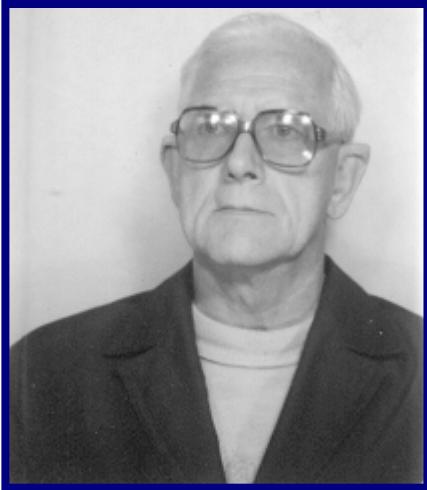


December 18, 2006

**Death Notice No. 29 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **MARCEL J. SCHMITT**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 2, 2006 in Marignane, France, in the 85<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 67<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Born in Alsace at Sassenheim (Bas Rhin) on 03.12.22, Marcel very early came under German influence which caused him to be “betrayed” by his accent all the rest of his life.

His brother André though he had not been allowed to make vows in the Society of Mary because of poor health, became completely involved in Catholic education in Marianist schools.

Marcel, after 4 years of postulate and a year of novitiate, made his first vows at Rèves. His perpetual profession took place 4 years later.

What is striking about Marcel’s life is the number of communities in which he was stationed. After a period of about 30 years spent in prefecting and teaching at La Rochelle, St. Hippolyte, Belfort, Fribourg, Saint Dié, and Le Vic, he was put in charge of vocations and the Service Missionnaire des Jeunes in Paris.

At that time, he felt called to work with the poor. With a little team of lay people and one Religious, Sister Nicole, he started a service to welcome foreigners, to help with their administrative papers, to find housing and work for them – in a word, to fight misery, always present in the capital. The Rue de la Convention, Montgolfier, Aubervilliers, Bron, etc, were the works he founded or helped to create.

Marcel willingly took up the cause of the young people and the poor of the “9 - 3 suburbs”, as the department north of Paris, La Seine St. Denis, is often called.

In spite of his years, Marcel was always a volunteer to help create new communities. Comfort meant little to him. His experience in moving qualified him for this kind of task. It was he who, with Mlle. Christiane Brohet, organized the departure from the hallowed place called Art.

He was made director of community in several places, such as Art, Le Vic, etc. Marcel was a man of authority and order. His good health was a real asset during his whole life. He was kind and devoted. He served the person, not a cause.

“Accueil Convention” still exists, thanks to the devotedness and strong convictions of the team that took up the torch.

May he rest in Peace!