) he attends to the study of philosophy and theology. He made perpetual vows on 8 September 1948 and on 12 March 1949, in the Basilica of the Santa Casa (Loreto), he was ordained a priest.

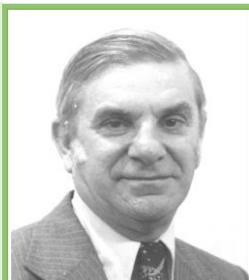
He attained a license in Sacred Theology at the *Angelicum* in Rome and from 1950 to 1958, with his lively style, he taught philosophy and theology at the scholasticate in Loreto. Even though still young, in 1958 obedience called him to lead the Apostolic School, when the aspirants to montfortian life were numerous. In 1964 he was named Provincial Superior and carried out his service in those years not easy, but rich in excitement, after the Council.

His mandate finished, Father Attilio was taken by a “vagabond spirit”. At first, he accepted the proposal of the Superior General and, together with his nephew, Fr. Michelangelo, threw himself into the task of the foundation of the Montfortian presence in India. From 1972 till 1982 he was in the front line, devoted to the formation of the first candidates, regardless of the difficulty in learning the language, adapting to the customs and the definition of the project itself, as well finding the economic funding.

His presence in India ended in a rather brusque manner, and Father Attilio left for Malawi at the request of the bishop, Mgr. Assolari, for the seminary in Mangochi. In 1986 he was in Lesotho, alongside Father Villa. Always full of enthusiasm, he dreamed of opening a seminary for Montfortian vocations, and suffered that the project was not realized. With zeal he diffused the spirituality of the True Devotion, editing in the local language the Treatise. From 1996 to 1998, working with the *Foundation Migrantes*, he lent his services as chaplain to the Italians who worked in the great projects, particularly in the construction of the dike of the Katse Dam. Padre Attilio left Lesotho definitively in 1998, but a nostalgia for missionary experiences always remained alive in him. Generous in his pastoral ministry, he was a brilliant preacher who knew how to capture the attention of his listeners. Easily able to make contact with people, he appreciated community life and “wise” conversation.

Returning to Italy, he resided in the community of Caravaggio and of Treviglio, and offered his service for confessions at the local Marian sanctuaries. With his health ever more precarious, he went to Villa Montfort in 2005. He wrote in a letter: “Above all, I owe the Good God my gratitude because his mercy never failed me, even as he underrated my unworthiness... I go willingly to Redona, to the school where my religious and priestly vocation first bloomed, and where I must prepare a happy conclusion to my life”. He passed

his last years serenely, in prayer and a style of life rather withdrawn. Padre Attilio expired on 19 February 2015, at the age of 91. He rests in the cemetery of Mapello (Bg), his birth place, with his brother, Father Umberto, and his nephew, Father Michelangelo.



Father Laurent PROULX, S.M.M.

(1922 – 2015)

died on 3 March 2015 at Trois-Rivières (Canada),
aged 92 years with 72 years of religious profession

Laurent Proulx was born on 8 August 1922 in Baieville, QC. He pronounced his first vows at novitiate of Sainte Marie, Nicolet, on 15 August 1942 and was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of Ottawa by Mgr. Alexandre Vachon on 21 February 1948.

After four years as professor at our Seminary Montfort in Papineauville, our confrere spent another year as professor at our Scholasticate St-Jean in Ottawa.

For a period of seven years, till 1960, he devoted himself as vicar in our parish St-Joseph in Montreal. During the years 1956-1966 he was chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom at the school Louise-Trichet in Montreal.

For two years he was assistant director of retreats at our Marian Center in Montreal. After that, for two years, our confrere was named vicar at the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Ottawa. From 1970 till 1976 he was superior and pastor of our parish of the Presentation, in Dorval.

For a period of fourteen years, till 1990, he was the local bursar for the residence of the Sanctuary Marie-Reine-des-Cœurs, in Montréal.

For another fourteen year period he was named superior of our community at Nicolet, devoting himself to our sick and aged confreres, all the while being chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom in their residence nearby.

From 2004 he was in retirement, at Nicolet, then at Cénacle St-Pierre, Pointe-du-Lac, Trois-Rivières.

Our confrere was by nature timid and reserved, but of a temperament pleasant with the confreres. He was dedicated in his different commitments. Let us give thanks to God for all the good that our dear Laurent accomplished in the Company of Mary and in the Church.



Father Aleginio VACA ÁVILA, S.M.M.
(1934 – 2015)

died on 21 March 2015 in the road to Villavicencio-Meta (Colombia),
aged 80 years with 61 years of religious profession.

Father Aleginio Vaca Ávila [Alejo] was born on 13 September 1934 in Macanal, Boyacá, son of Don Aleginio Vaca Martín and María Victoria Ávila Ramírez. He was plunged into the baptismal waters of the Christian faith on 20 May 1935, barely eight months old. Still nearly a child, he entered the seminary of the Company of Mary, graduating with the bachelors' degree in 1952. When he was 19 he began his preparation for Religious Consecration in San Juanito, Meta. There, after a year of prayer, silence, study and deep piety, he professed his first vows on 2 February 1954.

Higher studies, corresponding to Philosophy and Theology were realized at the Seminary in Albán, Cundinamarca, which he finished in 1959, the year he also made his perpetual profession. On 7 August 1960 he was ordained priest in Choachí.

Newly ordained, obedience gave him his first mission: as professor and guide to the young men in the Seminary at Choachí. He remained there till 1961. In 1962 he showed his interest and concern to prepare himself better for the mission. Living in the Provincial House in Bogotá, he undertook pastoral studies years later and many springtimes more, we will see him graduate as a technologist in Renewable Natural Resources; later he will receive from the University of Santo Tomas a licentiate in Philosophy and Religious Sciences. To finish, with the turn of the century, he received a post-graduate degree in art and folklore from the University del Bosque.

We return to 1963, where we see the new professor at the Seminary of Choachí. He will be there till 1968. It was a large part of his life, in which he confronted with faith and courage the changes produced by the celebration of Vatican Council II. Leaving teaching, he joined the Itinerant Mission with the Team of Manizales. It is 1969; a short period that will mark his life. The following year he will return again to Choachí as professor, where he will remain for five more years. In 1976 he is sent to Spain, engaged in formation, youth and preaching; he will stay until 1979. He undertakes there the construction of the Foyer de Charité. Also in Spain in 1980, he is named vicar in the Parish of San Blas in Madrid. The following year he is named Vocational Promotor in a place that already was showing great signs of religious decadence and where the new waves of thinking were destroying any vocational efforts and dreams for the youth of Europe. Two years in this service were enough for him to know that he must return to his beloved America. Before leaving he took a year to live an experience with the *Focolari* Movement, experiences that we always heard him speak of with joy and passion.

Following his return to Colombia in 1984, the vast savannas of the Vichada welcomed him at the Internate of *Santa Teresita del Tuparro*. A time of searching, formation of the indigenous peoples, missionary commitment without measure. There were five years of evangelization and promotion of the *Sikuani* people. The boarding school was a place of human and Christian formation, where friendship and authority were mixed in one proposition: to offer quality education to the native and colonial youth. But our dear Alejo could not remain only there. In 1989, he was sent to the municipality of La Primavera.

An epoch of great travels and artisanal life. You can still find the cave where he aged the wine that he prepared with his own forces, this untiring missionary.

His time in the Vichada was still not over. In 1991 he was sent to the lovely post of Sunape, on the River Vichada. He constructed road projects and bridges; he evangelized and accompanied the struggles and sufferings of the indigenous peoples. Now it is 1992, and he left never to return.

He was sent to Bogotá for a course in Itepal. In 1993 he was named formator at the Postulancy. Here he encountered various young men who were nourished by his teaching and who now are priests. Good fruits to offer to the Lord when he meets him face to face.

Many years had passed since Padre Alejo left Choachí. He left it filled with youth and now he returns there. But it is no longer the same. The young men have gone, the classrooms are forgotten and slowly aging. The springtime years have passed and now comes an autumn that seems unending. What to do? Work! Five years promoting the spiritual life, formation of youth, and the revitalization, including the physical plant, of this center for diffusion of the Montfortian heritage.

Now we are in the year 2000 and Alejo is the parish priest of *Nuestra Señora de Belén*. In 2003 he is named parochial vicar of *El Espíritu Santo* de Villavicencio. A brief service because the following year he takes a sabbatical. He needs to encounter the Master, whom since childhood has loved him, called him and sent him forth. Finishing his time of transfiguration, he goes to Paipa, Boyaca as chaplain to the *Foyer de Charité*. Many years of intense work lead him to follow the path where obedience leads, and this time it is for the Parish San Luis Beltrán in Medellín: Legion of Mary, visits to the sick, confessions are the services that mark that time. In 2013 he is sent as vicar to the parish *El Sagrado Corazón* of Acacías. “Padre Alejo has already confessed the entire parish three times... he is always available!” are the words of one happy woman who offered testimony before the community of the missionary ardour of this apostle of Mary.

Although he used to say that he would rest only in Eternal Life, he finally decided to take a few days of vacation to spend time with his family, his friends, and himself. After presiding at the wedding of one of his nephews in Bogotá, and sharing with the family, moved by his great sense of responsibility, he decided to travel last Saturday the 21st during the night, in company with his brother and friend, Ramiro. One kilometre after having left the tunnel of Buenavista he met, unexpectedly and quickly, cold and languid death. He did not wish to walk alone to the eternal dwelling places; he went hand in hand with his brother. Here, sadness and desolation. There, happiness and jubilation.

There remains the witness of a strong man, a fighter; brother and confessor; companion and friend; faithful disciple of Montfort and dearest child of Mary.

Alejo, hand yourself over to God, with clear voice, with loud voice, your constant prayer for vocations, and ask the Master of the harvest to send valiant laborers, daring and available. Peace in the grave and glory in heaven!



Father Adrianus STOLK, S.M.M.

(1922 – 2015)

died on 12 April 2015 in Valkenburg a/d Geul (Netherlands),
aged 92 with 70 years of religious profession.

Adriaan Stolck was born on July 19, 1922 in The Hague. He came in 1937 to Schimmert, in the minor seminary, and became a Montfortian on September 8, 1944. From 1944 to 1951 he studied at the major seminary in Oirschot, where he was ordained a priest on March 28, 1950 by Mgr. Theunissen, smm, bishop of Blantyre.

In 1952 he moved to the Belgian Congo. In 1967 he returned permanently to the Netherlands. He worked in Vlaardingen and in the Montfort parish in Tilburg. In 1972 he was appointed in Egmond aan Zee. As a 72-year-old, there was a new challenge for him as house priest with the Sisters of Regina Carmeli in Sittard. Aged 90 he really retired, joined the community in Vroenhof, where he died on April 12th 2015.

Adriaan fulfilled the wish of his parents to become a priest. In this he followed his older brother Gerard. In their family Our Lady of Lourdes had a special place. It was his firm belief that he was born on the intercession of Mary to become a Montfortian and was allowed to receive the priesthood. About his ordination Adriaan himself says: "This was a joyous achievement of the goal, for which I had prepared myself for years. It was always my wish to be able to work as priest."

That wish was fulfilled the moment Adriaan received the appointment for the former Belgian Congo. About him being a missionary, he said: "*A missionary does not have to tell natural people God exists. They know it. But we may further complement. Feeling supported by a mission Christ gave us. It is noteworthy that man is actually naturally inclined into Christianity. We may name what is expected in the bud. The impetus delivers themselves, or rather God in them...*"

Adriaan had to go through the Simba rebellion, and he was overjoyed when liberated by Belgian paratroopers. Back in his own country, he took time to rest. When a relative peace returned to the Congo, he went back. But this only lasted briefly. Fear did not let him go, and when danger of revolt threatened, he returned permanently to the Netherlands.

After spending a few years as a chaplain in Vlaardingen and Tilburg, he was appointed parish priest in the Montfortian-parish in Egmond aan Zee. Almost 25 years he has been able to work there. At this time, he kept his best memories. It pained him to say goodbye. But luckily, he found a pastoral field of work again with the Sisters of the Reflection Centre Regina Carmeli. He was their home priest, celebrating mass for sisters and guests in much loved reflection gatherings. His spiritual thoughts expressed before the daily Eucharistic celebrations and collected in the book "Aanzet tot gebed" show his intense belief and his meticulous choosing the right words.

When he was 90, he allowed himself his pension and went to live in the community in Vroenhof, where he soon found his home. Around the turn of the year his health began to deteriorate. Especially the last two weeks it went fast. After loving care, he died on the morning of the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

In Adriaan we lose a warm confrere, someone who was inspired by our founder Montfort, especially the Marian area. We will miss Adriaan: his satisfied glance, his deeply felt faith, his trust in Mary. All this just came forward with the celebration of his 65th anniversary as a priest on March 27. Adriaan enjoyed all the attention. Until the end he was very grateful. We are grateful towards Adriaan, who is surrounded now by the mercy of God. On Friday, April 17th, we celebrated the life of Adriaan Stolk at the chapel of Vroenhof. After which we brought him to the montfortian cemetery in Schimmert.



Father Roland GAILLOT, S.M.M.
(1924 – 2015)

died on 3 May 2015 at Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France),
aged 90 with 71 years of religious profession

Thinking about the life of Fr. Roland Gaillot, there is one word that floats above many others to describe his life: ardent. Roland put full ardor in all that he undertook. He was animated by this ardor like that of the fire those who burn with love and cannot stop themselves from shouting it everywhere. Roland was one of those men dreamed of by Father de Montfort in his Prayer for Missionaries: *an apostle all aflame*.

He was an ardent being who knew how to fire up his hearers; we have had this experience so often during his monthly homilies to the Community as well as in his repartees “tinkled out” at our table in the refectory.

No doubt, he had drawn his dynamism from his family. Born in the Voges at Epinal in 1924, he came from a numerous family of 11 children. This dynamism was kept up first in the minor seminary at Pelousey from 1934-1942, then at Chezelles in 1943, and at the scholasticate at Montfort sur Meu from 1943-49. Ordained a priest in 1949, he became an ardent missionary in France, first at the residence in Josselin for 9 years, then at La Chartreuse d’Auray for 5 years. He also became an ardent pastor, especially in the sector of Chinon for 15 years. He rediscovered his itinerancy in 1997, passing each in turn from the residence of Notre Dame du Chene, to Marillais, to come to the rest house at St Laurent in 2009.

Roland, an ardent man, an apostle all afire. Ardent still now- in the last message he addressed to us he said: “You can only communicate the fire if it exists and continues to exist; you have to know how to sustain it.” So then, let us follow his counsel, let us sustain this flame that is within us.



**Brother Rémi (Pierre HERLÉDAN), S.M.M.
(1939 – 2015)**

died on 3 June 2015 at Saint Laurent sur Sèvre (France),
aged 76 with 58 years of religious profession.

Brother Pierre Herledan, known especially as Br. Rémi, was born at Nizon on 2 May 1939, his parents, Pierre Herlédan and Marie Cariou, were farmers. He was baptized on 6 May 1939 and confirmed on 20 April 1950 at Nizon in Finistère.

He did his secondary studies at Pontchâteau from September 1951 to July 1955. He entered the Postulancy at Chézelles on 18 September 1955 and entered the Novitiate on 18 March 1956. He made his first profession at Chézelles on 19 March 1957 and his perpetual profession at Pontchâteau on 19 March 1962.

He began as a nurse at St. Laurent sur Sèvre from 1957-1958, he then moved to Pontchâteau from 1958 to 1968. From 1968 till 1969 he was in Rome and returned to Pontchâteau from 1969 to 2014 as secretary and economic assistant. He worked with Fathers Rémi Louvet and Hubert Davy.

During his time at Pontchâteau, he was responsible for the Nantes Center of the Montfortian Pilgrimage for 28 years, until December 2002.

Across all those years, Rémi visited and worked in all the cities and villages, the hamlets in his center ... From the Pays de Retz, passing through the Vignoble Nantais and the banks of the Erdre. In these territories, all year long, he visited the sick and met with the Clubs of the 3rd Age.

By mid-January each year, he arrived from Pontchâteau to the rue Frédéric Cailliaud (near the gare de Nantes) for the preparation of the Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Much work was done in the shadows: telephone calls (Rémi knew everybody!), inscriptions for the pilgrimage, preparation for the voyage with the composition of the train cars SNCF, and, which will make many people laugh, “without errors in the return from Lourdes, the platforms and tracks”, the placing of pilgrims on the train, the lodging in the hotels at Lourdes. All was planned on paper, everything on file cards, because he did not have a computer. Not forgetting, for sure, the compatibility of the various handwritings.

He often used to say: “What an affair, this affair!!!” A small group of “young folk”, at that time! came to help check in, prepare the luggage, and just help Rémi. Thank you, Rémi! For all the moments shared! All of us, happy to have surrounded you and been of service. In the midst of work, he loved to sing: “How lovely are your works... *Que Tes oeuvres sont grandes!* O Lord, dear Lord, you fill us with joy.” Thank you, Rémi for your witness as a brother. I know that you were proud of that, and thank you for your serenity in these last times. May the Lord be grateful to you for all that, welcoming you into his house.



Father Giovanni ROSSETTO, S.M.M.
(1934 – 2015)

died on 7 July 2015 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 81 with 62 years of Religious Profession.

Giovanni Rossetto was born on 8 January 1934, in Grantorto (Pd). As a youth he entered the Apostolic School of Bergamo, where he did his first studies. The novitiate year took place in Castiglione (To) and he made first profession on 8 September 1952. He followed the years of philosophy and theology at Loreto, where he was ordained priest on 1st March 1958.

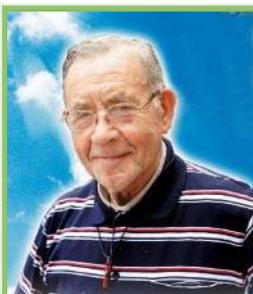
He always manifested a passion for studies, and was invited to Rome, where he first earned a license in theology at the *Angelicum*, and then undertook biblical studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, residing in the community of the Circonvallazione Appia and the Via Romagna.

With the scholasticate transferred from Loreto to Rome, from 1962 till 1965 he taught biblical exegesis for the theologians and Greek for the lower classes. During the year 1966 he was sent to the United States, to the scholasticate in Litchfield (CT), to give a course in exegesis. Returning, he was again in the community of the Circonvallazione Appia (1966-68) and then at the Via Romagna (1969-76). In this period, he taught at various roman institutions: the Gregorian, the Biblicum, and other scholasticates. He also acquired a laureate in Ancient Letters from the University La Sapienza (1978). This was the time in which he proposed with other teachers to give life to new institutions of ecclesiastical studies, but without success.

In 1979 he was welcomed to the General House, and in 1983 he went to the community of the parish of San Luigi Maria di Montfort, still in Rome, where he was named Superior. His mandate finished, he was transferred to the community of Roma – Via Cori, where he would remain until his final years (1987-2014). Here, his activities included study, teaching, parish activities (at Grotti di Cittaducale, Rieti). In Rieti he was also animator of the *Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose*. In the community of Via Cori he was named Superior for two mandates (1987-93) and for another period, as Responsible (2012-14).

His passion for studies and in particular for the Holy Scripture, made him available to animate summer courses also outside Rome. He accepted to preach the spiritual exercises for the confreres in Peru and in Malawi, transmitting his enthusiasm for the Word of God. At the same time, he was happy to learn from them the values of inculturation and of openness to the new needs of the Church and the world.

For a few years he suffered from illness, to which he initially did not give too much importance, which progressed inexorably. With serenity and a touch of humour habitual with him, he accepted in the end to be transferred to Bergamo – Villa Montfort, where he could receive better care. He was there less than a year, dying on 7 July 2015. He was taken to Grantorto for burial.



Father Tarcisio Battista ZANGA, S.M.M.
(1925 – 2015)

died on 9 July 2015 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 89 with 71 years of religious profession.

Battista Tarcisio Zanga was born on 6 November 1925 in Pradalunga (Bg). As a youth he entered the Apostolic School at Bergamo, where he began his middle studies. After three years, due to a persistent headache, he interrupted his studies and dedicated himself to manual work, as a candidate for a lay brother. As such, he completed the novitiate at Belgirate (No) and made profession on 8 September 1943.

Returning to the community of Bergamo, he remained there until 1960, dedicating himself especially to the printing done then for the publications of the Marian Center, most especially for the review *Madre e Regina*, which was born right in Bergamo after the canonization of Louis Marie de Montfort. In 1961 he was sent to the missionary community of Tecchiena di Alatri (Fr), recently opened, and remained there till 1968, dedicating himself to the house, but also to catechetics and the animation of youth and children.

He then attended the theology school at the Lateran University, with the desire to go deeper into Christian doctrine, but also to proceed to the diaconate, at the invitation of bishop Ottaviani. Instead, after a year spent in the parish of Via Cori, he was transferred to the mission procure in Caravaggio, working per the missionary exhibitions (1971-74). Then a series of circumstances led him to take up again his youthful ideal of becoming a priest, and with this aim, he was welcomed into the seminary of Genova, where he completed theological studies (1974-77). He was ordained deacon by Cardinal Siri on 29 January 1976; and at Bergamo he received priestly ordination from Mgr. Clemente Gaddi, on 18 December 1976, in the church of the sanctuary of *Maria Regina dei Cuori*.

Shortly afterward he departed for Peru as a missionary, where he remained for 35 years. In Peru, at the same time, his brother, Father Ernesto, also a Motfortian, and his sister, Sr. Giovanna, a Daughter of Wisdom, were also working there. Another sister, a Daughter of Wisdom was in Italy. Father Tarcisio dedicated himself in various zones of the parish ministry, care of the youth, his special vocation, constructing or restoring churches, Way of the Cross, centers for catechism and assistance for the poorest. He was proud of his priesthood, which he could finally exercise with zeal, faith and conviction. He began to experience difficulties in health, and every so often had to return to Italy for care, but he left again always with a firm decision.

In 2013 he was forced to make a longer stay at Bergamo – Villa Montfort, but he still within him had not given up the idea of Peru, where he desired to return, wanting to finish out his priestly missionary work. He waited for this in full hope, but instead his forces became less and the care he needed became more intense and confining. After a final illness, he passed away on 9 July 2015. He was buried in the family tomb at Pradalunga.



Father Aldo LUCON, S.M.M.
(1927 – 2015)

died on 10 July 2015 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 87 with 64 years of religious profession.

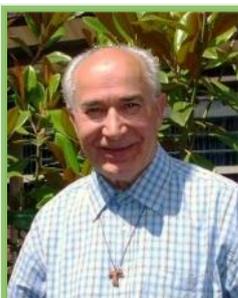
Aldo Lucon was born on 9 October 1927 in San Giorgio in Bosco (Pd). He finished his first studies at the Apostolic School in Bergamo, before being admitted to the novitiate at Castiglione Torinese, in the year 1949-50. He made first profession on 8 September 1950 at Castiglione. He moved then to the Scholasticate of Loreto (An) for studies in philology and theology. He was ordained priest in the Basilica of the Santa Casa, on 25 February 1956. He remained at Loreto, with the task of bursar of the student house, from ordination until 1961. These were the last years of the Montfortian presence in Loreto, because the new scholasticate was being constructed at Rome and was ready to open in September 1961.

With the closing of the house at Loreto, Father Aldo was sent to the novitiate at Castiglione Torinese, again as bursar. But he was there only one year when the novitiate was also transferred to Rome, in the same house of the Via Prenestina. Father Aldo now assumed the function of bursar for the two communities. It was with him that the house was completed in the following years, with the various added parts and a more systematic functioning. This was the time when the students reached as many as 40-50, with the novitiate added. The church was often sought out for weddings. This was his service until 1980, that is for 18 years. Besides being bursar, Father Aldo dedicated himself to ministry in the zone of the Prenestina, where he was known by many.

His spirit of service and self-denial characterized him in the eyes of all; his love for the Congregation brought him to watch over the material goods, in a spirit of poverty and wise precision. Within the Congregation he had his brother, Father Ivo, and a sister with the Daughters of Wisdom.

In 1980 he was called to Bergamo, to the community of Villa Montfort to help the aged and sick confreres, where he was named superior (1980-84), and where he remained even afterwards for some time as vice-superior, and then as a confrere ready to help with any service that he was needed for. He spent 35 years in this community. Father Aldo was known as a confessor and spiritual director, greatly sought out and appreciated, keeping on his part maximum discretion, humility and availability. In the community of Villa Montfort he was a presence of charity and support for many sick and aged confreres.

Although he himself had cardiac problems for a long while, death seemed to overtake him unexpectedly and suddenly, on 10 July 2015. He was taken for burial in the cemetery of Bergamo.



Father Ugo PACCAGNELLA, S.M.M.
(1932 – 2015)

died on 18 July 2015 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 83 with 62 years of religious profession.

Ugo Paccagnella was born on 4 July 1932 in Sarmeola di Rubano (Pd). He entered while still a youth into the Apostolic School of Bergamo for his middle studies; he completed his novitiate at Castiglione (To), where he made first profession on 8 September 1952. Then followed studies at Loreto, where he was ordained priest on 1st March 1958.

His first destination was for the community of Naples, to study natural sciences (1958-61). Then was called to the student house in Rome to teach this material to classes of the Liceo. He was both formator and spiritual guide in the years of the ecclesial vivacity provoked by the celebration of the Second Vatican Council.

In 1968 he was named superior at Reggio Calabria, for two mandates, where he again worked in the apostolic school, with a numerous presence of young men. This duty completed, he was called again to the student house in Rome, this time as spiritual director (1977-79). He profited from this by taking courses in pedagogy at the Salesian University. Only two years passed there, when he was sent to the community of Treviglio as superior. Also here he remained only a short time, since in 1980 he was elected Provincial Superior, for two mandates of three years (1980-86).

As part of his animation of the Province he made various foreign trips to visit the confreres. His service ended, he returned to Calabria, first at Locri, where the bishop had requested him as penitentiary in the Cathedral (1986-89), then at Reggio Calabria, as superior of the community that now was dedicating itself to welcoming people for spiritual exercises. For three years he was also episcopal Vicar in the diocese (1991-94).

In 1994 the Superior General asked for a presence in Haiti, to help in that Province's novitiate and he remained there till 1998. It was an experience he would always carry in his heart. Returning to Italy, he was novice master in Santeramo (1998-2005). Once again, he was offered an international experience for formation, this time in Colombia, where he remained from 2005-2009, as *socius* at the novitiate of Paipa, first as a provincial novitiate and then for all Latin America.

He returned again to Italy, to the community of Arbizzano but only for a year, because in 2010 a progressive paralyzing illness necessitated his transfer to Bergamo –Villa Montfort. For some years he was still able to move around, and thus went at times to other communities where he had been before: with his long time living in Haiti, he began an aid operation to help the Province and the population of that country, which solicits the generosity of many for continuity in the aid. Only in his last months was it impossible for him to move about, the paralysis had become so bad. He died on 18 July 2015 and was buried in Rubano (Pd).



Father Josef JACOBS, S.M.M.
(1935 – 2015)

died on 20 July 2015, at the Elisabeth hospital in Trier (Germany),
aged 80 with 57 years of religious profession.

Josef (Jo) was born on 15 May 1935 in Eygelshoven, the Netherlands. After his primary school he started a training as carpenter. But he felt more and more drawn towards a calling as a priest and religious man. So he went to the montfortian minor Seminary Ste Marie in Schimmert, the Netherlands, in 1950. When he finished his studies there he started his montfortian noviciate in Meerssen, the Netherlands, and did his first profession on 8 September 1957. He finished his philosophy and theology studies at the montfortian seminary in Oirschot, the Netherlands. On 8 September 1962 he did his perpetual profession and was ordained priest on 24 March 1953.

He did a pastoral year in Mours, France, where he expanded his knowledge of French in view of his future mission in Congo. In 1964 he was sent to Isangi in the midst of the rebellion. After 6 months in prison he was liberated and he could go home.

From 1965 till 1972 he was a religious teacher in Heerlen, the Netherlands, and for the next three years he worked for the montfortian Missionswerk in Salzburg, Austria. For a short period, he was a religious teacher once more in Marienheide, Germany. Finally, he went to Butzweiler and Aachen in 1976 to become a parish priest. This was his final destination: much appreciated and well-loved he remained a parish priest for 33 years in the villages of the Eiffel.

In March 2009 he retired. He remained in his parsonage in Butzweiler and was always happy to be in pastoral service. But because of his increasing dementia his world became smaller and smaller. When his housekeeper who had taken care of him for years became ill in March 2015 there was no other option than to put him in a senior retirement home in Trierweiler. But his health kept on decreasing and finally he was hospitalized in Trier beginning in July. After several depressions and a stroke his condition deteriorated very fast. In the morning of 20 July our Lord of life and death called him back into his Realm.

We lost a dear confrere but grateful for his life we hand him over to our Creator. May the Lord reward him for all he has done in His vineyard.



Father Dorio-Marie HUOT, S.M.M.
(1914 – 2015)

died on 31 July 2015 in Joliette (Canada),
aged 101 with 81 years of religious profession.

Father Dorio-Marie Huot was born in Sherbrooke on 14 January 1914, and made his first vows in our novitiate of Sainte-Marie in Nicolet. He was ordained a priest on 4 March 1939 in our parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Ottawa, at the hands of Mgr. Ildebrando Antoniutti, who was then the Apostolic Delegate to Canada.

Our confrere was to specialise in Canon Law, so as to be completely at the service of the Church in this particular domain.

He was to be principally the professor of Canon Law, for a period of a dozen years, in our scholasticate of Saint John.

After this, for a period of twenty years, he devoted himself with great competence to the Sacred Congregation of Religious and Secular Institutes, where, from 1968 to 1972, he was to act as Sub-Secretary of this same Congregation.

Afterwards, for more than 15 years, he was to be appointed a Judge of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, while remaining a Consulter for the Congregation of Religious.

Our confrere was recognised for his exceptional memory and his great knowledge concerning the life of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort and his various writings. He was also a very hard worker at the task of organising our archives, whether in Rome or in Montreal.

Four words would sum up his life, four words which I had the privilege of hearing as a kind of secret testament that he wanted to pass on to me because I was his Provincial superior. What are these four words? The Will of God, total abandonment to Christ through Mary, *Totus Tuus*, and the Holy Spirit. The whole ended with a profession of faith: *I believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*. He spoke to me of the Blessed Virgin as though he was experiencing her maternal presence right there with him. Despite his difficulty in speaking and expressing himself, he was very conscious, peaceful and serene.

Father Dorio-Marie Huot died of liver cancer with metastases, towards the end of the afternoon on 31 July, in the infirmary of the Centre Champagneur, run by the Clerks of Saint-Viateur in Joliette. He was 101 years and 7 months old. He would have celebrated 82 years of religious profession this year, and had already celebrated 76 years of priesthood.

May the Blessed Virgin, whom he loved so much, lead him into the joys of Eternity!



Father Theodore MURPHY, S.M.M.

(1926 – 2015)

died on 8 August 2015 at Bay Shore (United States),
aged 88 with 63 years of religious profession.

Father Ted Murphy, son of Michael and Katherine of Huntington Station, NY was born October 27, 1926. He attended Montfort Prep Seminary, Bay Shore, served in the U.S. Army and then attended St. Philip Neri school for Latin near Boston. He completed his Novitiate in Hartford City, Indiana, professing his first vows August 15, 1952. Father Ted studied philosophy and theology at Litchfield, Connecticut and was ordained March 1, 1958.

More than 26 years Fr. Ted's mission work was spent in both Indonesia and Nicaragua. Among the first American Montforts in the mission of Sintang, he learned the language of the people and undertook an almost primitive life of long hours and dug-out river boats, identifying with the people and culture.

Ted was then asked to help establish a new American Montfort mission in Chontales, Nicaragua. At that time there were a number of American Montfort's who gave new life to the Church there, establishing missions in an area where there were no active priests.

Fr. Ted was not a man of fanfare or flashiness, as was easily noted by his threadbare clothes. He never wanted new clothes for himself! Instead, his presence to the confreres and staff of the community was his gift, touched with fidelity and care. Even during his last few years and months, with declining health and difficult illnesses, Ted didn't want anyone to worry about him or to go out of the way on his behalf. Ted was a man of constant prayer, even from the sickbed. Instead, he took his increased limits as a motive for praying the rosary even more fervently.



Father Gnana Prakash CHOWRAPPA, S.M.M.

(1981 – 2015)

died on 9 August 2015, in an accident on the road to Manvi (India),
aged 34 with 13 years of religious profession.

Fr. Gnana Prakash was born on 13 April 1981 in the village called Nagana Halli, situated in H.D. Kote taluk, Mysore district, Karnataka state, India. He was the youngest of the five children of Mr. Chowrappa and Mrs. Juvanamma. After finishing his school in his native village, he joined the Missionaries of the Company of Mary (Montfortians) in Gurumandir (Mysore) a house for the aspirants and postulants, in 1997 and made his first religious commitment at Kanathi, in Chickamagalur district in 2002. He pronounced his final vows on 23 July 2011 in Bangalore and was Ordained on 26 January 2012 in his native village.

After his ordination he accepted his first obedience to work in collaboration with the Jesuit Missionaries in Raichur, in the northern part of Karnataka. He was looking after the poor children who were living in a boarding home and was also attending to the pastoral and social needs of the people. He served the poor of this region, no matter what religion they belonged to, for three full years. He was a true missionary of the church in the footsteps of the Virgin Mary, our Mother and Father De Montfort, our founder. He was a pastor and an educator. He was a brother to the equals, a father figure to the children, a supporter of the girl child, a guide to the oppressed and a defender of the weak. He optimized sheer selfless dedication towards the betterment of the poor in Raichur. He was very sportive and liked to play cricket as a wicket-keeper. He was hard-working and had good relationship with everyone in the community.

Fr. Gnana Prakash left for the heavenly abode on 9 August 2015 in a tragic road accident in the same mission. He was only of 34 years old. His demise is a huge loss for the Montfortians as well as for the mission in which he was working.



Brother Abílio ARAÚJO DE SOUSA, S.M.M.
(1939 – 2015)

died on 12 August 2015 at Fatima (Portugal),
aged 75 with 55 years of religious profession.

Abílio Araujo de Sousa was born on 1st October 1939 to Mme. Maria of Araujo Padtao and Mr. David dos Santos Sousa in Macieira de Rates, Portugal. He was baptized on 9 October in Saint Adrião parish in Macieira of Rates.

He began his novitiate on 8 September 1958, feast day of the Nativity of Mary, at Fatima and made his first profession on 19 March 1960, feast day of Saint Joseph. He made his perpetual profession in the Company of Mary on the same day, but in the year 1965 at Fatima.

In 1969, he specialized himself as a mechanic and immediately put his competence at the service of the mission in Mozambique where he was sent in 1970. In 1974, he returned to Portugal to take charge of various responsibilities. In 1978, he was sent to Rome (Scholasticate and the General House) where he dedicated himself to the studies and to the service of the community. In 1982, he was sent to Malawi where he stayed until the end of 1988 (from October 1985 to 1987, he helped in the renovation of the novitiate house in Uganda). In Malawi, he worked at Ulongwe, Namwera, Utale and Balaka. On 1st January 1989, a new mission began in Zambia at the parish of Kalichero. In 1991, he came back to Portugal initiating new missions on his own land.

A man of prayer, passionate of the mission, multilingual, guide of inscrutable quality, “Energetic”... One of the characteristics more evident was his linguistic capacity, because he was speaking correctly many languages (English, French, Dutch, Chichewa...). In Portugal, (specially at Fatima) he was admired for his various activities that he developed, in the Montfortian seminary –community in which he was living – and in the sanctuary of

Fatima where he worked in various groups – liturgy, choir, guide to the pilgrims (specially strangers), etc. and in the Montfortian archives.

He was a good man with his limitations (like all of us), generous, full of God and essentially “dedication to the service of the Church.”

Brother Abílio (Brother Luís was his religious name) left us on 12 August 2015. Since long time, his body was marked with sickness. The Montfortian community is poor on the earth, but rich in heaven!



**Brother Marcus (Harry CLAESSENS), S.M.M.
(1929 – 2015)**

died on 28 August 2015 at Schimmert (Netherlands),
aged 85 with 60 years of religious profession.

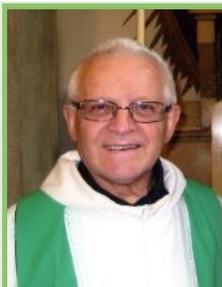
Albertus Henricus Gerardus Claessens was born on November 11, 1929 in Oirlo. He arrived in 1953 at the Montfortians in Meerssen and after his novitiate he made his first vows on 28 April 1955. His one and only appointment was for Ste Marie in Schimmert.

Our confrere Harrie Claessens comes from a family of eight children. After primary school he goes to work on his father's farm. He goes to an agricultural school for some courses. As a conscript soldier he was sent to the former Dutch East Indies at the time of the police actions. Fortunately, he told us, he never had to fire a shot. After his return, he reflects on his future and decides, like Uncle Henk, to become a religious. He chooses the montfortians with the intention to be sent somewhere as a missionary. But due to various circumstances it never came to this.

After his first profession in 1955, he received the name Marcus and his appointment for Ste Marie (minor seminary) in Schimmert, not knowing that this would be his only appointment. Marcus worked on the farm and in the garden. And after ending a fruit course successfully, he also works in the orchard. When Ste Marie is closed in 1973, he is the first moving into the new Ste Marie. As the only brother Marcus felt at home among priests from day there. His work was the garden surrounding the convent. Later he also started working in the park at Vroenhof. He also managed and took care of the montfortian cemetery in Schimmert. Marcus was a busy bee. Work is well spent to him.

He is faithful and skillful. You can count on him. The home for the elderly Vroenhof encountered this to, he worked there as a volunteer until his death. Duties and daily activities gave structure to his life. Without work Marcus gets nervous, sometimes overwrought. He always carried a certain restlessness with him. But within the community of Schimmert, where he celebrated the anniversary of his sixtieth profession feast on May 1, he feels valued and secure. Inwardly daily Mass fed him, like the Rosary and his daily prayers. He participated in meetings of our province and the meetings of the Conference of Religious in Limburg. He is a valued member of the church choir. For the weekly rehearsals he even skipped the football matches on TV. A visit to his beloved Marian shrine in Lourdes is

imminent and then suddenly without warning his death. Did brother Marcus find peace with the Lord and is he freed from the turmoil and blustering? We believe it and pray for it. In Marcus we lose a montfortian confrere, pure and unpretentious. We will miss his warmth and compassion, his service and devotion, fraternity and his selflessness, his alertness and humour. Mark, thank you for who you were for your family, for your confreres and for so many others. Rest in the love of our God. On Wednesday, September 2, 2015 the funeral service is held in St. Remigius church in Schimmert. He will be buried in Schimmert on our montfortian cemetery.



Father Gino VISCARDI, S.M.M.
(1939 – 2015)

died on 17 September 2015 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 76 with 54 years of religious profession.

Padre Gino Viscardi was born in Torre Boldone (Bergamo), on 29 May 1939. Having finished his studies at the Apostolic School at Bergamo (1957-59), he made his novitiate at Castiglione Torinese, with his first vows on 29 September 1960. The scholasticate unfolded partly in Loreto and partly in Rome, where he was ordained priest on 9 March 1968.

His first obedience was for Bergamo, as assistant for the boys in the Apostolic School, but already the following year he was sent to Arbizzano as vocational animator: a charge that ran from 1969 till 1975. Then he began his mission in the South: first at Naples in the parish (1975-78), then at Reggio Calabria as a missionary (1978-81). In 1981 he was ready for the foundation at Viggiano (Potenza) and he remained there three years. After a year rest in Rome, Via Prenestina in 1984, he was sent to S. Ilario, Diocese of Locri, for another three years, as missionary. He returned to Arbizzano (1987-89) for vocational accompaniment at the Centro Montfort, recently constructed. But in 1989 he returned to Locri, this time for pastoral work, till 1996.

After a year in Reggio Calabria, at the church of the Rosario, he returned to Locri “at the disposition of the bishop” (1997-2004), rendering service in various parishes. He then made himself available for Sardegna (2004-2007), where he worked in pastoral activity at Ilbono, and as an itinerant missionary in the Diocese of Lanusei. In 2007 he returned to the area of Locri, at Bianco, but only for one year. From 2008 till 2012 he was at Fiesso d’Artico, in the Diocese of Padua, for preaching ministry. Finally, for health reasons, he had to retire to Villa Montfort, Bergamo. He died there on 17 September 2015. He was buried in the priests’ chapel in the cemetery of Torre Boldone.

The figure of Padre Gino impressed those who knew him for his activism and zeal as a Montfort Missionary, who desired to be available for the needs of the Church, both those represented by the Company and those from the Dioceses where he worked. Unattached from personal projects, he was totally dedicated to the mission that was from time to time entrusted to him, attracted by the example and word of the Founder, who desired that his missionaries be free, detached from everything, and ready for an obedience

from the Bishops. He accepted the burdens of responsibility asked of him: as pastor, superior, provincial councilor, in a spirit of obedience and service. Gifted with many capacities, even technical and administrative, he placed them as the service of his spiritual mission. He lived poverty as an absolute personal detachment from things and in what was essential and necessary. Loved by the people for his great goodness of heart, generosity, and dedication to all, especially those most in need. A man of prayer and faithful to the duties of his religious state, he lived his priesthood with deep conviction for the service of souls, encouraging and spurring on to evangelical commitment and to building up the activity of the Church, the people of God.



Father Frederick SCRAGG, S.M.M.
(1936 – 2015)

died on 20 September 2015 at Liverpool (England),
aged 79 with 60 years of religious profession.

Frederick William Scragg was born on 6 August 1936, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, in Seaforth, a suburb of Liverpool. He was baptised in Our Lady, Star of the Sea church in Seaforth on 16 August 1936. He was the second son of John Charles Scragg and Christina (née Vaughan). He had an elder brother Jack, and a younger sister Joan. His father died when he was still very young. His primary schooling was done at Our Lady, Star of the Sea school in Seaforth, then he began his secondary education at St Mary's College, Crosby, before moving to Montfort College, Romsey, the Minor Seminary of the Montfort Missionaries. He entered the novitiate in St Joseph's, Totton, where he made his first religious profession on 8 September 1955. From there he moved to St Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, Shropshire, where he sailed through his philosophy and theology studies without any difficulty. After his perpetual profession on 8 September 1960, he was ordained a sub-deacon on 20 October 1960, a deacon on 8 December 1960, and finally a priest on 25 February 1961 in Church Stretton.

Fred had always wanted to go to the foreign missions, but before being appointed to the mission in Malawi, he was asked to go to Rome to study Canon Law, with a view to becoming the Canon Lawyer for Zomba Diocese, then governed by Mgr. Lawrence Hardman, SMM. Accordingly, he spent 3 years in Rome, 1961-1964, studying at the Urbanianum, where he obtained his Doctorate in Canon Law. Then he left for Malawi, where his first appointment was to teach at Chingale Seminary. After one year he was appointed Rector of the Child Jesus Seminary in Nankhunda, a post he held for 22 years. He particularly enjoyed teaching Mathematics and Science, and introduced many of the students to computers in the 1980s. From 1971-2 he took a year off to obtain a Post-Graduate Teaching Certificate from Christ College, Liverpool. During his time in Nankhunda, many of the priests now serving the Church in Malawi, both Montfort Missionaries and secular priests, passed through his hands, and he is remembered with great affection and appreciation by all of them. From 1979 to 1987, Fred was also the Regional Superior of the Anglo-French Region of the Montfort Missionaries in Malawi.

In 1987 he was a delegate to the General Chapter of that year, and was elected as one of the Assistants to the Superior General, Father Gerard Lemire, who was then elected for a second term as General. Father Lemire appointed Fred to the post of General Bursar. Being re-elected to the General Council for a second term in 1993, Fred was thus to serve as General Assistant and General Bursar for a total of 12 years, until 1999. As both Assistant and General Bursar, he travelled to almost all the places around the world where the Montfort Missionaries had a presence, and was particularly effective in re-organising and re-invigorating the financial affairs of the Congregation, while at the same time giving much-appreciated encouragement to the various members of the Congregation, with a special emphasis on community life.

When his time as General Assistant and Bursar came to an end in 1999, Fred took a Sabbatical in the United States, following a Post-Doctoral Auditing course in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. He was hoping then to return to Malawi, but in 2000 was instead elected Provincial of the Province of Gt Britain & Ireland. As Provincial he had the unenviable task of closing down some of our houses, notably in Ireland and in Scotland, because of diminishing numbers. But he continued to encourage his confreres in the Province, placing special emphasis again on community life. He was elected to a second term of office (of three years) as Provincial in 2006.

Finally in 2009, Fred was able to return to his beloved Africa, though not this time to Malawi. Instead he was appointed to the international Scholasticate of the English-speaking General Delegation of Africa in Nairobi. As a member of this community he was much loved and appreciated, and after a year he was also asked to lecture in Canon Law at the Jesuits' Hekima College (part of the Catholic University of East Africa) in Nairobi. He held this post for four years (2011 - 2015), and had more or less made up his mind to retire (he was then 78) and return to Malawi when he began to experience disturbing losses of memory and coherence. He was diagnosed in Nairobi as having a tumour on the brain, and he decided to return to England to undergo whatever treatment was necessary and possible. Back in England it was confirmed that the tumour was a malignant one, and he underwent an operation to remove it, followed by radio- and chemo-therapy. Gradually, however, his condition was worsening, until finally he was taken into St Joseph's Hospice a few weeks ago. There, he received the best of palliative care, and seemed content, even going out for a meal occasionally with one of the Liverpool community and his sister, Joan. But on Sunday 20 September, while he was attending the Mass celebrated by Father Bob Douglas, his confrere, he began to be quite confused, and a short time later, he died peacefully. May his beloved Mother Mary receive him and bear him to her divine Son.



Father Charles VONCKEN, S.M.M.

(1932 – 2015)

died on 4 October 2015 at Voerendaal (Netherlands),
aged 83 with 63 years of religious profession.

On June 5, 1932 Charles was born with a Dutch identity in Genk, Belgium. He came to the montfortian minor seminary in Schimmert at the end of the war in 1945. After a year of noviciate in D'Hoppe, Belgium, he made his first vows on September 8 1952. After the major seminary in Oirschot he was ordained priest on March 16, 1958. Then he was ordered to Rome to study canon law, which he completed in four years, after which he returned to the seminary in Oirschot as professor. Soon (in 1966) he was appointed to the Ecclesiastical Court in 's-Hertogenbosch, where he worked until 2005, from 1981 as judicial vicar. In between, he was superior of the scholasticate in Oirschot, novice master and assistant-superior. In 1986, in the 'new construction' of the convent he started with the Montfort Centre, a retreat center. Charles was appointed coordinator until its closure in 2004. In 1993 he was elected provincial superior of the Dutch province. In 2003 he was three years superior of the community in Oirschot. By Parkinson's disease, he lost more and of his strength until his death in the care center 't Brook.

“The Lion of Flanders”, as Charles was named in the years in the seminary. As football-player he was fanatical, extremely strong and fearless. Which characterizes him, even in later years, although he had a Dutch mentality as he answers his provincial superior, who asked him if he would lead the Belgian confreres: “I have the Dutch nationality and the Dutch mentality.”

Charles felt at home at the time, after the Vatican Council II. The liturgy in Dutch language, the songs of Huub Oosterhuis, he was touched by it. And the way he played football at the seminary, so excited he went to work with the innovations.

Because of canon law he was often asked for advice by the religious institutes, as a member of the commission Canonical Religious Affairs (KAR), but also within our own congregation. Thanks to him, the statutes and constitutions were brought up to date in “Montfortan Today”.

In the sixties many students, young brothers and priests left the congregation. Charles also played a major role and old students are still grateful for his help.

Charles always said: “When we had the room, we didn't have any people left.” The new building, such as the construction of the convent in Oirschot was called, was empty. The Sisters of the Cenacle started a meditation center until its closure in 1984. In 1986 took the Dutch province took it over. Charles arranged a simple design, because “our religion is human, warm and homely sometimes. This should also be reflected in the decor of your house In a pastoral way we have to stand up for the honest modern man today.” In 2004 he, together with Sister Ancilla, Brother Richard, Sisters of the Assumption, Daughters of Wisdom and Franciscans, worked there with unbridled energy.

His job as a judicial vicar, he fulfilled dutifully. The couples that asked for a divorce, he coached with care. He used the rules mercifully. He recognised the struggle of Jesus against the Pharisees. He cared for the person behind the story.

He travelled the world, giving a course management to montfortians everywhere. Another language did not scare him off, on the contrary, while doing errands he ran a cassette with Spanish lessons. In 1993 he also was elected provincial superior of the Dutch province. He did it all. That this energetic man was felled by Parkinson's disease was a terrible blow for him. He has fought to the last moment against it. The worst was that he could no longer speak. His speech was affected. That must have been hell for him, he had always done his word and often also with a quip. Ultimately, this felled the lion of Flanders. We believe he has finally found the peace that he sought all his life. The peace with his God, to whom he dedicated his life.

On Thursday, October 8th, 2015 we say goodbye to Charles Voncken in St. Remigius Church in Schimmert. He will be buried at the montfortian cemetery.



Father James MURRAY, S.M.M.
(1940– 2015)

died on 13 October 2015 at Liverpool (England),
aged 75 with 55 years of religious profession.

James Thomas Murray was born in Airdrie, Scotland, on 16 July 1940, the feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, and baptised on 28 July in St Patrick's church, Coatbridge. He was the eldest child of James Murray and Mary Helen (née Maguire), and is survived by his sister Maureen and his brother Tom. Jim was confirmed, again in St Patrick's, Coatbridge, on 18 October 1949, and, having completed his primary schooling in Coatbridge, he entered Montfort College, Romsey, the Junior Seminary of the Company of Mary, to receive his secondary education, in September 1952. In September 1959 he entered the novitiate in St. Joseph's, Ashurst, where he made his first religious profession of vows on 8 September 1960. From there he went to St Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, Shropshire, for his studies in philosophy and theology. Having made his perpetual profession in Church Stretton on 19 August 1965, Jim was ordained to the sub-deaconate, the diaconate, and finally the priesthood on 5 March 1966. He was ordained priest in St John's, Barrhead, Scotland, a town where he was due to spend much of his priestly life.

Father Jim's first appointment after ordination was to Montfort College, Romsey, where he taught for three years, before being moved in 1969 to Montfort House, Liverpool, to become the editor of the "*Queen and Mother*", the Marian review conducted at that time by the Company of Mary in England. But it was his sad task to wind up the production of the magazine in 1971.

Father Jim was then appointed to Montfort House, Barrhead, in Scotland, to take part in the formation of young men from Scotland aspiring to become Montfort Missionaries. From 1974 until 1986 he remained in Barrhead, conducting parish missions and retreats in various parts of Scotland as well as in Montfort House, along with other members of the community. In 1980 he was appointed Superior of the community in Barrhead, and his mandate was renewed for a second term in 1983.

In 1986, Father Jim was appointed to the residence of the Company of Mary in Monaghan, Ireland, as Rector. There he spent the next five years conducting parish missions and retreats, before being transferred once again to Barrhead, Scotland, in 1991, where he joined a new itinerant Mission team with Father Ronnie Mitchell and Father Bob Douglas, and a small group of lay associates who were called upon to conduct missions in various parts of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. For a year or so during this period, he also acted as curate in our parish in Homerton in the East End of London, before going back to Barrhead to be Superior and in charge of the retreat ministry conducted in Montfort House there. In 2006 it was his sad task to close the house in Barrhead. After its closure, however, he remained in Scotland, helping in a parish in Paisley, until in 2009 he was appointed to be the Superior of Montfort House, Liverpool, a post he filled, together with various ministries to local religious communities, until his heart-attack and subsequent death on 13 October 2015.

Father Jim always had a very tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin. It is perhaps no coincidence that his life was bracketed by her presence: having been born on the feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, he died on the anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima, 13 October. His profound understanding of Mary's role in our lives was particularly evident in the commentaries he gave in the two videos, *Jesus Living in Mary: The Life of...* and *The Spirituality of... St Louis Marie de Montfort*, published in 1997 and 2001. May his beloved Mother now receive him and bear him safely to his heavenly reward.



Brother Côme JULIEN, S.M.M.
(1921 – 2015)

died on 8 November 2015 at Trois-Rivières, QC (Canada),
aged 94 with 77 years of religious profession.

Côme Julien was born on 13 August 1921 in Saint-Léon, diocese de Trois-Rivières. He made his first vows at Montfort, in the Lautnetides, on 19 March 1938.

After five years of careful work at our novitiate Saint Marie at Nicolet, we find our confrere as the cook in Upper Melbourne, the novitiate of the Brothers. Then, for a dozen years he was named to Tzouhalem, Vancouver, to work with our missionaries in that locale.

In 1959 he returned to Montreal, to occupy himself for 16 years with the care of the house and kitchen, at the house of the Sisters of Providence, Cartierville, Montreal, where our Montfort Fathers were chaplains to the Sisters. Then, he spent a year with Father Vincent at Saint-Émile de Suffolk.

In 1981, for a period of 8 years, we find our confrere in the pastoral service of our Montfortian parish in Brisbane, Australia. In a letter to his Provincial Superior, he wrote: "I am very happy with the work that I am doing, which consists in sharing my faith and my love for the Lord and for his Church with those most unfortunate... we have many divorced and separated persons, I try to show them the mercy of the Lord."

He returned to Montreal, and for 21 years, he devoted himself as sacristan at the Sanctuary Marie-Reine-des-Cœurs. For a long time, he assisted at four masses a day, and during the last years, at three! “Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master!” (Matthew, 25,21).

Our confrere also manifested a great devotion to the Virgin Mary. Like Montfort, he could sing “I do all in her and through her. This is the secret of holiness. Always to be faithful to God, to do his will in all things” (Cant. 77,19).

Our Brother Côme leaves the memory of a man of prayer. A man devoted to the poor. A man of personal contact. To the eyes of the many men and women who knew him, the memory of a saint. The funeral was celebrated on Thursday, 11 November at Pointe-du-Lac, 14h00.



Father Jozef (Jef) COCKX, S.M.M.

(1929 – 2015)

died on 11 November 2015 at Broechem (Belgium),
aged 86 with 63 years of Religious Profession.

November 11, early morning, Jef fell asleep, an expression we often use to say that he passed away. When I heard the news by telephone, I had the final phrase of that day’s gospel in mind: “*Rise and go; your faith has made you well*” (Luke 17, 19). These were the words Jesus spoke to the Samaritan who, after being healed, confirmed his faith. Gratitude, vulnerability, disease, healing, comfort, faith... and many more words are needed to picture the person and works of Jef.

Jef was born on 21st June 1929 in Rotselaar where he studied from 1943 to 1951 at the former montfortian seminary. At the end of his novitiate in D’Hoppe he took his first vows in D’Hoppe on 8th September 1952 and five years later (1957) his perpetual profession in Oirschot. On 22nd June he was ordained priest in the same place.

During these years of schooling, from 1943 till 1958, Jef was clearly struck by the special attention and admiration for Montfort in view of the canonization in 1947 and in the same atmosphere by the success of the itinerant missions and the Marian Works in Belgium.

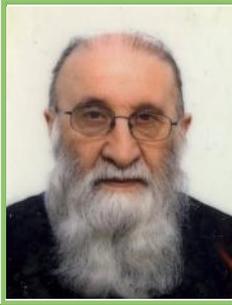
Fascinated by Montfort’s close interest in ordinary people, Jef tried to find his place in God’s Church. He became assistant priest in Leuven, itinerant missionary in Kontich-Kazerne, head editor of the periodical “Middelares en Koningin” and at the same time retreat preacher and assistant priest in Kontich-Kazerne. The year 1977 was the beginning of a new era: he became chaplain in the social welfare clinic in Lier where he was co-founder of the hospice care and in 1994 he became chaplain in the Retreat House Czagani in Broechem. Even when he was retired he remained there as a pastor on a voluntary base until he himself became a resident in the Retreat House. Finally, he moved to the wing for those who need special care. He died in his room on November 11. He was 86 years old.

Jef had a special talent: he could listen whatever the situation was and whatever words were spoken. He listened with the ears of his heart. Spontaneously he could empathize with the persons involved. Jef had a clear preference for the small and the weak and that was reciprocal. Therefore the year 1977 was a milestone in his life. Then he found his true vocation both in his life and his apostolate. I quote a letter to his superior: “Here are the people that have become redundant in our society, terminally ill, psychiatric patients, the elderly who are left behind, ...” The celebrations with the patients and the staff were very intense, the texts were carefully rewritten to meet their standards and they could also be used by others. His extraordinary memory was a precious help in his contacts with patients and staff.

As already mentioned Jef was a great admirer of Montfort. In the eighties Jef was an enthusiastic member of the small group responsible for the ongoing formation of the confreres that among others resulted in the publication of the small book: “Praying with Montfort”. Parts of Montfort’s writings and life inspired him to write prayers and poems straight from his heart. Reading them is glancing in Jef’s soul.

Another great talent: he had an extreme esthetical feeling. He spent a lot of time preparing his pastoral activities. He paid a lot of attention both to contents and outer decoration. It also showed in the books he was surrounded with and the wall decoration in his living room and study. This quality resulted in fine celebrations that were very much appreciated. Also in the diocese Antwerp the talents of our confrere were not unnoticed. Bishop Paul Van den Berghe asked him to become member of the board of priests from 1995 till 1998. In the Retreat House in Broechem he was the centre of all pastoral activities.

Jef went on growing in his life thanks to the way he paid attention to God’s Word. To him it was a Word requesting an answer. Inspired by Montfort he had chosen Mary as his teacher to deal with the Word. No doubt the warm support from the people that surrounded him contributed to this positive attitude towards God and mankind. A most sincere “thank you” to the many volunteers, staff of the Retreat House and not in the last place to José, his “guardian angel”, is the least we can say!



Father Gaetano BARBERA, S.M.M.
(1928 – 2015)

died on 13 November 2015 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 87 with 67 years of religious profession.

Father Gaetano Barbera was born on 3 January 1928 at Eaux Vives (Switzerland), but of Italian nationality. After attending middle school in Genova, in 1945 he entered the Apostolic School at Bergamo for high school. Novitiate was at Castiglione Torinese, concluded by religious profession on 8 September 1948. At Loreto he undertook his studies of philosophy and theology, and was ordained priest on 13 March 1954. Later he would finish Pastoral studies (Lateran University, 1957) and Mariology (diploma from the Marianum, 1959).

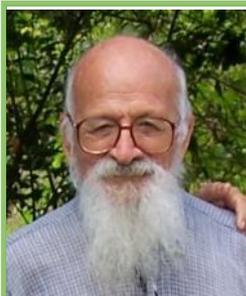
From the start of his ministry, he was oriented toward the Marian Center, at Rome via Cori (1955-56), then at Circonvallazione Appia (1956-58). He was then called to the General House, where he worked at the International Montfortian Center (1958-62) and also collaborated in the parish. From 1964 to 1970 he was provincial councilor, and provincial secretary at the Provincial House in Via Cori, Rome, and took up also work at the Marian Center, in its various re-locations: Circonvallazione Appia, Via Cori, Via Prenestina and Via Romagna. He was superior (1966-71) and director (1971-75).

From 1975 till 1981 he was Assistant General, with a particular charge to follow the revision of the Constitutions. It was the period of the Special General Chapters, for the renewal and updating requested by Vatican Council II. Having finished this mandate, he was sent to Reggio Calabria, where he was dedicated to preaching (1982-84), and then he was charged with spiritual animation at the Scholasticate in Rome (1984-89).

In 1989 he was transferred to Villa Montfort, Bergamo, for health reasons; his condition improving, he began a long period of spiritual assistance at the Clinic “Palazzolo” of Bergamo. He kept this duty till 2013, when his health suggested definitive retirement. He died on 13 November 2015.

Padre Gaetano Barbera dedicated many years of his activity to the study of Montfortian spirituality, to the works of the Founder, which he curated also in the original French edition and in the Italian translation. He often wrote for “Madre e Regina”, with a profound knowledge of the “Treatise on the True Devotion to Mary”, which he elaborated in an original presentation of the text. He followed the principal initiatives of the Marian Center, whether editorial, pastoral Marian animation, or preaching.

A special Marian devotion sustained him in the health problems that he had during his last years; he felt the presence of Mary and recognized her particular assistance. The years spent in the spiritual care of the sick and their families were the occasion to spread among them the power of faith and the special devotion to Mary taught by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort.



Father Salvador PRIETO SARMIENTO, S.M.M.
(1923 – 2015)

died on 28 November 2015 in Bogotá (Colombia),
aged 92 with 74 years of Religious Profession.

Fr. Salvador Prieto Sarmiento was born on 7 April 1923 in Junin-Cundinamarca, pueblo of Levites, home to various brothers of our Province. Son of Don Jesus Prieto and Matilde Sarmiento, he received the faith 22 days after his birth in his municipal Parish. He was confirmed at five years of age in the same parish. In 1936, when he was barely 13 years old, he travelled from his beloved homeland and entered the Seminary at Choachí, to begin his studies for the baccalaureate which he finished in 1940.

February 2, 1941, the day when it was customary to make the journey on foot from Choachí to San Juanito, municipal of Meta, founded by the Montfort Missionaries, where the Novitiate was located. The following year on the same date and place, he made his first religious profession, the perennial decision to follow Jesus poor, chaste and obedient according to the Constitutions of the Company of Mary. At the beginning of 2016 he would have celebrated his diamond jubilee. Now the great feast of perpetual vows will take place in heaven, in the uninterrupted contemplation of God, the Love of Loves, Eternal Wisdom, the happiness of man.

Between 1941 and 1945 he did his studies in philosophy and theology at the Major Seminary in Alban-Cundinamarca. Time to deepen and consolidate his Montfortian vocation. He was ordained deacon in Bogotá, and 21 July of the same year had his priestly ordination at Alban. This year he celebrated 69 years of priestly consecration.

The following year, 1947, he was named associate pastor in Medina-Cundinamarca. In 1948 he travelled to the United States to learn English. Returned from this country in the North, he was named professor at Choachí. There he offered his services to the young people from 1949 to 1954. That same year he was named Master of Novices in San Juanito. He spent 9 years forming the next generations. Religious and priests still keep picturesque memories of the methods used by this noble master, who after the pranks of his students, had no other remedy but to have them kiss the floor, so that they might recognize their fault and sin, an attitude very foreign to those young people. From this experience, from that moment he gained fame as a good Christian, an impeccable religious, a faithful priest and a holy man.

Finishing his mission as formator, Holy Obedience indicated his new mission, as Pastor of Nuestra Señora de Belén. There, between the years 1963 to 1966, he animated this parish community. From here we see him take the road of obedience which brought him to Restrepo-Meta, to become director and professor at the Seminary there. This is the same place that currently houses the aspirants to the priesthood of the Archdiocese of Villavicencio and neighboring Vicariates and Dioceses.

From 1968 to 1970 he was named coadjutor at the Cathedral in Villavicencio. After two years he passed on as pastor at Calvario-Meta, pueblo also founded by the Montfort Missionaries, buried in the Cordillera Oriental. Seven years of service and dedication. In 1977 Holy Obedience once again brought him to the cathedral of Villavicencio, as

coadjutor. After two years he was sent as pastor in San Martin, pueblo of Meya, foundation in the Llanos Orientales.

In 1980 he was sent to the pastoral team of Santa Teresita del Tuparro, in the Apostolic Prefecture of the Vichada. He remained there till 1984, proclaiming the Good News to the Indigenous and Colonists; forming pastoral agents, undertaking long journeys and experiencing with faith and patience the rigors of the mission. From there he moved on to San Luis del Tomo, mission post in the same Apostolic Prefecture, at the foot of the Rio Tomo. Seven years with the indigenous and colonist communities; these last who came from various regions of the country to this beautiful zone. Between 1991 and 1992 he see him move between Santa Rosalia and Nueva Antioquia, both missionary sites in the then Apostolic Prefecture of the Vichada.

In 1993 we find him directing himself to another missionary site in the Vichada: Piramiri. There too there will be a long sojourn, adding up to 19 years of service to the indigenous peoples. It was there in the year 2000 that Padre “Prietico” started to feel tired. He had 77 years of life and commitment. He was sent to the parish of Infant Jesus in Villavicencio as parochial vicar, remaining there for two years. In 2002 he was chaplain to the Foyer de Charite in Paipa, remaining with this service eight months. In 2003 he was sent as chaplain to the Old People’s Home of the Dominican Sisters of Nazareth in Sasaima, who today run this work for us, the Unidad Social San Luis Marie de Montfort.

As we run toward 2005, Padre Salvador Prieto goes to the Residence for Priests of the Province in Choachí, a place of prayer, rest, and existential recollection. There we see him caring for his health, reading, praying.

His face is tender, pure, transparent; his patience in suffering and in the cross: not a single lament much less a complaint; his “vow of silence” a testimony to his heritage of a profound spiritual life; his joy in suffering –all these identified him as a true Friend of the Cross.

Irreproachable Master of Novices, great formator, excellent pastor and assistant, selfless missionary to the indigenous peoples, unequalled religious. He died in silence in a bed in the clinic on Saturday the 28th, day of our Lady, on the evening prayers of Advent, in the odor of sanctity.

Padre Prieto, How old are you? – a question put to him mischievously, to which he responded with gravity: “Don’t you know I am the oldest? I am 200 years old!” Indeed, Padre Salvito, you might be the oldest for the Montfortians, but you were the merest child before God. Thank you for your witness; thank you for being light; thank you for your example; your “innocence and holiness” will remain engraved in our lives and our hearts. Lift up to the master of the harvest this message: “Send missionaries to your Church, religious for the Company of Mary.” Peace in his grave and Glory in heaven.



Father Petrus Johannes VERLAAN, S.M.M.
(1936 – 2015)

died on 10 December 2015 in Abrantes (Portugal),
aged 79 with 58 years of Religious Profession.

Father Petrus Verlaan (*Padre Marcos*) was born in *Egmond aan den Hoef*, in Holland, on 14 March 1936, to Mme. Catharina Kool and Mr. Cornelis Verlaan. Two days later, he was baptized in the church of the same city. He did his novitiate in 1956-1957 pronouncing his first vows on 8 September 1957, the day of the Nativity of Mary, in Meersen. Five years later, on 8 September 1962, he made his perpetual profession and on 24 March 1963, he was ordained priest in Oirschot.

Father Petrus was essentially a pastoral “collaborator” of the first order. He made himself always available.

He, though a Dutch by origin, passed most of his time in Portugal, dedicating his life to teaching and pastoral ministry. For many years, he was a member of the formation team of students and seminarians who lived in the Montfortian seminary at Fatima.

Expert in the art of languages (he was knowing to speak fluently 7 languages), for many years he taught French, first in the Montfortian seminary and then in the CEF (Study Center of Fatima). He collaborated for many years in the pastoral field in the parish of *Póvoa de Santo Adrião* and other parishes that were under the care of Montfort Missionaries in the dioceses of Santarém and Leiria-Fatima.

During his final years, he dedicated lot of his time for the administration of the sacrament of reconciliation in the sanctuary at Fatima, the mission that gained him lot of recognition and sympathy. He combined this mission of reconciliation with that of chaplaincy in many women religious congregations (Reparative Sisters of our Lady of Sorrows are also included).

His musical talents, especially as “Organist,” have been an incredible grace to those who had the privilege to listen to the “musical works” that he interpreted.

His cool and very simple behaviour (though at times he looked a bit rough and reserved), was always emphasizing friendship and joy. He was a man of consensus and with less “conflicts”. He was a great example of prayer and Marian devotion, and the rosary was his constant companion. He was preferring to listen than to speak with many words (he did not appreciate long lectures and discussions).

Father Petrus died on 10 December 2015 at Fatima and the funeral was held on 11 December in the parish church of Fatima.



Father Hubert BASLEY, S.M.M.

(1925 – 2016)

died on 12 January 2016 at Saint Laurent sur Sèvre (France),
aged 90 with 72 years of Religious Profession.

In life there are various categories of people: there are the young-old, then the old-young, and lastly the old-old. Hubert belonged to the second category: he was an old young person. Hubert: his first name was linked to a hunting story, as he loved to remind us. When he was born, he father had just come in from hunting, and so he wanted to give the new-born the noble name of a great hunter: that of Hubert.

Hubert: born in 1925 in the Bas-Rhin at Haguenau of a military family, always carried his youth around like kit baggage, whether at Chezelles or Montfort sur Meu, where he was ordained priest at 24 years of age, category of the young-young for a priest!

His awakened mind led him from the Institut Catholique in Paris to a professorship at Pelousy, then to the Major Seminary des Couets in Nantes.

Then he assumed responsibilities, first with others at la Couronne in the parish team, and then alone, at St. Laurent as pastor of the parish from 1977 to 1989, or at Pontchâteau as superior of the community. Finally he deposited his kit baggage at the chaplaincy of the Sisters of la Sagesse at St. Laurent.

Then, to the retirement house of the Montfort Missionaries at St. Laurent, where he found the affectionate presence of the Montfortian Family who helped him to bear his dependence and his infirmities. His earthly course is ended now; another one begins in greater proximity with the Lord. Let us live in peace this time of call and setting out on the journey.



Brother Jean François RENAUD, S.M.M.

(1939 – 2016)

died on 18 January 2016 at Pontchâteau (France),
aged 76 with 58 years of Religious Profession.

What could have been more natural for Brother Jean Francois, born 25 February 1939 in Rennes, than to join Father de Montfort by coming to knock on the door of the Montfortian Congregation to begin his formation at Chezelles. After a postulancy year, he entered the novitiate 19 March 1956 to pronounce his first vows 19 March 1957.

Far from the city of Rennes, he adapted to the isolation of the Touraine countryside at Chezelles. During his first years, he assured the divers material services needed for the upkeep of the house of formation. From 1956, with the encouragement of his Formators, he discovered his gifts for carpentry. His abilities allowed him to maintain the furniture in the Montfortian houses. It was a time of movement, which a disciple of Montfort felt in fidelity

to the apostles. Always ready to respond to a various calls to serve, he left the community of Chezelles in 1958 for the Rue du Commandeur in Paris. In 1964, Jean Francois went to the apostolic community in Pelousey in the Doubs, and 23 March 1983 he was again with the community of Chezelles, only to leave them definitively in 2002 to go to the Calvary of Pontchâteau. All through these displacements, while always giving priority to his carpentry, he knew how to create numerous fraternal, friendly relationships with other persons. He wanted to be welcoming and open to the needs of each one.

On January 18, 2016 it was the Lord who would come to him, to ask him to contemplate the glorious Cross, whose wood became the source of salvation for all humankind.



Father Vincent DUVAL, S.M.M.

(1918 – 2016)

died on 21 January 2016 at Saint Laurent sur Sèvre (France),
aged 97 with 78 years of religious profession.

Father Vincent was born on 24 May 1918 of Jean Duval and Marie Hervio in Theix (Morbihan). He was baptized the following day with the name Vincent Louis; he loved to add the name of Mary: Vincent Louis-Marie.

From 1930 to 1936 he did secondary studies at the Apostolic School of Calvaire de Pontchâteau. He then entered the novitiate at Celle-sur-Belle, where he made first profession in the Company of Mary on 8 September 1937. From 1937 to 1939 he was at Chézelles for philosophy studies.

In September 1939 he began his military service; there the second world war came to find him: he was a prisoner of war in Germany until May 1945. They were years that would mark his entire life; a line of barbed wire would be engraved on his chalice and paten received at his priestly ordination.

After Liberation, he left for Montfort-sur-Meu for his theological studies. He made perpetual profession on 8 December 1947 (ten years after his first vows). Cardinal Roques, Archbishop of Rennes, ordained him sub-deacon on 20 December 1947 in the cathedral, and deacon at Montfort-sur-Meu on 21 February 1948. A Montfortian bishop, Mgr. Le Breton of Tamatave in Madagascar, ordained Father Duval a priest on 29 June 1948 at Montfort-sur-Meu.

After finishing his studies and his year of « eloquence » (August 1949 – April 1950), Father Vincent left Montfort-sur-Meu on 18 April 1950 for the residence of the missionaries at Josselin. Thus he began his long career as a missionary in the footsteps of Father de Montfort and Saint Vincent Ferrier, his old patron. In 1953, he left Josselin for the house of the missionaries in Cholet, where he remained until 1962.

In 1956 Father Vincent returned to Celle-sur-Belle for the “third year”; it was an experience that greatly marked him. He preciously kept his two notebooks taken in this period: a spiritual path following St. Louis-Marie de Montfort.

From 1962 till 1966 he was missionary and superior of the community of Poitiers. From 1966 to 1970 he was missionary at Pontchâteau, at the service of the Pilgrimage. From 1970 to 1978, he was named to the missionary community of Obezine at Angoulême, where he was also superior. He was engaged in pastoral work at Montbron, La Couronne and Nersac. At Obezine, Father Duval dared to make strong and bold propositions for the future of the house of the missionaries now too big: “a house to welcome the most poor”: that is, migrants or those released from prison, (in a letter to the Provincial of 2 November 1971).

From 1978 to 1981, Father Vincent was named to Montierchaume, diocese of Bourges, to the community of Déols. Three years of ministry in the Berry, at the service of the parishioners of Montierchaume, Coings and Diors; three years during which he would forge bonds of strong friendships. If Father Duval was named to Montierchaume it was because his pastoral experience oriented him to “the places where one could not but be a missionary” (8 September 1978, letter of Father Caron to Mgr. Vignancour, Archbishop of Bourges).

From 1981 to 1988, he was superior of our community at Tourcoing, and in charge of the pastoral service; a house that he had the sorrow of closing, but he carried in his baggage the precious statue of the Virgin Mary sculptured by Father de Montfort during the mission of Landemont (the statue today conserved in Saint-Esprit at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre).

In October 1988, he left for Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre as superior of the community of Saint-Esprit. From time to time he escaped for spiritual pauses at the Abbey of Bellefontaine. His zeal warmed again by the monastic fire, he would often ask why the monks, as “withdrawn” from the world as they were, that they were more apt to respond to the questions of the world than we missionaries. It is true that pastoral action deprived of evangelical dies from exhaustion and dryness.

From 1992 to 2002, Father Vincent was at the Paris community of the Tombe-Issoire. In Paris he offered numerous pastoral services, notably at the parish of Saint-Pierre de Montrouge.

With advancing age, he drew near to Theix and his family which he loved so much; in 2002 he was named to the community of La Chartreuse d’Auray. In addition to his mission as chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom, his apostolic zeal pushed him to offer many services in the parishes. For Father Vincent, the infirmities of age were never to be considered as an obstacle: in 2009, he courageously left for the Calvary of Pontchâteau, not for retirement, but as a missionary.

Unfortunately, in 2012, his health declined more and more, and he had to leave for the community of Saint-Esprit at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, as “retired”. His new missionary life, in its immobility and dependence, would be a time of trial for him. The daily community Eucharist would be a respite for him, a truce in his moral sufferings. His last years would be another captivity; he was a prisoner of an enemy without a uniform or a name... A long and new barbed wire enclosed him and bound him tightly. Our Lady of Liberation came on 21 January 2016 to softly free him into Peace.

Father Henricus (Rik) BOVENS, S.M.M.
(1933 – 2016)

died on 27 January 2016 at Genk (Belgium),
aged 82 with 61 years of religious profession.

Rik was born in Meeswijk on 10th November 1933. From 1946 till 1953 he did his secondary school in Rotselaar and decided to become a Montfortian. He went to D’Hoppe for his noviciate where he made his first profession on 8th September 1954. He did his scholasticate in Oirschot (NL) and after his perpetual vows he was ordained priest on 27th March 1960. From 1961 till 1991 he was a teacher in Rotselaar after which he became a helper in the Marian Centre till 2012. He spent his last years retiring in the community of Genk. He died in St.-John Hospital in Genk on 27th January 2016.

After his pastoral year he became a teacher in Rotselaar on 12th July 1961. He was very proud of the congregation, of his community and the school where he gave the best of himself. Literarily! On a school trip in September 1994 he had a break down. A heart failure nearly killed him but slowly he recovered. Bit by bit he managed to restore the gaps in his memory. During his rehabilitation he was well taken care off by his sister and after a while he was in good condition again. And yet, in those days he had to retire from school much against his will. For more than 30 years he had shared the good and the bad with his confreres and the school, but he was willing to accept a new function in the Marian Centre. There too he gave the best of himself: his interest in the human aspect of every person, his computer knowledge and his flexibility.

In 2010 his life suddenly changed. He needed a lot of time to find peace again. It was hard for him to leave Rotselaar and become member of the community in Genk. First, he spent a few years with his handicapped sister in Meeswijk – he meant a lot to her and his family – although he regularly came to Leuven to work. After his sister’s death in 2012 he moved to the community in Genk. There too he was as usual very much involved with everyone. In spring 2012 he had problems with the kidneys, but again he recovered.

In January 2014 his heart was weak again and he had lung oedema. He got a new pacemaker but nevertheless he was taken to emergency room several times. Early 2015, before going to hospital again he received the extreme unction in his community. Back home he picked up the thread of his daily life but in December he had a bad fall down the stairs. There were complications and in very difficult circumstances he received the extreme unction again. Because of the artificial breathing machines, he could hardly say a word, but his eyes clearly showed evidence that he joined in our prayers. On January 27th he died in St.-John’s in Genk.

During his lifetime, Rik was a very kind person, attentive, at the same time shy and maybe because of this shyness somewhat overenthusiastic in his reactions. A childish simplicity characterized him best and this quality stood also for his religious life. He was really very devoted to people and to God which made him a hard worker. In a letter written in 1956 to his provincial he showed himself as we have always known him. Those were his army days, and just in time – actually he was a bit late – he had asked permission to renew his vows. By the way, in Belgium the seminarians are supposed to perform their military service in a special unit, the infirmary. I quote: *“It’s midnight and again I was on guard in*

the infirmary. Some of the sick were in a very bad condition because of accidents. For a Montfortian to be in an infirmary goes without saying since Montfort himself was a friend of the sick and the suffering. This night I discovered a relic of the holy Montfort in the bed of one of our worst patients, a cyclist... Of course life in the infirmary is such that we are more concerned about the others than ourselves. And yet we have to find the right balance... Here, more than anywhere else we have the occasion to see things as they really are. It's from this experience that I ask to renew my vows..."

Rik had a very strong family bond. During his illness they visited him daily and kept watch over him till the very end. We are very grateful to them. On his request we'll put him aside his father and mother and his dear sister Leonie in the family tomb to rest in the cemetery of Meeswijk. Rik was someone who was always serving the others. He wanted to give rather than to receive, he was generous. He not only lives on in our memory but personally he is now with God deeper and happier than we can ever imagine. May Mary and Montfort, for whom he had a great devotion, lead him into eternal happiness.



Mgr. Gregorio GARAVITO JIMÉNEZ, S.M.M.
Bishop Emeritus of Villavicencio
(1919 – 2016)

died on 16 February 2016 at Villavicencio – Meta (Colombia),
aged 96 with 79 years of religious profession.

Bishop Gregorio Garavito Jimenez, was born on 9 March 1919 in Junin-Cundinamarca, a land beautiful in its countryside and prolific in vocations to the Religious Life and Priesthood. Son of Don Lino Garavito and Gregoria Jimenez, a marriage of solid Christian fundamentals. On 30 March of that same year he was baptized with the name Gregorio Servant of God Garavito Jimenez, as a prelude even from that moment of what his life would be: a servant of God at the service of others, especially the people of the plains. He was confirmed at barely three years of age, at the hands of Mgr. Bernardo Herrera Restrepo, Archbishop of Bogotá.

His vocation had its origin in God himself, who uses the means and the how he desires to make himself heard. In this case it was Doña Gregoria, his mother, who animated him and proposed that he become a priest. In Junin, thanks to the openness and promotion of Fr. Cenon Torres, pastor during 16 years, various religious communities passed through seeking vocations. It was 1926 and Gregorio was but a child of seven years. From San Juanito-Meta came Fr. Emilio Riviere, accompanied by a dozen youth and other priests. Without delay, before the presence of this group, Don Lino Garavito presented his son with the desire to hand himself over – as Ana did with her son Samuel – to the service of God. But he was still a little boy. He had to wait three more years. In 1929 he entered the Minor Seminary of Our Lady of the Missions in Choachí –Cundinamarca. St. Louis de Montfort, in his Prayer for Missionaries, had asked for him, and now he welcomed him to begin his process of formation. He finished his secondary studies there in 1935, and that same year began his novitiate experience in San Juanito. He lasted barely six months, because he was

expelled in June. The cause was a letter he had written to Mgr. Jose Maria Guiot, Vicar Apostolic and Montfortian Provincial, informing him of the unrest that the novice master, Fr. Eugenio Brochard, a man of 75 years of age, had generated among the group, due to his attitude as a formator. Perhaps the iron discipline acquired over the years had made the Master a man too harsh, who distanced himself from the robustness and youth of his students. But with it all, young Gregorio had to return to Junin in company with his nephew, Albert Garavito. But, pushed by his mother and counseled by Mgr. Agustin Gutierrez, then pastor at Junin, he wrote a letter once again, seeking pardon. It was accepted and 2 February 1936 he began his novitiate. He had learned his lesson and the following 2 February 1937 he made first profession according to the Constitutions of the Company of Mary –Montfort Missionaries. With his vows professed, he began studies of philosophy and theology in the Major Seminary, also at San Juanito, under the direction of Fr. Francisco Jose Bruls. He made perpetual vows in 1942. That same year he received the diaconate and priesthood; the date chosen was the feast of Saint James the Apostle, 25 July.

At the dawn of his priesthood, barely six months ordained, he was sent to study Canon Law at the Pontifical Javeriana University in Bogotá. Without finishing his studies, holy obedience asked him to return to Villavicencio to occupy himself with a large part of the apostolic labor of Fr. Maurice Dieres Montplaisir, incomparable leader who was embracing the cross of illness. Now we are in 1945, and we confront a formidable apostolic deployment that will last 16 years: Director of the schools governed by the Vicariate, Councilor to Catholic Action, Delegated Inspector for the Apostolate, Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of Villavicencio, secretary to Mgr. Bruls, Founder – with Fr. Elias Garavito – of the Normal School Santa Teresita of the Child Jesus, Cursillos de Cristianidad, musical courses, organization of the Eucharistic Congress of the Plains, with a view to contribute to the process of peace and reconciliation, since the Llanos were devoured then by the fratricidal violence unleashed 9 April 1948 with the death of the liberal leader, Jorge Eliecer Gaitan. Witness to this process is the Templete, sign of the desired fraternity in the Llanos.

On 4 December 1961 he was named auxiliary bishop and on 11 February 1962 consecrated bishop in the Cathedral Church of Villavicencio. As a good son of Montfort, the great missionary, he continued his pastoral and social activity, animating far and wide the Vicariate and accompanying as his auxiliary Bishop Francisco Jose Bruls Canisius. His works show the missionary zeal that filled him: promotion of laity; strengthening of the Cursillos; support of Catholic Action; the Legion of Mary; Popular Cultural Action, Social Action; the accompaniment of Uconal and Setrac, worker organizations; the organization of Utrallanos – Federation of Christian Workers; he supported and strengthened the Minor Seminary in Restrepo, the construction of Fr. Ramon Ramos and plans of the great architect Jose Ramakers.

On 1 May 1969 he became residential Bishop of the Diocese of Villavicencio. He created 16 more parishes; groups strengthened or begun under his initiative were Marriage Encounter, the Scout Movement, Lay Ministries, the permanent Diaconate; Christian Base Communities, Missionary Infancy, Encounters for Youth Promotion; Health Pastoral; Social Pastoral; use of communication medias such as radio and the press. With the help of Fr. Jose Otter, he created the Graphic Edition John XXIII; the review *Eco Llanero* was born. A year before his retirement, he founded the Major Seminary of Nuestra Senora del Carmen. Having reached 75 years of age, on 3 May 1994 he handed over the diocese to Mgr. Alfonso Cabezas, who in 1992 had been named coadjutor bishop with the right of succession. After that, twenty-two years in the fruitful silence of his house; in joyful recollection in prayer; in the wisdom of old age; in the luster of his counsel; in the

happiness of being able to finish the task, and finally the inescapable embrace of the cross of illness which united him radically to his Master.

Today his apostolic zeal shines for us; his generous commitment; his service without measure; his radiant joyfulness; his peace and serenity. Witnesses of the joy of his last years, even in the crucible of the cross, are those of Sister Ruth, the simple, serviceable, committed, happy and selfless religious who shared from her young days the work of the bishop till her gray hair in the unconditional service of the church in the person of this bishop, who travelled throughout the Meta bringing the Good News. There is also that of Rita, with her joy, spontaneity and welcome.

God has chosen to gather up the mature fruits of the Archdiocesan Church of Villavicencio and has placed them in the basket of Eternal Life for the religious, priest, bishop, pastor, missionary, apostle, founder, singer and writer, Mgr. Gregorio Garavito. May he shine as a lasting light in the heart of those immense Llanos so in need of love, justice and peace; in the priests called to the mission and in the men and women seeking God. Peace in his grave and Glory in heaven.



Brother Roch CÔTÉ, S.M.M.

(1933 – 2016)

died on 19 February 2016 at Trois-Rivières (Canada),
aged 82 with 54 years of religious profession.

Brother Roch Côté was born on 25 November 1933 in Avenir, diocese of Nicolet. He pronounced his first vows in the Brothers' novitiate at Upper Melbourne, on 19 March 1961. He made perpetual profession on 19 March 1966 at our Montfort Seminary, Papineauville.

From 1961 to 1965 he worked maintaining the farm at Upper Melbourne, then going to Papineauville, to Montfort Seminary, for the same work until 1973.

Following that, for 12 years he was named a missionary in Papua New Guinea, in the diocese of Daru-Kiunga, which was confided to the Montfortians. I was a witness to the ardour of his work, often in a tropical heat. A competent carpenter, he built there schools, dispensaries and houses to lodge the missionaries. He had the patience to teach his profession to the Papuans who worked with him.

Returning to his country, for a period of 25 years our confrere was at Nicolet, offering his services for the general maintenance, the gardens and the flower beds. Finally, in 2010, he retired to the Cenacle Saint-Pierre at Pointe-du-Lac, Trois-Rivières.

By nature, our confrere was calm and serious, with a certain shyness. He was a model of religious life. He loved to cultivate flowers and to occupy himself with the birds.

During his last years of illness and suffering, he would pass hours and hours in prayer, in the chapel of the Cenacle Saint-Pierre, à Pointe du Lac.

Brother Roch Côté died on 19 February 2016 in the hospital Sainte Marie, at Trois-Rivières, after a very long pulmonary illness. The funeral was celebrated Wednesday, 24 February at the Cenacle Saint-Pierre at 14 hours. His body was exposed the same day, from 10:00. May the Virgin Mary, whom our confrere loved so much, now lead him into the joys of Eternity!



Father Miguel VELÁSQUEZ ACOSTA, S.M.M.
(1934 – 2016)

died on 24 February 2016 in Bogotá (Colombia),
aged 82 with 60 years of religious profession.

Padre Miguel Velasquez Acosta was born on 17 February 1934 in Junin-Cundinamarca, son of Don Pedro Velasquez and Rosalbina Acosta. The following Sunday he was brought by his parents and godparents to the Baptismal Font of the Parish of Nuestra Senora del Rosario in the same town.

Still a child, he began his studies at the Seminary in Choachí. The year after he finished his bachaloriate, at the beginning of 1955, he and fellow students crossed the barren plateau of Chingaza to arrive at San Juanito, in the Cordillera Oriental, land of beautiful waterfalls and marvelous countryside. There he dedicated himself to live his novitiate experience with the recently named Master of Novices, Fr. Salvador Prieto - may he rest in peace - to whom he would be united not only in their home town, but also in the service of formation and finally in the cross of infirmity. Having finished his preparation to follow Jesus poor, chaste and obedient, he made his first vows on 2 February 1956. In 24 days from today, he would have celebrated in the radical silence of his illness 60 years as a consecrated Religious, his Diamond Jubilee.

In Alban-Cundinamarca, he began with force and discipline his studies of philosophy and theology, which he completed in 1961, year of grace and benediction, because on 29 September he received his Priesthood, a ministry that he lived out for 56 years. Junin was giving one more son to the Church and to the Company of Mary.

The year following his ordination, he was sent to the Missionary Team in Manizales. Nine years of itinerancy, preaching, confessions, service to the poor, prayer and study. A missionary in the best style of Louis de Montfort, his master, guide and inspiration.

But the missionary also needs some quiet and stability, and he was sent as coadjutor to the Parish of our Lady of Fatima in Ocana-Norte de Santander. There he would be pastor, from 1972 till 1977. With his gentleness, closeness, amiability, humility, simplicity and holiness, he would bring many souls to the Lord, and great friends who would accompany him in all the moments of his life. We know that friends are gifts from God, and Fr. Miguelito, “Papi Velas”, as his fellow students and brothers always called him, and “Papi” as his students would call him, was seen to be blessed by the Lord with great friends. In 1978 he was sent to Medellin as coadjutor in the Parish of San Luis Beltran. With this experience, the itinerant missionary, parish priest and assistant, will terminate one stage of

his life. They were 16 years of missionary labor that sized up, strengthened and prepared him for new stage.

And now, Holy Obedience destined him not for great multitudes and eloquent preaching; not for great works and pompous celebrations, but rather for small groups and intimate presentations, small works and simple celebrations. He will become a formator, the recognized master of the new generations. His passage through the changing paths of formation would begin in 1979 in Bogotá as *socius* to the master of Postulants. The following year, 1980, he was named Master of Novices. Four years in a simple house in Suba-Tibabuyes, forming a new post conciliar generation of Montfortian religious. Then he returned as Master of Novices to his beloved Choachí, the place of his own initial formation, town that would receive him with open arms since he left their homeland. He would be there from 1984 till 1989. Various generations in this seminary were inspired by his teachings, formation and guidance. An experiential witness of this stage is a group of priests among whom one can count our Vicar General, Fr. Jorge Enrique Gonzalez, the Provincial and the one reading these words, Fr. Gonzalo Tabares; the current Master of Novices, Fr. Jaime Oved Cabrejo; our missionary in Argentina, Fr. Gabriel Riveros, beloved son of this land, and other confreres who with valor hand over their life for the mission, like Oswaldo Jaramillo, and Parmenio Gomez, present here in this celebration. And we could not omit naming Fr. Luizinho, the Brazilian priest who is now Superior of Peru-Brazil.

Obedience indicated to him that he continues in formation, and this, leaving his work as Master of Novices, he passed over to the direction of the Major Seminary, the Juniorate in Belen-Bogotá. Now we are between the years 1990 – 2003. The Church had changed, the community also, and the processes of formation are not free from these changes and transformations. This was the moment to prepare the way for internationality. Fr. Miguel was chosen for the responsibility of forming young men from Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Nicaragua. The culmination of his labor.

Now with the Juniorate reorganizing, we see Fr. Miguel return to the initial stage of the Postulancy. It is necessary to hand over the “witnessing”, and he does so. Fr. Gonzalo takes over. The generational transition is realized. Now his students will continue with the formation work.

In 2003 he was sent to the Marian Center. “El Papi Velas” was 69 years old. He already had 25 years in formation. It was good for him to dedicate a short time to reading, prayer, diffusion of our spirituality. He will be there for five years. During his stay, a large missionary initiative was deployed in favor of the historically poor and displaced persons of Cazuca. In the barrio Corinto he left a beautiful chapel as a testimony to his love for those most in need, that he built with the invaluable help of Sr. Cecilia Latorre, DW – may she rest in peace. The lay people from the Marian Center were his companions and the ones who continued this work. Excellent brother, great friend. In his shadow, new generations of priests consolidate their Montfortian vocation.

But one who has been cannot stop being, and Fr. Miguel turned again to the task. In 2008 he was in the International Novitiate at Paipa, as *Socius*. He will leave there in 2011. He was 77 years old and his health began to visibly deteriorate.

The formator of formators arrived tired, ill, and exhausted, but happy and lively at the Home for Priests. His Lord has asked him to participate in his greatest treasure: the Cross, “Mystery of such profound love that without the light of heaven, the heart cannot see it.” The autumn of his life was without cure. The leaves were blown by the winds and the tree that once gave shade and protection are now gone in the total nakedness of life. Miguel

became like the chrysalis in the cocoon; in the silence of transformation, of metamorphosis, of transfiguration. His gaze was toward the infinite, like an innocent child in who there was no shade of badness, fooling or sadness, only goodness.

Miguelito, “How are you?” I asked him. He smiles with his eyes, moves his lips... “Congratulations, today is your 82 Birthday!”, I tell him in a firm and welcoming voice. He looks with amazement and smiles. He is seated in a wheelchair. Seven days later, he awaits the final call of God. It was 7:10 in the evening. He departed in silence before the amazement of doctors and nurses. The heavens rang out with joy! He had arrived at the eternal dwellings, Miguel Antonio de Jesus Velazquez Acosta, Montfort Missionary, personal disciple of Jesus Christ the Eternal Wisdom; unconditional friend of the Cross; religious and priest; light and guide. He arrived, the great missionary and formator, to partake of heavenly joys, of the banquet prepared for those who have bathed themselves in the deepest experience of the love and Mercy of the Lord.

Miguelito, intercede for us, and with St. Louis de Montfort, pray to the Master of the Vineyard, that he rain down copiously holy missionaries, priests and religious for the Company of Mary, for our Province. Peace in his grace and Glory in heaven.



Father Gaston GUBERT, S.M.M.

(1923 – 2016)

died on 3 March 2016 in Saint Laurent-Sur-Sèvre (France),
aged 92 with 68 years of religious profession.

Father Gaston, Gaston Gabriel Louis GUBERT, was born 5 September 1923 at Severac le Chateau (in l’Aveyron), son of Jean and Louise Verdier, both farmers. Gaston was baptized 9 September 1923 at Notre Dame du Bousquet in Severac le Chateau. He received the sacrament of Confirmation in his parish 3 April 1933. The following year, Gaston entered the minor seminary St. Pierre at Rodez (1934-39); then he finished his secondary studies at the college/lycee of the Immaculate Conception at Espalion (1939-41). From 1941 to 1946, Gaston was at the Major Seminary of Rodez; ecclesiastical studies interrupted by his military service which he did in the service of the Staff at Montpellier (February to December 1945). Fr. Gaston would remain very proud of his origins in Aveyron and also his accent...

Entering into the novitiate of the Company of Mary at Celles sur Belle (Deux Sevres), he made first profession 8 September 1947, then he finished his theology studies at Montfort sur Meu, from 1947-50. He returned again to Celle sur Belle for his perpetual profession (8 September 1950) and the sub-deaconate in the parish church from Mgr. Mace (12 September 1950). He was ordained deacon at Angouleme in the chapel of the Bishop’s House by Mgr. Megnin (23 September 1950) and received priestly ordination 11 October 1950 at Nimes in la Gard. Not a bad journey for a Montfortian...

His desire to become a Montfortian came from his desire to be a foreign missionary... Little more than two months after his ordination, Fr. Gaston was sent to Madagascar (16

January 1951). From February 1951 to October 1955 he was at Tanambao out in the country. Then, from October 1955 to February 1958, he was charged with the rural chapels of Salazamay. After his first vacation in France (February 1958 to January 1959), Fr. Gaston was at Ilaka Est until his second rest break (1964-65). Upon his return he was named to Vatomandry as vicar and responsible (June 1965 – September 1967); he found the pastoral work in the brush easier than that of the town, where side-by-side was a mixed population susceptible and jealous of particularities (French, Creoles, Chinese, Malgaches of various origins). Then he was sent to Tamatave, to the parish of St. Joseph, at the service of the southern country (September 1967 to June 1972) – a stay interrupted by vacation from March to October 1970. In June 1972, Fr. Gaston was in the parish of Anivorano, where he would accomplish great missionary journeys on foot: 110 km did not scare him and neither did a 10 hour march... In April 1978 he returned definitively to France, hit with acute malaria and then viral hepatitis involving the spleen... He weighed only 63 kg... After a stay in hospital at Montpellier, he took a time for convalescence at our community of La Gardiolle, in the Gard (till end of 1978).

Before undertaking his new missionary life in France, Fr. Gaston followed an updating course at l'Arbresle (from January to March 1979); with humor he noted that the scripture courses were a little different from what he had received at Montfort sur Meu, and joked about group dynamics, very a la mode in those days... A Jesuit friend of Fr. Gaston said that he was much appreciated for his qualities, especially his apostolic dynamism. At the same time, a Montfortian confrere from Madagascar expressed his regret for not seeing him return to Madagascar, where he had sacrificed his health for evangelization, by his efforts, marches and sweats. Having confronted the very franco-francaises problematics of updating, he was named to Paris as chaplain in the Hospital Broussais (September 1979). He also assured for two years the task of the secretariat of the "Cahiers Marials" (October 1979 to 1981).

In September 1997 Fr. Gaston found himself once again in the south of France, attached to the community of La Gardiolle; he was assistant priest for the deanery of Decazeville in the diocese of Rodez, and chaplain of the Sisters of the Holy Family at Livinhac le Haut, where he lived. Then, in September 2000, he was named to the community of La Gardiolle. It was in 2009 for health reasons (he had Parkinson's disease) that Fr. Gaston arrived at the community of Saint Esprit at Saint Laurent sur Sevre; that was certainly not his choice. But he would live his last years of missionary life in serenity, without ever complaining of his infirmities due to age and his various maladies. Man of Faith, he lived his last years in an atmosphere of prayer. Taken to his bed for a few days, on March 3rd Fr. Gaston finished his last great missionary tour, not to encounter the parishioners who loved him so much, but to meet the Lord, to whom he had handed over everything.



Brother Camille DEMERS, S.M.M.
(1925 – 2016)

died on 12 March 2016 in Nicolet (Canada),
aged 90 with 68 years of religious profession.

Brother Camille Demers was born on 15 March 1925 in St-Flavian, in the county of Lotbinière, in the region of the Beauce. He was the nephew of the deceased Fr. Roger Charest, smm, and it was he who oriented our confrere to the Montfortians.

Our confrere Camille pronounced his first vows, at the novitiate of the Brothers in Upper Melbourne, on 19 March 1947. He made his perpetual profession in the same place on 19 March 1952.

From 1947 to 1954 he undertook the care of the farm at the Upper Melbourne novitiate. Then he spent a year as gardener at our Scholasticate St-Jean in Eastview, Ontario.

For a period of 17 years he was occupied with various tasks at the farm of the Seminary Montfort in Papineauville.

After that a long obedience of 37 years awaited him at our novitiate St. Marie in Nicolet. In addition to various works on the farm, he was a nurses' aid. For this he undertook courses in gerontology to better understand and serve the sick and aged confreres.

Finally, in 2009, he came to Pointe-du-Lac, to offer different services of maintenance of the grounds, and especially to be chauffeur with Brother Jacques Benoit to drive people to doctors or to hospital.

He was a man of easy relationships in community and always ready to offer service. He himself wrote in a letter of 14 March 2005: "The fathers and brothers appreciate very much what I do. I am happy for the community and I am happy to serve".

Our dear Camille loved to improve himself by following courses, whether in agricultural science, or mechanics, or welding. What he appreciated very much was deepening his Montfortian spirituality, by courses or by sessions and retreats. In this sense, he wrote: "I am filled".

Brother Camille died in the hospital at Nicolet, on 12 March 2016, in the evening. He was three days away from his 91st birthday. The funeral was at the Cenacle Saint-Pierre, at Pointe du Lac, Friday 18 March 2016. His body was exposed the same day from 10:00 h. May the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph lead our confrere into the joys of Eternity!



Father Paul Robert ALLERTON, S.M.M.
(1940 – 2016)

died on 25 April 2016 in Liverpool (England),
aged 76 with 57 years of Religious Profession.

Paul Robert Allerton was born in Park House, Waterloo, Liverpool on 2 March 1940 and was baptised on 10 March here at Ss. Peter and Paul's in Crosby. He was the second born son of Francis and Ellen Allerton and is survived by his brothers John and Vin, and his sister Anne. It was also at Ss. Peter and Paul's that he made his first Communion, Confession and received the sacrament of Confirmation. His primary schooling was at St. Mary's College Preparatory school (at that time in Everest Road) and he then began his primary education at St. Mary's College before going to the Junior Seminary of the Company of Mary, Montfort College, Romsey, Hampshire.

Having entered the Novitiate of the Company of Mary in Ashurst, Southampton, he made his first religious vows there on 8 September 1958. His studies in philosophy and theology were completed at St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, Shropshire, where he made his perpetual profession in the Company of Mary on 31 August 1963, and was ordained priest there on 22 February 1964.

His first appointment after ordination was to study Mathematics in Romsey and then to take a B. Sc. Degree in Maths at Southampton University. After a year of post-graduate study in Education at Liverpool University, he was sent to Montfort College, Romsey to teach Mathematics and New Testament Greek, which he did for seven years. In 1976 he was sent to Woodridge in Queensland, Australia, to help in St. Paul's parish there. He returned to England in 1977, to become the superior of the Scholasticate of the Company of Mary in Highgate, London. At the end of his three year term there he was asked by the Superior General to return to Australia to be the superior of an enlarged community, and to try to expand the range of ministries of the missionaries there. He spent the next nine years teaching in Australia, during which time he gave many retreats (both preached and individually guided) and a number of parish missions. He also worked for many years as a team-priest in Marriage Encounter. When the Company of Mary had to leave Australia (due to lack of vocations there), Fr. Paul returned to London, but was immediately asked to be the Master of Novices in a new international Novitiate project in Pontchâteau, France (1990-1992). On returning to London in 1992, he was appointed Provincial Bursar of the Province of Gt. Britain and Ireland, a post he held until 1997. After a Sabbatical year, during which time he took a short course in Mariology in Rome, and a course of Ignatian spirituality at St. Beuno's, North Wales, he was appointed to co-direct the Sandymount House of Prayer in Liverpool. Then in 1999 he was appointed by the Superior General to be the General Secretary of the Company of Mary in Rome, a post he held until 2002.

After returning from Rome, Fr. Paul was appointed to Barrhead, Scotland, to work in the Retreat House there until its closure in 2006. From there he went to St. Joseph's, Ashurst. There he was once again appointed Provincial Bursar on the death of Fr. Philip Wilson, and also Mission Procurator, with special responsibility for making appeals for Montfort Missionaries in Africa.

He returned to his home town, Liverpool in 2009, and continued as Bursar until 2012, when worsening health suggested the need for semi-retirement. However, Fr. Paul remained very busy with writing; his final publication on St. Louis Marie de Montfort being released in January. He also remained heavily involved with language translation for the General House in Rome, regularly helped his confreres with various IT issues and for the last fifteen years has been solely responsible for numerous Montfort websites around the world.

Requiem Mass for Paul was celebrated at Ss. Peter & Paul RC Church, Great Crosby, Liverpool, and his body was buried in the Montfort grave in the churchyard there. Fr. Paul will be remembered with great affection by so many people, may he now be received safely to his heavenly reward.



Father Henri LEPLOMB, S.M.M.

(1928 – 2016)

died on 13 May 2016 at Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France),
aged 87 with 67 years of religious profession.

Father Henri Leplomb was born on 31 August 1928 at St Savinien en Charente Maritime. He was the 4th child of a family of 5. Two are still alive, the oldest: Louis, and the youngest: Jean.

He began his secondary studies at Saintes, at Notre Dame de Recouvrance, in 7th and 6th. He entered Pontchâteau to continue his studies from 5th till the Terminal, which were called Philosophy.

He made religious profession with the Montfortians at Celles sur Belle, Deux-Sèvres, 8 September 1948. With the confreres of his class, he went to Chézelles, Indre et Loire, for the two first years of study in the scholasticate. The following 4 years were spent in Ille et Vilaine, at Montfort sur Meu, native town of Père de Montfort, where he was ordained priest on 7 February 1954.

And missionary life began! Rather quickly these missions would be taken in charge by the CPMI, an organism for parish missions led by several congregations, led to take charge of territories vaster than that of a single parish. Certain ones remain famous in the memory of the missionaries. During this time, Henri did social studies at Lille.

This period is that of Vatican Council II, followed later in France by May 68. Parish missions were no longer profitable, and the congregations involved in this apostolate were going to have to orient their missionary efforts to other forms of presence in France, and other regions of the planet. In France, teams of Montfortians accepted to insert themselves in sectors with a heavy density of workers, to develop teams of Catholic action. Henri did not wish to join this type of team. After a short stay in Angoulême, of which he kept a bad memory, he was oriented toward an insertion in professional work. He worked at a florist to gain some money... and finally, around the 70's, he was accepted at the *Caisse des*

Allocations familiales de Paris. He had responsibilities in the municipal administrative service. He remained there until his retirement.

During all this time, thanks to Fr. Job Guével, he had some links with the Montfortians at Petit-Clamart. Then, he began to come, at least once a month, for a meal with the Montfortians of Petit-Clamart, then, either at the rue Beaunier, or Orsay, where the team met.

Meanwhile, after his retirement he joined the group “Solignac”. This name remained from the time when the first meetings took place, from the 1970’s, at Solignac near Limoges, at the scholasticate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This group wished to be a place for re-reading of our lives as missionaries, re-reading inspired by the pedagogy of the Catholic Action.

With the authorisation of successive Provincials, in accord with the authorities of the diocese of Paris, Henri assured every Friday a eucharistic celebration with homily at OCH (Office of Handicapped Christians), rue de Suffren.

Anxious to keep in good shape, he often took his bicycle, in a garage at Versailles, first with the Sisters, and after their departure, at the Capuchins. He chewed up tens of kilometers in the countryside of the Yvelines.

Each year he loved to return to Charente, near his family, with a stopover at Chézelles. It was also during his vacations that he “made retreat”.

In the course of his years of insertion in professional work, he had bought a small apartment. This purchase led him to enter into a group of co-owners, of which he assured the presidency for many years, disappointed not to have found a successor quick enough... Sometimes he would share with us the difficulties in managing “formidable” human situations, to use his expression.

The rest of his life we lived together here. In conclusion, I share a brief witness from a former Montfortian who kept in contact with him: *“Henri, what I appreciate in you, all these years, is your frankness, your true word, your sense of welcome, the place you leave for the other, your taste for work well done, your taste for “beautiful” order in yourself and in your library. Thank you for this beautiful friendship that leaves us a trace of a profound humanity.”*



Father Robert Bernard ELLWOOD, S.M.M.
(1939 – 2016)

died on 15 May 2016 at Romsey (England),
aged 77 with 55 years of religious profession.

Robert Bernard Ellwood was born on 11 April 1939, the only son of George and Elizabeth Ellwood (née Thornley), who also had two daughters, Judith and Jane. Father Bob was baptised on 30 April 1939 in St. Cuthbert's, Blackpool and made the sacrament of confirmation on 25 May 1947 in St. Mary's, Chorley. After completing his primary education, he went onto secondary education at Montfort College, Romsey, where he studied between 1951 and 1959. After completing further studies at Church Stretton, Shropshire, he was professed on 8 June 1960 and then ordained on 5 March 1966. He then began teaching at Montfort College in the same year, and was soon to become the Vocations Director in 1967 and eventually the Bursar in 1969.

In 1973 he was moved to Montfort House, Barrhead, Glasgow to undertake duties as Bursar there and assist in the running of the retreat house. Between 1974 and 1985 he was a curate in several Archdiocese in England; St. Oswald's, Longton in the Liverpool Archdiocese; St. Joseph's, Todmorden in the Salford Archdiocese and St. John the Baptist, Andover in the Portsmouth Archdiocese. In 1985 he returned to St. Joseph's, Todmorden to become parish priest there, where he remained for four years. During his time in Tormorden he was a member of the Tormorden Tennis Club, being a keen and skilled player.

On 13 October 1989 he was appointed Provincial Bursar by Fr. Flynn and moved to Montfort House, Liverpool to be the Superior. In 1995 he was moved to the Provincial House in Hendon, London in order to undertake duties as Mission Procurator and Associates Liaison Officer and Accountant of the Montfort Missionary Society, the Province of Great Britain and Ireland. Three years later he returned once more to Liverpool, to Our Lady of the Assumption, Gateacre for a short while before returning to what was then the Provincial House in Blundellsands. After a few years he moved down to St. Joseph's, Ashurst, Southampton for short while, where he loved being able to tend the garden and grounds. A move back to Liverpool did not last long, his health deteriorated somewhat before finally moving to Marie Louise House some three years ago.

Father Bob loved visiting family and friends, spending time with them at their homes or on holiday as well as conducting many family weddings and baptisms. He was a stalwart member of the Broughton Catholic Charitable Society for Lancashire clergy and laity, and could always be seen at their events until recent years. He had a great many friends from all over the country from the various parishes he served in, he was very good with people, always putting them at their ease.

There are people who make a difference simply by being who they are. They make our lives a little brighter, warmer and happier. Whose remembrance gives light in this world long after they have gone, and we realize how lucky we are to have known them. A precious life has passed from our sight, but never from our hearts.



Father Ludwig HALMES, S.M.M.
(1926 – 2016)

died on 21 June 2016 at Marienheide (Germany),
aged 89 with 63 years of religious profession.

Ludwig was born in Köln-Mülheim on 15 October 1926. Much impressed by the war experiences his desire to become a priest became stronger and stronger. He got his formation in the mission school of the montfortians in Reydt. In 1951 he started his noviciate in Meerssen, the Netherlands and he did his first profession on 8 September 1952. He studied philosophy and theology at the montfortian seminar in Oirschot, the Netherlands. On 8 September 1957 he did his perpetual profession and was ordained priest on 22 June 1958. His first obedience brought him back to the mission school of Reydt as prefect and teacher in the vocational school.

In 1964 he was moved to the community of Wolfsburg. From 1965 till 1973 he worked as a religious teacher in the vocational schools and at the same time he was chaplain of the Christian Labour Youth (CAJ) in the diocese of Hildesheim. In 1973 he was appointed episcopal chairman of the Catholic Labour Movement and at the same time was appointed head of the department of pastoral work. From 1987 till 2001 he was chaplain in the Wolfsburg clinic.

He spent the last years of his life in the community of Wolfsburg, where he arrived in 2001, when he was 75 years old. Here he helped in the pilgrimage and rendered his pastoral service in the parish as long as his health allowed him to do. We and many others will never forget his sense of humour and his guitar that he carried along with him all the time. With his “magic tricks” he enchanted as the “magic father” both young and old. He always had a joke by hand. “I don’t like people leaving the church being too serious” he once said.

The last years he became weaker and weaker but till the end he eagerly participated in everything that happened around him or in the community.

In the morning of Tuesday 21 June 2016, the Lord called him into his heavenly abode. May the Lord reward him for all the work he did in His vineyard.



Father Alessandro CARRARA, S.M.M.
(1938 – 2016)

died on 18 July 2016 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 78 with 55 years of religious profession.

He was born on 12 July 1938 in Comenduno (Bg). He finished his primary studies in his town and first became a worker in a foundry, till he was 19 years old. He then sought entrance into the Company of Mary, where he was sent to Loreto to fill out his studies. He completed the novitiate year at Castiglione Torinese and made first profession on 29 September 1960. He returned to the scholasticate, first again in Loreto and then in Rome, for the years of philosophy and theology, at the Lateran. He was ordained priest on 9 March 1968.

As his first priestly service he was sent to Arbizzano (Vr), as spiritual director for the young men (1968-1973). After a year of updating in Rome, where at the Antonianum he followed courses in spirituality, he was sent to Bergamo, again for spiritual direction at the apostolic school (1974-1980). Changing his manner of pastoral service, he was next sent to Ginosa (Ta), where for two years he was pastor at the Rosario. In 1982 he was transferred to Treviglio (Bg), for popular preaching; and in 1984 he returned to Arbizzano (Vr) again for spiritual direction, to which was added vocation animation. In 1986 he received obedience for Treviglio (Bg), where he discharged the ministry of preaching, confessions and accompanying the pilgrimages, from the chaplaincy of Badalasco di Fara d'Adda. He remained in Treviglio for 30 years, until the illness that within a few months ended his life, being transferred to Bergamo in the last weeks. He died there 18 July 2016. He is buried at Comenduno (Bg).

Of a jovial character and good company, he lived his priesthood with conviction, expressed in simplicity and at times a strong human charge. He easily created relations for friendship and nourished them with discretion and continuity. With humility and without presumption, he fulfilled his spiritual service that was asked of him from time to time. In spiritual direction and confessions, in celebrations, accompanying pilgrimages, in the parish pastoral service, he always placed his priesthood in the first place. He loved to follow news and information, both ecclesiastical and political-social. By character and formation, he was faithful to tradition, but as a missionary he knew how to be open to cultural changes in the world of today.

Also in the community life, his attitude was constructive, especially in his willingness to care for the practical aspects of common life, service of the house, kitchen, and cordial welcome. Frank in expressing himself, he was careful not to force himself on others' choices. Several times he was named vice-superior, knowing how to collaborate for a community climate of fraternal serenity.

Confronted with the rapid change of his health, he reacted without hiding his fear, according to human frailty, but he knew how to hand over everything in faith and in abandonment to the Lord, bringing to fulfilment his Montfortian religious and priestly consecration.



Father Jean LE GUEN, S.M.M.
(1938 – 2016)

died on 21 August 2016 at Saint Laurent sur Sèvre (France),
aged 77 with 53 years of religious profession.

Jean was born on 24 September 1938 at Plourin Ploudalmézeau (Finistère), son of Joseph and Marie-Philomène Le Hir. Joseph Le Guen, his father, was postman at PTT (Posts and Telecommunications). Jean was baptized the day after his birth (25 September) at Plourin, where he also received the sacrament of Confirmation (29 May 1949). He did his secondary studies at the Institute St François de Lesneven (1951-1957), and at the minor seminary of Pont-Croix in Finistère (1957-1958).

Then came the terrible epoch of the Algerian War: Jean did his military training for 6 months in Metz (March 1959) and then left for 22 months in Algeria (until 29 June 1961). This was a dramatic experience for Jean, which marked him forever. He could only free himself from these phantoms of war by writing...

It was in this night that God called him to the Company of Mary: Jean entered the novitiate of the Montfort Missionaries at Chézelles (Indre et Loire) where he made his first vows on 15 September 1962. He then left for the scholasticate of Montfort sur Meu from 1962 to 1968, years of turbulence.

It was at Chartres (Eure et Loire) in Notre-Dame-de-Sous-Terre in the Cathedral, that Jean made perpetual profession on 30 September 1967. Mgr. Roger Michon, bishop of Chartres, ordained him sub-deacon on 1 October 1967 in the chapel of the Major Seminary of Chartres, and deacon on 23 December 1967 in the chapel of the Redemptorists at Dreux. Mgr. Favé, auxiliary bishop of Quimper, ordained him priest on 7 July 1968 at Kerlouan (Finistère).

His first missionary works were under the sign of itinerance: he was at Portereau (in Vertou) as a missionary from 1968 to 1970 (it was the end of the ministry of foundation of Montfort Missionaries in France!); then at Ancy-le-Franc (Yonne) from 1970 to July 1971 for a time of pastoral stage ; he undertook parish in Nouâtre (Indre et Loire) from 1971 to 1972; then he was at Montierchaume (Indre) from 1972 to 1973 when he made an FPA stage (professional formation for adults) in carpentry.

But it was after this that Jean would really find his way: from October 1973 till June 1974, Jean underwent a formation at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences at Lyon, the subject of his study and passion was: “relationship in the handicap of deafness”. A new missionary life began... in the steps of Father de Montfort, chaplain at the General Hospital, Jean left for Poitiers in September 1974, for the ministry with the deaf (in the apostolic region Sud Ouest), then as diocesan chaplain to Secours Catholique (in March 1980). As for Father de Montfort, his years in Poitiers formed him to a missionary life at the service on the most abandoned, the most forgotten... But, he also caught the taste for bicycle sport, which he practiced assiduously... even in company with the Bishop of Poitiers.

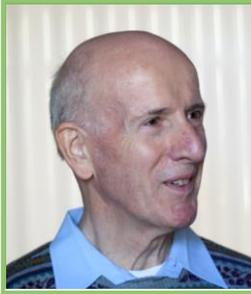
Rich from this experience, after a time of renewal in 1985, Jean was named responsible for the chaplains to the sick for the Montfortian Pilgrimage (since 1975 he was with Fr. Pierre Barrat). Is it possible to tell all that the Chaplaincy of the Sick of the Montfortian Pilgrimage owed to Jean? One appreciated his discretion, his simplicity, his

availability, his amiability. For Jean, the sick pilgrim was always his priority. He knew how to surround himself with numerous collaborators (as in the pastoral service for the deaf in Poitiers where he wanted a team of chaplains in co-responsibility), all the while assuring a path of formation for those engaged in different degrees with the sick pilgrims and their spiritual animation. Father Jean always worked to put in place a responsible laity; his motto with the deaf, but not only there, was: *“to be with and not to do in their place”*. From 1985 to 2013 the chaplaincy of the sick was his mission, done with passion and competence; it was his life of force and conduct although he changed communities numerous times: Le Rody (1987), the Maison Natale at Montfort sur Meu (1990 – 1992), Le Calvaire de Pontchâteau (1992-1997), the community of Saint-Esprit in St Laurent sur Sèvre (1997-2009), then once again at the Maison Natale (2009-2012) with nine months spent as a “hermit” at Saint-Lazare in the “Maison du Saint” (2011).

An apostolate marked by fidelity: fidelity to his “deaf friends” as he used to say with great affection; fidelity to the Montfortian Pilgrimage and especially to the centers of Poitiers and La Rochelle (25 years), to the Lourdes Pilgrimage where in would go for the last time as a “sick person” ...

But a fracture of his femur would inaugurate the painful years of combat in his life. He arrived at St Laurent in “convalescence”, where he joined for some time the team of chaplains at La Sagesse. Barely recovered from this fall, a first cancer struck him (2012), then two others... What a Faith! What confidence in God! What confidence in his doctors! Where did he find all this energy for these last combats? His love for the Virgin Mary, without any doubt... He who was so often pulled down when he was healthy (relative health for a cardiac patient!), became strong, optimistic, combative in sickness. He never lowered his arms, never surrendered. What long, painful treatments! What sufferings! He offered himself as a sacrifice, as St Paul says (2 Tim 4, 6-8). Then in March 2016 it reached his brain... the operation gave him a new dynamism, a new courage... But he sensed that his leaving was coming... (cf 2 Tim 4). One last fight, one last combat... It was during the Marian feast days that Jean handed himself over to the Father... bit by bit, before the feast of the Assumption until the vigil of her Coronation: “From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me”, he said with St. Paul (cf 2 Tim 4, 6-8).

Within our Montfortian milieu, we like to remember the “*bons mots*” of Jean, his luminous phrases... Here is one of them, from a Brother of Saint Gabriel: At Notre Dame des Ardilliers, after the Marche Montfortaine of more than 120 km, Jean said: “120 km on foot! We had to do it... and we did it”. All the combats of Jean! He had to complete them... and he did!



**Brother Marcel (Joseph Hubertus MOONEN), S.M.M.
(1937 – 2016)**

died on 28 August 2016 at Genk (Belgium),
aged 79 with 59 years of religious profession.

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards... but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise”. (1 Cor 1, 26-31) That was the first reading Saturday morning; that night br. Marcel left us forever. It was br. Marcel’s solid conviction that he had a calling. He was well aware of this and he left it in the hands of Mary. His faith never failed him and it helped him all these years to be a humble servant in the congregation performing all sorts of tasks, meeting people and feeding his faith in prayer groups, singing in choirs, going on pilgrimage which he really loved and which inspired him, taking care of the garden and enjoying the beauty of nature in all its colours and wealth, and loving even the weeds.

A small anecdote a few years ago in the garden in Genk. When I told him that all this weeding must cost him a lot of effort, his reaction was: “but still it’s a pity the weeds had to go because they are almost as beautiful as the flowers!” It was typical for him. To him all things small or great, clever or stupid had a different meaning than to you and me. From within he was so familiar with the beatitudes, with the flowers that seed nor mow but which get their full meaning through the eyes that really see, like Marcel did.

Marcel was born in Hoensbroek (the Netherlands) on 24th May 1937. He did a few years secondary school and then switched to a technical school to learn carpentering. A few years later he is in Rotselaar. Those who studied in Rotselaar saw him cleaning the floors and working in the kitchen. I still remember our first meeting. I was eight. I accompanied my father on an errand and there I was in Marcel’s “headquarters”: the meat cellar. Here he cut big pieces meat into smaller ones, or he collected meat to put in the “*koude aap*” (meat grinder). Day after day, again and again, with all his heart.

It must be said that his life took a direction he himself had not imagined at the beginning. In 1967 – he was 30 by then – he for the first time expressed in a letter to his superior his wish to go to the missions. Many, many letters would follow. He stayed member of the Dutch province because there was a greater chance he could do missionary work. But it happened that he gradually and not without pain in his heart learned to switch his missionary longing into his engagement cleaning the floors and working in the kitchen, taking care of the garden, to name just a few of the chores he performed.

In August 2000 Marcel moved to the Mosselerlaan in Genk. A relief for him because his serious engagement and his ideas about living together as brothers and having respect for one another, were not always noticed by his confreres. But each time his respective superiors could smooth things after a good talk. So he continued his work.

Marcel fully lived his calling. He would meet people, he joined prayer groups – he needed these to feed his calling. The last few months he enjoyed what the Retirement House Prinsenpark in Genk, unit Anjelier, had to offer: it was a cosy place, and they appreciated that he took care of the birds and water the plants. Here he was happy and he could prepare himself to whatever came next. He put it all in the hands of Mary. So his

life quietly extinguished like a candle fully trusting that whatever the “other side” would offer it was fine.



Brother Gabriel GROLLEAU, S.M.M.

(1926 – 2016)

died on 27 August 2016 at Saint Laurent sur Sèvre (France),
aged 89 with 70 years of religious profession

Gabriel – Marie – Auguste was born on 6 November 1926 in La Verrie (Vendée) of Firmin and Marguerite Rigaudeau (farmers). It was at La Verrie that Gabriel was baptized on 6 November 1926 and confirmed in 1937.

After his novitiate years at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, he made his first profession on 19 March 1946 (70 years ago!) and his perpetual profession, again at Saint-Laurent, on 19 March 1952.

After his first profession, Brother Gabriel left Saint-Laurent on 25 March 1946 for the Apostolic School at the Calvaire de Pontchâteau where he worked in the farm fields. Some months after, he did his military service at Strasbourg (18 November 1946 to 21 August 1947). He then returned to the Calvaire de Pontchâteau but left on 15 October 1949 for Angoulême, where he was the gardener until 1954. From November 1954 to 1957, Brother Gabriel was at La Gardiolle where, in addition to traditional agricultural works, he also worked in the vineyards...

Then came a long obedience for the work at Larnay near Poitiers: from 1957 to 1970; the great institution of the Daughters of Wisdom at the service of the deaf, mute and blind. He was in charge of a farm of 50 hectares and around twenty cattle. He then returned for three years to La Gardiolle (1970 – 1973), then three years at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (1973 – 1976) for works of painting and renovation.

From 1976 to 1988, another big obedience for Brother Gabriel: the farm of the community of the Daughters of Wisdom at La Chartreuse d’Auray, a farm that had to be reorganized and modernized... In 1988 he was named to Chézelles to be in charge of the farm. But on 20 March 1990 he left for Saint-Laurent for reasons of health (he had a hip operation). He continued his mission in the gardens of the Maison-Mère, but also in the service of welcoming people, and also making rosaries (during his last years) ... up until the day when it became more and more difficult to move around.

The wear of time sapped his forces little by little, but his soul of a religious remained intact. A life of simplicity, laborious service, humble yet noble working of the earth. Values of the gardener, the farmer, the winegrower that, from Genesis to the Revelation, are born by the Word of God. Brother Gabriel had the discretion and the determination of a garden in growth.

Brother Gabriel expired softly at the moment when 11 novices made their first profession in the Company of Mary, right here (27 August 2016), 70 years after Brother Gabriel. The grain of wheat had fallen into the earth with the promise of a beautiful harvest.



Father Jean BRACHÈRE, S.M.M.

(1934 – 2016)

died on 18 September 2016 at Île de la Réunion (France),
aged 82 with 62 years of religious profession.

Born 21 February 1934 at Besancon in the Doubs, Fr. Jean Brachere felt in a special way the missionary itinerancy of Father de Montfort. After the time of his secondary studies at Pelousey from 1946 to 1953, he entered the novitiate and pronounced first vows 8 September 1954. His two years of military service allowed him to enlarge his horizons, travelling from Frejus to Diego Suarez- Tamatave. On 11 February 1962 he was ordained at Montfort sur Meu by Mgr Poirier, Archbishop of Port-au-Prince.

He began his itinerant missionary life with a concern for ongoing formation that would guide him throughout his life journey. From September 1962 to December 1962, he studied pastoral formation at Mours (val d'Oise). From January to July 1963 he began to study the Malgache language. From 1968-69 he returned to the Social Institute of Lyon for a year of specialization. In 1980 he was in Madrid to learn Spanish. For him, missionary life was a perpetual movement that merited the reflection and support of intellectual research.

His missionary travels led him first to Madagascar. But then, from 1970 to 1980 he was in Haiti to work in Bassin Bleu, in St. Louis du Nord. In August 1980 he left for Ile de la Reunion, where several Montfort Missionaries were exercising their priestly ministry. Always having the goal of adapting to the realities of inculturation, he wanted to serve the people of God generously, with respect for their diversity and history. Now it belongs to the Lord to reserve for him a well merited rest.



Father Johannes BACKWINKEL, S.M.M.
(1932 – 2016)

died on 28 September 2016 at Marienheide (Germany),
aged 84 with 61 years of religious profession.

Hans was born in Bochum on 23th March 1932 where he was raised with his twin brother and his sister. He started his college in the boarding school of the Redemptorists in Bonn but he did his finals in Reydt where he was accepted in our mission school. Because he wanted to become priest in a religious congregation, he joined the SMM. In 1954 he started his noviciate in Meerssen, the Netherlands, where he did his first profession on 8th September 1955. He studied philosophy and theology at the montfortian seminary in Oirschot, the Netherlands. He did his perpetual profession on 8th September 1960 and he was ordained priest in Oirschot on 12th March 1961.

His first appointment was chaplain in the parish Saint-Elisabeth in Bonn entrusted to the montfortians. He used to work there from 1961 till 1965 and learned the practical sides of pastoral work on all levels. He became parish priest in Wolfsburg in 1965, a diaspora parish in the diocese Hildesheim taken over by the montfortians. He was responsible till 1979 when he had to stop as a parish priest due to health problems. It was his wish to be appointed in Marienheide and so he was. He started there as a chaplain and worked as such till 2007.

When he retired he remained in Marienheide and helped the confreres as good as he could. But because of heart and breathing problems he became weaker and weaker. He suddenly died on the evening of 28th September in the community house.

With gratitude for all he did for our religious community and Church we leave him in the hands of his creator. May the Lord reward him for all the good things he did in His vineyard. May he rest in peace.



Father Donatien NAUD, S.M.M.
(1921 – 2016)

died on 30 September 2016 at Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France),
aged 94 with 74 years of Religious Profession.

Father Naud was commonly called by his first name: Donatien.

Donatien was a pure product of Vieilleville, this little village near Nantes in Loire-Atlantique, where he was born. He adopted the motto: “Old in my name, young in my heart”. He was an old stock of vine, so think: he would have been 95 years old in these days. He was the dean of the Montfortian Province of France. He criss-crossed this province of France, a la Montfort, which is to say:

“Like a ball in a game of tennis”. As a missionary he was tossed about between Tourcoing, where he was chaplain to those on voyage, and le Dorat, near Limoges, passing through Portereau in Vertou, le Bois Grolleau in Cholet, le Marillais.

“Like a ball in a game of tennis”, from missionary to professor. His time as professor, at the minor seminary of Pontchâteau allowed him to be always connected with us, a generation much younger.

With him the events of the past took on another visage; he willingly knocked over received ideas, the a prioris.

As a tree with twisted leg at the foot of the vine, Donatien did nothing in particular to draw looks or regard. He offered his presence, to the Sisters of la Sagesse, well beyond his 90 years. Even if it bothered him, even if he complained, he always responded: he was present and offered this service with joy, because it presented, as always, only grace for him; where one called him, happiness was going to be born.

To be servant is not a profession. Who would dare to make service a profession? To be servant is availability, a great risk, because all that remains is the gift of self.

Let us thank Donatien for having made us understand that we are not named servants, but that we are invited to become one in response to a call.

In resume, I would say that Donatien was a Vieillevignois – an old vine -- who knew how to let others benefit from the youthfulness of his heart.



Father Daniele DEL PRATO, S.M.M.
(1930 – 2016)

died on 24 November 2016 at Bergamo (Italy),
aged 86 with 65 years of religious profession.

He was born on 22 April 1930 in Campagnola di Bergamo. As a youth he entered the Apostolic School at Redona, finishing his middle and higher studies. After novitiate year at Castiglione Torinese, he made his first religious profession on 8 September 1951. He studied theology at Loreto, where he was ordained priest on 16 March 1957.

Completing the year of eloquence at Arona, he was sent to Reggio Calabria, church of the Rosario, but only stayed there one year (1958-59); then he was asked to prepare to leave for the USA, for pastoral service among Italian immigrants; that obedience was then retracted. After another year in the community of Napoli, he was mandated to Tecchiena di Alatri, where he remained 4 years (1961-65), dedicating himself to the ministry in service of the POA.

Preaching continued then in the community of Treviglio (1965-1979), where he was named superior for two mandates (1973-79). Following the celebration of the Second Vatican Council, it was a time of change in church life, liturgy, and the religious practice of the faithful, and, as a consequence, in missionary pastoral service. Father Daniele asked to take a year's pause-study at Rome, where he took courses to update his knowledge. Next he was called to Bergamo, as superior of the Apostolic School, a charge that lasted for two mandates (1980-1986). He then went as superior in Caravaggio, mission procure (1986-90), to move on to Treviglio, again as superior (1990-2003). From 2003 to 2005 he was at Bergamo, Villa Montfort, as superior of the community of the sick. From 2005 to his death, 24 November 2016, he was at Bergamo, Villa Santa Maria.

Preaching, in its various forms, was the service Father Daniele offered most frequently: popular missions, parochial preaching, and spiritual exercises for religious sisters. Also the ministry of confessions and spiritual direction always found him available, in community, in the parishes, and in accompanying the pilgrimages to Lourdes.

His service to the Congregation expressed itself in his availability also for formation, the care of the old and sick, attention to economic problems, and assuming the role of superior of the community – with a total of 24 years in this task.

With a character marked by humanness and kindness, a religious and priest passionate for his own vocation, in a spirit of simple and convinced faith, he lived with generosity his consecration to the service of the Church and the Congregation.



Father Jean-Claude BÉLAND, S.M.M.
(1931 – 2016)

died on 26 November 2016 at Trois-Rivières, QC (Canada),
aged 85 with 64 years of religious profession.

Jean-Claude Beland was born on 23 July 1931 in Sainte-Thècle, Canada. He made his temporary vows in the Company of Mary on 15 August 1952 in Nicolet and was admitted to make his perpetual profession on 15 August 1957 in Ottawa. He was ordained as a priest on 8 February 1958 by Mgr. G. L. Pelletier, Bishop of Trois-Rivières, in his home town, Sainte-Thècle.

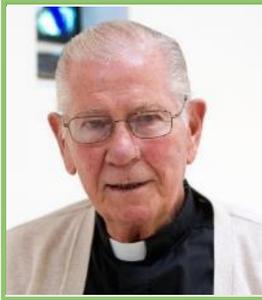
After two years in the study of missiology at the Catholic University in Washington in the United States, Jean-Claude departed as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. This was in 1959, and he remained there for 35 years, until 1996. During a six year period, he was regional superior of his difficult mission confided to the Montfortians of our Canadian entity. Our confrere was among the pioneers. It was the very beginning of the mission, in an environment of jungle and bush, without any material convenience. One had to live « like a Papuan » for lodging and food. It was necessary to learn one or more indigenous languages, without a grammar, without a written vocabulary. In sum, one had to start from nothing.

To contact the Papuans in their small village, Jean-Claude undertook long marches in the bush, under a tropical and humid heat, sometimes in torrential rains, all the while removing leeches from the body and avoiding poisonous snakes hidden in the ravines. With determination and courage, with much reduced means, he was foreman for constructing a landing field for a small plane, the construction of a bridge, of schools, dispensaries and various buildings.

Returning to his home country in 1997, he gave himself until 2016 to missionary animation and working for the Mission Procure in Montréal.

May the Virgin Mary, whom he loved so much, prayed to, and preached, lead our valiant missionary into the joys of her Son, the first Missionary of the Father.

The funeral was celebrated on Wednesday, 30 November at 14:00h at the Cénacle Saint-Pierre, Pointe-du-Lac.



Father George WERNER, S.M.M.
(1930 – 2016)

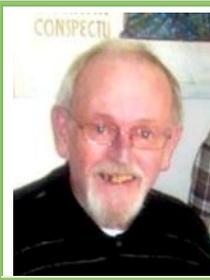
died on 3 December 2016 at Bay Shore, NY (United States),
aged 86 with 65 years of religious profession.

Fr. George J. Werner, S.M.M. died peacefully December 3, 2016 at the Montfort Missionary Community in Bay Shore, N.Y. He was 86 years old, a professed member of the Montfort Missionaries for 65 years, and 59 years a priest. Son of the late John and Jeanne Werner, he was raised in the Montfort parish of St. Mary Gate of Heaven, Ozone Park, N.Y., his whole life being intertwined with Montfortian ministries, friends and associates around the world.

Ordained a priest in 1957, Father George's earliest – and most enduring – ministry was preaching the Word of God in parish missions and retreats. During those years he was asked to spearhead the fundraising and construction of the new Montfort Seminary in Bay Shore, which served as a High School Seminary for many years, before becoming the current Montfort Spiritual Center. From 1963-1968 he served in Harford City, Indiana as Novice Master for the United States Province. Returning to Ozone Park, Fr. Werner began many years of varied and fruitful ministry there: as Associate Pastor from 1969-73 and again from 1977-79; as Vocation Director from 1973-77. Elected Provincial Superior of the Montforts in the USA from 1979-85, he continued to make Ozone Park his base, even as he travelled around the country and the world in his responsibilities for the Montfort Community. Father George was named Pastor of St. Mary Gate of Heaven Parish in 1986 and served there until 1994.

The Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore laid claim to Fr. Werner's gifts as a preacher, retreat master and spiritual director for the remainder of his ministry, from 1994 until his death. Superior of the community for nearly 20 years, he was also actively involved in many neighboring parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and was sought out by clergy, religious and lay people as a confessor and spiritual guide. He had a keen eye and hand for building, improving and beautifying Montfort Center and its grounds. It would be hard to count the number of people across the years of his ministry who looked to Father George for calm strength, faithful support and warm friendship.

A true son of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, Father George's death invokes the memory of the epitaph at Montfort's own tomb: *"Traveler, what do you see? A light quenched... a priest of Christ, he showed forth Christ in his actions and preached him everywhere in his words. Indefatigable, he rested only in his grave... as he lived, so he died..."*



Father Cornelis Johannes (Kees) SMIT, S.M.M.
(1941 – 2016)

died on 23 December 2016 at Nuth (Netherlands),
aged 75 with 54 years of religious profession.

Kees was born in The Hague on November 3, 1941. He chose for the minor seminary Beresteyn in Voorschoten and continued his education in Ste Marie, Schimmert. After the noviciate, he made his first vows in Meerssen on September 8, 1962. After the major seminary in Oirschot, he was ordained a priest on April 6, 1968. In preparation for the mission, Kees followed a mission-course in Rotterdam. And in 1969 he was appointed for Sintang in Indonesia.

“Kees Smit attended all the lessons and showed a lot of interest in everything. He has thus made an acceptable attitude to the mentality and attitude necessary for the present missionary worker” mentions his certificate at the end of the Pastoral Formation abroad. He was ready to make his dream come true. In 1969 he left for Borneo. It appears that Kees's missionary, like most of his fellow confreres, near to people, sharing their lives as much as possible. Kees didn't need much, didn't care about possessions. For many, Kees was a loyal comrade. Someone you could always build on and trust fully. He felt best when he can travel from one *kampong* (village) to the next. The area entrusted to him is very large, we read in one of his evaluation reports. But when an appeal is made to Kees, he always answers. Even in 1983, confreres ask him to become their regional superior. This brings an end to the work he loves the most. Now he has to drive frequently, from Sintang to Bandung, where the own training of montfortians has started, which also requires his attention and commitment. As superior he is confronted with the tensions between the montfortians and the local bishop. That troubles Kees. He is pleased to return to the missionary work in Putussibau in 1994. Being a regional superior has required so much of Kees that he has to return to the Netherlands for a year. In that year, it becomes clear to him he has to stay in the Netherlands. He is asked to become a priest in a Shrine of Mary in Ommel. It helps Kees a lot, he is very loved in the parish and feels like a fish in the water. His health is getting worse and early 2012 he has to move to the community of Schimmert, where he is very welcome. Slowly but surely, his body and mind get worse. More and more he seems to diminish. If it is no longer possible for the community to provide the care needed, so Kees moves to a home for the elderly in Nuth at the beginning of this year. Kees is thankful for the care and attention he receives. He seems to revive when his family, acquaintances from Ommel, or confreres visit him. The weekly visit of Maria from Schimmert does him well. His health goes up and down, nothing points to an immediate end.

His death is therefore unexpected, just as the light of the day takes over the darkness of the night. We hope and pray that Kees who left behind the darkness his bad health can continue living in the Light of Mercy.

Kees, thank you for who you were and what you meant for the people of Borneo, for the parish of Ommel and for your confreres. Rest in God's love, becoming human in the Child of Bethlehem.



Father Irudayaraj SAVARIMUTHU, S.M.M.
(1959 – 2016)

died on 30 December 2016 at Kumbakonam (India),
aged 57 with 33 years of religious profession.

Fr. Irudayaraj was born on the 26th January, 1959 at Irudayakovil in the state of Tamil Nadu, India to the late Mr. Sebastian and Mrs. Sebastiammal. He was the eldest of the four children in the family with 2 brothers and 1 sister.

After his school studies in Thiruvarangam, he joined the Missionaries of the Company of Mary as seminarian in Bangalore in 1979. He did his novitiate in 1982-1983 and pronounced his temporary vows in the Company of Mary on 31 May 1983 in Mysore. He studied philosophy and theology at Dharmaram Vidya Ksethram and completed his graduation at Christ University, Bangalore. He was admitted to make his perpetual profession after seeing his sense of belongingness to the Company of Mary and his sensibility to the needs of the poor. He made his perpetual profession on 29th June 1991 in Bangalore and was ordained as a priest in the Company of Mary on 28th December 1992 in the Sacred Heart Church in Thiruvarangam by Rev. Edward Francis, the bishop of the diocese of Shivagangai, Tamil Nadu. After his ordination he made himself available to the mission of the Congregation by accepting various responsibilities. In 1993, he assisted in the maintenance of the Montfort Estate, Chickamagalur, Karnataka. In 1994-1995, he was in charge of the Montfort Farm, Mysore. From 1996 to 1999, he was part of the Montfortian mission team in the diocese of Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.

His missionary spirit, availability and simplicity were shown when he accepted to go to Papua New Guinea as a missionary to work in the midst of the natives and he rendered his service to the mission from 1999 to 2002, learning the local language and adjusting to the local culture.

From 2002 to 2011 he was superior in various communities of formation for the aspirants, postulants, pre-novices and the novices. In 2002-2004, he was superior and responsible of the pre-novices at Montfort Nivas in Kumbakonam and in 2005-2009, he rendered his service as superior of the Sneha Bhavan community at Kanathi in Chickamagalur (Karnataka). In 2009-2011, he was named again superior of the Montfort Nivas community in Kumbakonam. His last appointment was as parish priest at “Our Lady of Good Health” parish in S. Pudur of the Kumbakonam diocese, Tamil Nadu. The confreres of Indian vice-province remember him for his simplicity and humor.

Fr. Irudayaraj, who was suffering from Diabetics for quite a long time, died of a cardiac arrest on Friday 30th December, 2016 at around 2.30 pm in the same parish. The funeral mass was held at Sneha Bhavan at 10h00 in the morning and a funeral service was conducted at the Cathedral by the bishop of Kumbakonam diocese. He was buried in the cemetery of the diocese. Dear Fr. Irudayaraj, as you leave behind the marks of your simplicity, availability and a sense of belongingness to the Company of Mary, we pray that your soul rest in peace in the company of angels and saints and may you enjoy the life eternal. Amen.



*“We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a new life.”*

Romans 6:4

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