

OUR DECEASED BRETHERN



Father Jacobus DASSEN, S.M.M.

(1928 – 2007)

Died in Maastricht (The Netherlands), on 24 May 2007,
aged 79 with 57 years of Religious Profession.

On February 29th 1928 Jacob Dassen (Kueb) was born in Schaesberg. He entered the congregation and made his first vows in Meerssen on September 8th 1949. Mgr. Mutsaerts, bishop of Den Bosch ordained him a priest on March 2nd 1955. Until 1963 he studied classical languages at the University of Leiden. In the meantime he taught our students at our minor seminary Beresteyn in Voorschoten. He returned to the South in 1963 to become a teacher in Ste Marie in Schimmert. From 1967 until 1985 he taught in Heerlen, Brunssum and Rolduc. Meanwhile he assisted in Hoensbroek in the Christ King parish and from 1985 in the parish of Schimmert.

In spite of his small stature Kueb Dassen was an excellent and great storyteller. Not about himself, because he didn't tell anything about his deepest feelings. He was shy and stiff about his own soul. What a difference when he delivered a sermon in church! The words spluttered around. He loved to bring surprising insights, spicy details of typical events. Not in the least anecdotes and strong stories from his family. Especially from his father and mother, whose large pictures hang in his room.

During the pilgrimages to Lourdes his sermons were extraordinary. His meditations during the Way of the Cross left a deep impression. It was the same when he gave explanations to his students in Rome at the Forum Romanum. You could see the Romans walking and gesticulating!

A storyteller like Kueb must have been a good teacher. It was easy for him to explain something. But at the same time he was a bit scared of the tricks and the behaviour of the young people. He did not want to act as a policeman. But what he

did like was acting on stage in Rolduc. At such time he could crawl in someone else's skin and hide himself.

Being a true fisherman, Kueb liked to search the silence. He did not feel right in a large community. With his nature it was better for him to stay amongst his friends and family. For many years he found a home with the family Vijgen in Simpelveld and especially with Tiny van Putten in Hoensbroek.

The last years Kueb went slowly downhill. In Schimmert he hardly left his room. His only activity was reading and reading again. He didn't tell stories anymore. After a cerebral haemorrhage in August 2006, he had to stay for a longer period in a nursing home in Heerlen, where he didn't have any privacy. At the beginning of 2007 he finally got a room in Vroenhof. Living in that community seemed to revive him, but he lacked the energy. His body was worn out. Early in the morning of May 24th 2007 he quietly died in the hospital in Maastricht. As calm as he had become in the last years.

Kueb looked a bit like the little man in the Gospel, Zacheüs from Jericho. He enjoyed retiring spiritually in a tree with large leaves. But when Jesus called upon him, he ran his legs off. We hope and pray that Kueb may come out of the tree forever. Not to be the host of Jesus, but to become his guest forever in the House which the Father prepared also for him. A shy person as he was, Kueb will at first look round, surprised. Silent for only half an hour, as in Revelation 8,1. After that, may he enjoy abundantly the eternal Light and the miraculous stories being told in heaven.



**Brother Mariano (Maggiorino BIANCHIN), S.M.M.
(1923 – 2007)**

Died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 24 May 2007,
aged 84 with 56 years of Religious Profession.

The Bianchin family, originally from Solagna (VI), settled in Cittareale (RI) because of work, and it was there that, on 9 May 1923, Maggiorino was born, to become Brother Mariano at his religious profession. On the family's return to the Veneto, he grew up in an atmosphere marked by the most beautiful Catholic traditions of the time. At the age of 25, in 1948, after his military service and a period of working as an émigré in Belgium, he followed his brother Emile in taking the decision to become a religious in the Company of Mary. One of his sisters, in her turn, dedicated herself to the Lord in the monastic life with the Sisters of Adoration. Maggiorino showed a serious determination and desire to give himself entirely to the Montfortian mission. He spent his postulancy and his novitiate in Castiglione (TO), where he made his first vows on 8 September 1950. After a short stay at the Villa S. Maria, in 1951, he was sent to the newly-erected parish of Our Lady Mediatrix on the outskirts of Rome. For thirteen years he dedicated himself to a ministry to boys, leading a youth-club, and to the service of the community. This was Brother Mariano's "apostolic" period. In 1964, he went to the minor seminary in Bergamo, where he was in charge of reception, the infirmary and various tasks within the house. Bro. Mariano was characterised by fidelity and self-giving. This was his period dedicated to "formation". Another short period was spent in the founding of an apostolic community in Genoa, which lasted only one year. Then, in 1985, he was back in Rome at the Provincial House, as receptionist. Speaking about himself and recalling this twenty-year period, he said jokingly: "I served five Provincials..." One of those five notes: "Thank you, Brother Mariano, for your generous and discreet service in the Provincial house: you taught me the value of humble, hidden and serene service... you taught me how to be attached to our Montfortian vocation and what it demands, fidelity to the life of prayer and a generous obedience..."

In 2005, for health reasons, he landed at the Villa Montfort. There, he lived the life of a "Carthusian", spending much time in his room, in prayer or listening to Radio Maria. He read every article in the "Dictionary of Montfortian Spirituality". He was "Marian" in name and in deed. When they presented him for perpetual profession, his formators had described him as: "a good religious, inspired by a sincere Montfortian spirit, a hard worker... tenacious in character, sometimes to the point of obstinacy... he takes a great interest in whatever happens in community or to his confreres, sometimes even in an excessive manner..." In February 2007, he went into hospital after a heart-attack. On 11 February, the world day for the sick, he received the Sacrament of the Sick with great faith and serenity. He said: "I am ready to go; I have my ticket ready..." He spent a little more time in community, until Sister Death came to take him in the evening of 24 May, the memorial of Mary, Help of Christians. He lies now in the cemetery in Bergamo, in the tomb of the Montfort Missionaries.



Father Armand BLANCHETTE, S.M.M.

(1926 – 2007)

Died in Nicolet (Canada), on 28 May 2007,
aged 81 with 58 years of Religious Profession.

Our confrere died on 28 May at our house in Nicolet. He had just celebrated his 81st birthday a few days before. He had been a religious for 58 years and a priest for 53 years. For a period of four years, from 1955 to 1959, he was appointed Assistant Master of Novices for the coadjutor Brothers in Upper Melbourne. Then, from 1959 to 1962 he was a missionary in Haiti, where he taught in the College of Our Lady of Lourdes in Port-de-Paix.

Returning to Canada, he became Assistant Master of Novices in Nicolet, before devoting three years (1963-1966) to the task of Vocations Promotion and teaching in the Montfort Minor Seminary in Papineauville.

He returned to Haiti as a teacher for a period of 12 years, from 1966 to 1978, then returned to Canada for health reasons and to have a good rest. But his missionary zeal prompted him to return to Haiti, to St-Louis-de-Turgeon this time, for a period of 7 years, from 1980 to 1987, as assistant to the superior of the Montfortian Scholasticate there.

For a period of 18 years, from 1989 to 2007, he was to collaborate in the ministry of the Shrine of Mary Queen of All Hearts in Montreal. In 2007, he went to live in our house in Nicolet, in order to benefit by specialist care.

Our dear confrere leaves us the witness of a Montfortian religious model in the observance of our Rule of life and that of a religious who was very devoted to his ministry, to the very limit of his strength despite his fragile health. He was above all sought after and loved as a holy confessor of souls.

He showed remarkable fraternal charity, was always ready to come to the help of a confrere, and always had a welcome for people. He loved punning and telling stories to enliven conversations. He was very handy in practical matters.

After the example of Christ, our dear confrere was gentle and humble of heart. St Louis Marie de Montfort gives us almost the biography of our dear Armand: "A saint is always affable, gentle, honest and charming, ready to please, agreeable, with no standing on dignity. It is by this gentle means that he wins souls and attracts people, and does a great deal of good, sometimes without saying a word" (Complete Works, Hymn 9).

May the Blessed Virgin, whom he loved so much and to whom he prayed, lead our dear Armand into the joys of eternity, there to meet the risen Christ face to face!



Brother Silvino VERZÉ, S.M.M.

(1933 – 2007)

Died in Redona - Bergamo (Italy), on 2 June 2007,
aged 73 with 45 years of Religious Profession.

Silvino Verzé was born in Illasi (VR) on 19 October 1933, into a large family of farmers. He shared in the life of the parish, and was a member of Catholic Action. The “True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin” fell into his hands and he was completely taken with it. There was no Montfortian community in that region, so he set out for Bergamo, to get to know the disciples of Montfort better. On 31 May 1960, at the end of a Marian pilgrimage, he made the decision to consecrate himself to the Lord among the Missionaries of the Company of Mary. At the age of 27, in November 1960, he entered the postulancy in Castiglione (TO). This was followed by his novitiate year, which came to an end in Rome with his first profession of vows on 31 May 1962. One of his sisters also became a religious. After a short period spent in Reggio Calabria, Brother Silvino was sent to Redona (1962-1966) to help in the minor seminary and to assist in the propagation of Montfortian Marian spirituality. In 1966, he was sent to a missionary residence in Naples. After his perpetual profession (1967) he returned to his own region of Verona, to Arbizzano (1967-1969) to help in the spreading of our spirituality and in the novitiate, which was provisionally located in Roncà (1969-1970). The Montfortian Centre in Rome was then to have him as a generous collaborator and worker for 15 years. During that time he obtained a diploma in Higher Studies and the Diploma in Religious Sciences from the Gregorian University: a detail which shows the tenacity of Brother Silvino. From 1985 until 1989 he worked in the parish of St Maximilien Kolbe on the outskirts of Rome.

Then, at the age of 56, in 1989, he left for the missions in Zambia. No obstacles, whether of health, language or culture, could prevent him from dedicating all his energy to the mission, which, by ways known only to the Lord, led him to Kalichero, where he left his heart. He dedicated himself to manual work and all the daily tasks that would allow his confreres to be free to proclaim the Gospel. With a young man’s enthusiasm he devoted himself to the building of churches, schools and wells. He also carried off the second prize in the Agricultural Fair of Zambia. He not only had a passion for solidarity, but he was also able to create a great network of solidarity. He loved, sometimes even somewhat exaggeratedly, to speak about the reality of the mission. His life was characterised by diligence, simplicity and generosity. In 2004, he was found to have a tumour, and this was the beginning of a period of hope, suffering and questioning. “Why does the Lord not give me the strength to continue to work for the poor in Kalichero, who are in such need?” In January 2007, he wrote to his confreres in Zambia and Malawi who had gathered for the retreat: “Let us learn how to welcome these painful moments and to read trying events with our eyes fixed on the Cross... I leave everything in the hands of God, while I try to grasp to what service the good Eternal Father wishes to call me for whatever remains of my life on earth.” He ended his earthly pilgrimage on 2 June 2007, a few days after the 45th anniversary of his religious profession. He lies in the cemetery of Illasi (VR), the land of his birth.



Father Maurice MORAND, S.M.M.

(1931 – 2007)

Died in La Chartreuse d'Auray (France), on 11 June 2007,
aged 76 with 54 years of Religious Profession.

Maurice was born on 22 January 1931 in Pontchâteau, the son of Louis Marie Morand and Marthe Chabot. He was baptised on 25 January in the church in Pontchâteau, and was confirmed in May 1943. He was a student at the Calvaire Apostolic School in Pontchâteau from 1942 until 1951, with a break of eighteen months because of sickness. His uncle, Father Chabot, his mother's brother and a missionary in Haiti, had already traced out for him a path to the missions. On 8 September 1952, he made his first vows in Celles-sur-Belle in the diocese of Poitiers. From 1952 to 1958 he did his studies at the seminary in Montfort-sur-Meu, and was ordained a sub-deacon there on 22 September 1957, by Mgr Rémy Augustin, S.M.M., the auxiliary bishop of Port-au-Prince (Haiti), then deacon on 21 December 1957, and priest on 16 February 1958, by Mgr Guiot, S.M.M., a native of Pontchâteau, the bishop of Port-de-Paix (Haiti).

Maurice was sent to the foreign missions in Haiti, linked with his uncle, Fr Chabot, himself in Haiti for several years already. Returning to France, he followed a year of studies in the Pastoral Catechetical Institute in Paris. On 18 November 1970, he flew to Madagascar, where he stayed until 1985. He spent his final years in the missions in the bishop's house in Tamatave, where he was put in charge of the area of Tamatave South and Antsiramandroso. On his return to France, his sole desire was to serve the Church. He was sent to Notre Dame du Marillais. Many of us working in the parishes were glad to have him there to take on supplies and periods of preaching. He carried it all out with a great respect for the Word of God. Struck down by a paralysis of one side of his body, he had to stop working; he confided to me: "Sickness teaches us many things." In 1999, he arrived in the community of Saint-Laurent, which he left for a stay in Beaupréau in a diocesan nursing home. On 29 June 2006, it was the nursing home in La Chartreuse which welcomed him in its turn. If Sr. Catherine and M. Dalbard, the director, assured him a place and the medical care given so generously by the medical staff, the Daughters of Wisdom and their chaplains gave him the possibility of taking an active part in certain times of religious celebration. Maurice found there also a former missionary from Madagascar: Fr. Sin. Monsieur Fourest, the new director, is grateful for the presence of two Fathers in the nursing home. Maurice, along with Fr. Sin, took great pleasure in meeting his Montfortian confreres each Sunday and feast-day, and they in their turn did not fail to show them great brotherly affection.

When Maurice needed to go to the Fathers' house, there were many willing hands to help him get there. His Sunday pleasure was to be able to assist at the TV broadcast of the Mass with his confreres, after celebrating the Eucharist in the chapel. He died on 11 June at six o'clock in the morning, having shared a meal with us the previous evening. He who was so intimately united with the passion of Christ, could experience much more than others the sacrificial value of the Eucharist. In the days before his funeral, we Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters, gathered together in turns to pray. He lies now in the cemetery of La Chartreuse, next to those who went before him. Maurice, you are not far off – just on the other bank in the cemetery, and we will go to see you. You need us, and we need you.



**Brother Luis Gonzaga (Manuel HORTÚA), S.M.M.
(1913 – 2007)**

Died in Choachí (Colombia), on 12 June 2007,
aged 94 with 72 years of Religious Profession.

Died in Choachí, Colombia on 12 June 2007, aged 94, with 72 years of Religious profession. Manuel Vicente Hortúa was the most senior of all the Colombian Montfortians, and made his first profession in the Company of Mary on 1 November 1934 in San Juanito, Meta, taking the name of Brother Luis Gonzaga. His 94 years of life encompassed a great part of the history of our 100-year-old Province, for which he always showed great affection. As he said in a letter to his Provincial in 1964, asking him to reconsider his appointment to Alban, because the climate there was not good for his health: “I have always looked on my congregation with love and affection and I do not want to embarrass you,” but “I have always been keen to obey.” These words characterise the life of this brother who always showed himself to be a conscientious worker and willing to play his part in the formation houses as a farmer and gardener, porter and especially tailor and nurse, when everyone wore cassocks and no-one gave much thought to his health. Then there were no tinkling bells, but clanging ones.

Born in Choachí on 10 February 1913 to a very Christian family, he was the last of five brothers. Choachí was the cradle of the Colombian Province. Various appointments were to characterise the peasant and missionary life of Brother Luis, who spent 72 years in the Religious Life. It will be enough to list the places where he worked with devotion and love: El Guadal, the seminary of San Juanito, the seminary of Choachí, the parish of Belén, Bogotá, the seminary of Alban, the mission house in Manizales, the seminary in Bogotá, the Provincial House for the distribution of the magazine “The Queen’s Herald” and also at the Marian Centre, a second time at the minor seminary as gardener, and finally the Priests’ House, where he spent 6 years confined to his bed, continually reciting “Hail Marys” in the Rosary that kept him in union with the Blessed Virgin, for whom he always showed a tender and constant love.

Despite his sufferings, Brother Luis always retained his subtle sense of humour that was innate in him. We might remember the reply he gave to someone who was trying to comfort him, saying: “Brother, you have a lovely face.” His response came back immediately: “But it is not my face that is sick.”

His funeral took place in the chapel of the Social Unit “St Louis Marie de Montfort” in Choachí. He was buried in our tomb at the minor seminary in Choachí.

Brother Luis rests in peace and is now in the presence of the Lord. May the Lord grant him eternal rest and that glory which never perishes or fades. May our Blessed Mother, to whom he prayed so much, welcome him in her house along with our holy Founder.



**Brother Aloysius (Theodorus HEIJNEN), S.M.M.
(1922 – 2007)**

Died in Vroenhof (The Netherlands), on 26 June 2007,
aged 84 with 66 years of Religious Profession.

Theo Heijnen was born on July 18th 1922 in Meerssen. Being a young boy of 17 he wanted to join the Montfortians. For his postulancy and noviciate he had to leave for Rotselaar (Belgium). On October 7th 1940 he made his first profession and got the name Aloysius.

He studied as a carpenter and furniture-maker in Maastricht. His professional skills were highly appreciated. That's why he worked and lived in many Montfortian houses. In Rotselaar he stayed till 1941 and then he left for Schimmert until 1955. He helped building the minor seminary in Voorschoten and afterwards he helped in the noviciate in Vroenhof and the scholasticate in Oirschot. From 1966 till 1984 he was a member of the so called provincial working-team, that was responsible for repairs and maintenance in all Montfortian houses. In 1984 Aloïs returned to Schimmert and finally he went to Vroenhof to rest. He died quietly in the house for the elderly in Vroenhof in the early morning on June 26th 2007.

Aloïs came from a faithful Catholic family. In a song, especially composed for his golden profession, his family said: he was at home 'a lot more decent than the others'. Aloïs was an exceptionally saintly person. He made his prayers like clockwork. He never used an improper word.

This amiable and friendly man made himself very useful for the congregation as a carpenter, but also as a painter and a jack-of-all-trades in the years before, during and after the provincial working-group. At the beginning of World War II (1940), with his confreres from Rotselaar, he ended up in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre where he, for half a year, also baked the bread for the sisters. His novice master was right when he wrote: "Theodoor Heijnen could easily learn any trade."

His happiest time was in Beresteyn. Probably because life at that house was very relaxed and familiar. In a community where there was more pressure on rules and regulations his tendency to pessimism overruled. Therefore it was surprising that he was appointed director of the brothers in Oirschot. That was not like him at all. He felt very at ease, simply by working. The wood in his hands, like a true follower of St. Joseph, gave him peace and a sense of security. Most certainly when he was working at one of his many Christmas cribs or his little birds. Sadly enough he even could be troubled by depressions and had to take some time to rest. Who did not feel sorry for him at such a time!

The last years of his life his world got smaller and smaller and he spoke less and less. He loved to sit in Vroenhof in the oriel with a view on the street. When you spoke to him, sitting there, he began to smile. That is what he wanted to be, that was who he was, in that way we shall remember him. May he forever find rest in the House of the Father!

Father Michel ROY, S.M.M. (1932 – 2007)

Died in Baume-les-Dames, Doubs (France), on 27 June 2007,
Aged 75 with 55 years of Religious Profession.

Out of respect for what you, his relations and friends, experienced of Fr. Michel Roy, I intend to trace the various stages of a life which was open to the Mission of the Church. Michel was born in Belfort on 4 June 1932, and was baptised in the parish of Saint Christophe de Belfort the day following his birth. Benefiting from a family which was especially alive to the value of education, he began his secondary studies at Ste Marie de Belfort before continuing them at our Montfortian minor seminary in Pelousey in 1943.

On 8 September 1951, after a year's novitiate, he made his first vows to commit himself to following Christ after the example of the missionary, St Louis Marie de Montfort. During his military service in 1953 and 1954, Michel, like all those called up, made his first contact with the army in Belfort, and then in Tunisia. He was also among those recalled to serve in Algeria in 1956. At the end of his theological studies at our Scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu near Rennes, Michel was ordained priest on 16 February 1958 by Mgr Albert Guiot, the Montfortian Bishop of Port-de-Paix in Haiti. After a year's pastoral studies in Paris, he was able to follow up his desire for a missionary life to serve the Church in Madagascar. A first term there from 1960 to 1966, and a second from 1967 to 1973, were to give him the opportunity to deepen his sense of service in the proclamation of the Gospel among a people who were particularly open to it. On 25 May 1973, he finally returned to France to respond with the same enthusiasm to other calls from the Church in France.

In 1977, after three years' pastoral experience in the service of the military vicariate, Michel was recognised as an available chaplain, having many opportunities for contacts among both officers and other ranks. He showed himself to be attentive and close to all those who found themselves in trouble or who were undergoing trials. His frequent presence at military manoeuvres gave him the opportunity to exercise his ministry as a Military Chaplain. He himself said: "I am never isolated or alone, because in the military chaplaincy we have frequent exchanges: meetings by sector, courses, retreats... For myself, I meditate on the life of St Louis Marie de Montfort in his time of reflection in Saumur or in the Forest of Mervent." ... Aware of the many forms of being uprooted which the needs of army service impose, Michel meditated especially on one of the messages of Father de Montfort, in which he asks for missionaries who will be "instabiles" (Manuscript Rule 2), that is, missionaries ready to respond to any form of commitment within the People of God. He went so far as to say: "More than ever, I try to live this out... It is not easy to be always available."

So it was that, in 1984, he accepted a new change of role, when he was appointed chaplain to the 5th Region of the Gendarmerie, and of the 51st D.M.T., to look after all the garrisons of Vienne and of Lyon. His main concern was to get the lay people to recognise their responsibilities as baptised people by progressively setting up chaplaincy liaisons in the different units. At Valdahon, he was able to encourage links within a community which was vibrant and open to ecumenism. Pastor Jacques Roffidal reminded us of this in his address after we had listened to the Word.

In respect for these bonds of affection, friendship and religious and priestly fraternity, it is fitting that we move on to meet Christ who continues to say to us: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."



Brother Guido (Everard BORN), S.M.M.

(1925 – 2007)

Died in Maastricht (The Netherlands), on 6 July 2007,
aged 81 with 64 years of Religious Profession.

On October 24th 1925 Everardus Born (Brother Guido) was born in Hoensbroek (the Netherlands). At the beginning of World War II he came to Meerssen as a postulant and after his noviciate he made his first vows on September 19th 1942. From that moment on he worked as a cook in several Montfortian houses: six years in Meerssen, five years in Rotselaar (Belgium), six years in Voorschoten and six years in Leuven (Belgium). From 1962 till 1991 he worked in the kitchen in Berg en Dal, and until the closing of the 'Uleput' he took care of various little jobs. When the house was sold in 2005, Guido left for Vroenhof. May 14th of this year he fell down and broke his upper-leg. He was operated on in the hospital and went for convalescence to 'Klevarie' in Maastricht. This morning at eleven o'clock he suddenly stood up, fell face down and was dead.

Everyone who knew Guido will remember him as a man with a great sense of duty. Undisturbed, he went through life with a steady daily routine. Without much ado he carried out what was asked for. Wherever he took care of the kitchen, everything was on the table exactly on time every day. He was as accurate in his prayer life. He preferred to start the day with Holy Mass in the morning. During the last years, if there was no priest in the house at the 'Uleput', he went to the Nebo by bike. The situation in the church did not worry him. His religiosity was on a deeper level.

In his good years he liked to work in the afternoon around the house and in the woods. Quietly, alone by himself, listening to the birds. He did not talk much about it. Neither about his feet, troubling him all his life. There were already so many stories told! No, he did not like fuss or people with a big mouth. After work he listened to music in his room and read about history and the situation in the world. Often he surprised others with his knowledge.

Guido was very attached to the house in Berg en Dal. He looked with sorrow upon every death or move of confreres. After André Laurier's dramatic death in 2004 he was the only Montfortian left there and became the first brother in our province who was superior as well bursar. He liked most to stay on at the 'Uleput'. He was afraid that in another community he could not take his rhythm. Once he moved to Vroenhof, he was happy with it. In the beginning he was more talkative than before and he really enjoyed all the old stories that went around. Unfortunately his feet and legs became more painful and he preferred to stay in his room. We pray that he will find his way in the House of the Father.



Father Guy DESSAIVRE, S.M.M.
(1926 – 2007)

Died in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvres (France), on 5 August 2007,
aged 80 with 58 years of Religious Profession.

“The Glory of God is a man fully alive, and the glory of man is the vision of God!”
The monastic prayer of Sunday evening on 5 August, broadcast on R.C.F., chanted this refrain inspired by St Irenaeus; and it is in the light of this refrain that I would like to offer you a very simple presentation of the life of our brother Guy Dessaivre, who was called to God on the morning of that same Sunday at the end of quite a long Calvary. Guy had been brought from our community in La Gardiolle to Saint-Laurent a little more than eleven years ago, already suffering from Parkinson’s disease, which gave him no respite from then on. At that time he was still quite lively, and even often enough very agitated, before slipping little by little into a state of great suffering, physical suffering certainly, but no doubt even more personal. But throughout these months and years, he became more and more charming, so to speak, certainly towards ourselves, and more especially towards our care staff who constantly surrounded him with attention, care and tenderness. Guy was born on 8 September 1926, in la Petite Bernardière in Chanteloup, in the region of Bressuire, not far from the well-known Shrine of Our Lady of Pity. He was the second child in a family of three. After finishing his secondary education at St Joseph’s school in Bressuire, the minor seminary of Montmorillon, and then the École du Calvaire in Pontchâteau, he made his first vows in Celles sur Belle on 8 September 1948. He was ordained priest in Montfort sur Meu on 22 February 1953. The following September he left for Madagascar, where he was to spend fifteen years in all, interrupted by two spells in France for health reasons. He finally returned to France in June 1968, and from October of that year he was appointed to Marseille, to the parish of St Theodore, where he remained for six years, five of them as parish-priest.

In August 1974, a whole new career began for him, that of naval chaplain. I will simply list the various stages of this: Saint-Mandrier, near Toulon, then the Indian Ocean on the aircraft carrier Clemenceau for three years, then chaplain at the Atomic Centre of Mururoa in Polynesia, again for three years; after this he returned to Marseille to serve as chaplain to the naval fire-fighters, the Foreign Legion in Aubagne and various groups of submariners in Toulon, all at the same time. This brought him to 1987-88. It was then high time that he retired, especially as his sickness began to manifest itself in a serious way. He would pass his retirement in La Gardiolle, which he had known for a long time from having pretended to rest there many times since the 1970s. Yet he wanted to be still of service, and he tried for two years (1992 to 1994) to carry out his ministry as auxiliary curate in the parish of St Joseph in Alès. Finally he came to us in Saint-Laurent at the beginning of 1996, only to have a further eleven years to suffer the progressive ravages of his terrible sickness. Such was the career of our brother Guy. A rather unusual career, that of a man eaten up with generosity, a go-getter, perhaps not always aware of his own limits, marked, no doubt, by a number of areas of darkness, like everyone else, but still more inspired by an immense evangelical passion... And, surrounding all this, why not discern the hand of God himself: “Your hand guides me! You have put your hand upon me!” as the beautiful Psalm 138 says? “And God’s hands are good hands!” as Pope Benedict XVI said recently. To end, I would like to emphasise, as a small sign of this tenderness of God and Mary, that Guy was born on 8 September, the feast of Our Lady’s birth, and entered eternity on 5 August, the feast of the Dedication of St Mary Major in Rome, built in memory of the great Council of Ephesus, which solemnly proclaimed Mary to be “Mother of God” in 431... *“The Glory of God is a man fully alive, and the glory of man is the vision of God!”* Guy, our dear brother, may this be true for you!



Father Guido LIBRALATO, S.M.M.

(1945 – 2007)

Died in Redona (Italy), on 11 August 2007,
aged 61 with 43 years of Religious Profession.

Guido Libralato was born on 27 August 1945 in San Giorgio in Bosco (PD). He was the oldest of seven brothers. In 1956, he arrived at the “Villa S. Maria” to begin his journey of preparation for the Montfortian life. He joined two uncles already in the Company of Mary: Fathers Alfonso and Ivo. In 1962, Guido went to Rome to make his novitiate; he made his first vows on 29 September 1963. Following his studies in philosophy and theology at the Pontifical University of the Lateran, where he obtained a degree in theology, he took courses at the Marianum to obtain a diploma in Mariology. In 1971, he was at the Apostolic School in Arbizzano (VR) as part of the formation staff. On 8 April 1972, he was ordained a priest at S. Anna Morosina (PD). In 1973, Father Guido realised his dream of going as a missionary to Madagascar. There he spent some very fruitful years from a pastoral point of view. He made himself a part of the mission of Brickaville, which had been entrusted to the Italian Montfortians. Very tall and robust, he could not pass unnoticed. He sought to understand the Malagasy culture so as to be able to proclaim the Gospel, and he entered into the heart of the people who, so many years later, still remember him.

In 1982, he had to leave the “Red Isle” for health reasons. He went back to Caravaggio, to the Mission Procure there. In September 1984, he returned to Arbizzano, this time to the community of the “Centro Montfort”, to aid in the discernment and the vocational accompaniment of young men, and to collaborate with the diocesan Missionary Centre of the Diocese of Verona. Yet he still dreamed of a return to the Missions, and it was only in 1988 that he finally realised this was not possible. He wrote in a letter at that time: “What hurts me most is not the sickness but the disillusionment and the rage that I can no longer dispose of myself, and that is my sin...” He found in the Neo-Catechumenate movement strong support both human and spiritual: “The Lord has recalled me and, with that patience and mercy of which he alone is capable, he has re-built me as a religious and a priest (...). The Lord has taught me to see everything as a gift...” From 1988 to 1990, we find him in Rome in the parish of St Maximilien Kolbe, then, from 1990 to 1995, at the Montfortian Marian Centre.

The last stage of his life was marked by continual change: Reggio Calabria, Rome (Via Cori), Loreto. There in 2002 he was diagnosed as having a cancer of the blood. He was transferred to the General House so as to receive treatment and to render some service there. In 2005, he returned to the Marian Centre. He spent the last months of his life in Bergamo (Villa Montfort), undergoing check-ups, periods in hospital, blood transfusions... He shared in the community exercises, and spent the rest of his time in the silence of his own room. After a period of seeming remission, he suffered an unexpected deterioration in the state of his health, and in just a few days ended his earthly pilgrimage in the evening of Saturday 11 August 2007. His funeral, celebrated at the Shrine of Mary Queen of All Hearts, was attended by many confreres. In keeping with the desires of his mother and brothers, Father Guido is buried in the cemetery of S. Anna Morosina (PD).



Father Hubert JONGEN, S.M.M.

(1907 – 2007)

Died in Valkenburg a/d Geul (Netherlands), on 26 August 2007,
aged 100 with 79 years of Religious Profession.

On 26th of August 2007 Father Hub Jongen died in Valkenburg (the Netherlands). He was born in Schaesberg on 22nd February 1907 as Jozef Hubert Jongen. In 1926 he entered the noviciate of the Montfortians and made his first vows on 8th September 1927 in Meerssen. In Oirschot he was ordained priest on 10th June 1933 by the Montfortian Bishop of Reykjavik, Mgr. Meulenberg.

His first appointment brought him to Leuven (Belgium), with the Marian Works. In 1948, fifteen years later, he was appointed for Salzburg (Austria) where he started a Marian secretariat for the German speaking countries, with the magazine 'Im Dienst der Königin' (In the Service of the Queen), which title later changed to 'Mutter der Kirche' (Mother of the Church). After a year's rest in Meerssen he got an assignment for Brazil (aged 60). After a year of orientation he left in 1968 for São Paulo, the parish of Perus. Again a year later he went to work in Jardim Rincão. From 1979 onwards he was a parish priest in Vila Rosina. In 1995 he returned to the Netherlands, where he got a room in the house for the elderly in Valkenburg. But after a year he left again for Vila Rosina for a period of six years. Then he returned for good to Vroenhof. In spite of his age he travelled still two times to Brazil because of the project, initiated by him, for the unemployed youth, Casa di Pai. After the grand celebration of his 100th birthday he struggled to finish the new edition of his book on Fatima from 1944, and he finished it! In the evening of August 26th he fell asleep for ever in his own room while his confreres administered the sacrament of the sick to him.

Father Jongen was one of our most remarkable confreres. Not just because of his advanced age. Neither because he remained perfectly clear of mind until his last day. He was special because of his unbridled urge for activity. During his long life long he was always on the go to spread the Kingdom of Jesus through Mary. For him that was not only spiritual. He was touched by the message of Our Lady of Banneux (Belgium): 'I am the Virgin of the poor'. Our confrere did everything for the poor. Not as much guided by rational considerations as by his heart. Apparitions and visionaries attracted him. He felt closely bound with Fatima and the crying Madonna of Syracuse touched him deeply in his soul.

Father Jongen stood 'Im Dienst der Königin' (in the service of the Queen). He looked around with the eyes of the 'Mutter der Kirche' (Mother of the Church). At first from Leuven and later from Salzburg he did his best for the devotion to Mary. When he became a missionary in Brazil, at an advanced age, it was again in the service of Mary and for her people, preferably the least ones. In his very own way he was able to combine devotion and merchant mentality. He was not afraid of adventures. We could put as a motto above his life: 'Damage and shame make you a wise man, don't like a scholar keep on thinking through all pro's and con's.' That might have

raised questions inside and outside of the congregation. But what would our congregation be without characters who walk beyond the paths others have gone? Father Jongen was such a character, in the footsteps of Montfort. He didn't see himself as a saint. He knew his shortcomings, his weak spots, his sometimes a bit reckless faith in certain people. Not everything he undertook was a success. But with an admirable, joyful mind he engaged himself again and again for the full hundred percent for a new project.

At the end, what is the balance of this moving life? In the line of Father Jongen I leave this question unanswered. He did what he could and what his heart told him to do. Our deceased confrere might have been a merchant, but he was not a stingy bookkeeper. He knew people were neither angels nor gods. He himself could remarkably easily forgive and forget. And he trusted that God would do this even more and that Mary took care of each of her children as good as a real mother does. In his last letter (July 13th 2007) he wrote to his friends and benefactors and underlined it: "We gave ourselves totally to our Lady. And now she does the same for us. She takes over all our commitments towards God and people! ... For ever! This thought cheers me up. She may also be your comfort". We join this wish, this conviction readily.

Father Albert GIELENS, S.M.M.

(1915 – 2007)

Died in Rotselaar (Belgium), on 13 September 2007,
aged 92 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

Father Ernesto BREMBILLA, S.M.M.

(1920 – 2007)

Died in Redona – Bergamo (Italy), on 15 September 2007,
aged 86 with 57 years of Religious Profession.



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY
BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL

June 2007			<u>years old</u>	<u>profession</u>
22	V.K. Stephen	Hyderabad (India)	75	55
29	GÉBELIN, Marcel	La Hillière (France)	91	75
July 2007				
28	MICHAUD, Jean-Marie	La Hillière (France)	84	62
August 2007				
02	BUFFÉ, Marcel	La Hillière (France)	92	65
21	CHARRON, Roland	Laval (Canada)	83	60
September 2007				
04	LECHAT, Jean-Baptiste	La Hillière (France)	76	57
10	FAIVRE, Daniel	London (England)	78	59



FROM THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY
DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

June 2007			<u>birth</u>	<u>profession</u>
02	Sr Louise-Hyacinthe Alexine Person	La Chartreuse Marie-Louise Trichet	16-07-13	02-08-40
02	Sr Marie-Jeanne de la Sagesse Yvette Mousset	Layrac France	14-04-22	02-02-53
05	Sr Ancella Maria dell'Assunzione Amelia Viero	Menaggio – Como Italy	17-03-28	02-02-51
07	Sr Camille Racine André-Joseph de la Croix	Montréal Salaberry Infirmerie	14-12-09	02-02-41
08	Sr Maria delle Grazie Angelina Azzola	San Remo Italy	23-12-24	02-02-49
14	Sr Patricia Brown Aidan Marie of the Immaculate	Romsey – Abbey House G.B.I.	17-03-32	02-02-58
15	Sr Jeanne Cyr Paul de la Trinité	Ottawa – Cté Notre-Dame Canada	22-08-13	02-02-34
17	Sr Andrea Francisca Maria Romero	Bogotá – Enfermeria Colombia	26-12-29	02-08-48
25	Sr Odile-Marie des Anges Geneviève Gris	St Laurent – Ste Bernadette France	07-08-18	02-08-41
26	Sr Thérèse Bourgois Thérèse-Emmanuel	Tournai – Vertefeuille Belgium	29-07-26	02-08-55

July 2007

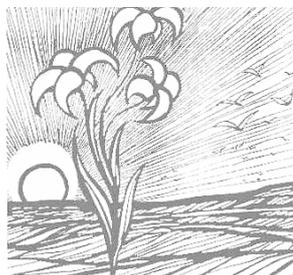
05	Sr Cécile Augustin Marie Ernestine	Carrefour – Notre-Dame de Toutes Grâces Haiti	24-10-17	02-08-50
10	Sr Eva Perreault Marie-Emond	Ottawa – Cté Notre-Dame Canada	20-04-10	02-02-31
18	Sr Marie-Pierre de la Providence Jeanne Henry	St Laurent – Tibériade France	21-07-16	02-02-42
23	Sr Thérèse de la Redemption Marie-Louise Le Bris	La Chartreuse Marie-Louise Trichet	15-03-13	02-02-34
24	Sr Gabrielle Régnier Gabriel de Getsémanie	Ottawa – Cté Notre-Dame Canada	18-02-22	27-08-49
25	Sr Marie Alvine Michaud Philippe du Bon Pasteur	Brentwood – NY United States	04-04-17	02-02-36
25	Sr Thérèse-Marie de la Sagesse Yvonne Raingeaud	St Laurent – Mtf. N-Dame France	04-01-29	02-02-53

August 2007

04	Hna María Rebeca Jiménez A.	Bogotá- Enfermería Colombia	11-11-19	02-02-45
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September 2007

02	Sr François du Christ Joséphine Le Verge	La Chartreuse Marie-Louise Trichet	09-09-16	02-08-43
04	Sr Marie Hubert du Sacré-Coeur Maria Hubertina Huynen	Houthem – Valkenbourg Holland	08-10-15	25-03-33
05	Sr Josephine van de H. Drieëenheid M. C. G. Sijstermans	Houthem – Valkenbourg Holland	02-01-20	02-08-44
12	Sr Marcella Maria Antionietta Trabucco	Torino– Clinica Italy	22-11-40	02-02-62
14	Sr Maria della Neve Severina Marchesi	Valperga – (TO) Italy	13-06-19	02-02-43



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