

March 14, 2008

**Death Notice No. 4 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **FRANÇOIS MARIE JESTIN**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 15, 2008 in Créteil, France, in the 94<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 70<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

He was born at Lampaul Guimiliau on August 15, 1914, in the shadow of one of the most beautiful “calvaries”, for which this region is known. He traveled to Paris and then to St. Remy in Belgium to make his first vows on September 24, 1938. Three years later, he made his perpetual profession at La Rochelle.

Nearly his whole life, he worked in the elementary classes as principal. Thus, after a period when he taught his classes, so to say, at La Rochelle and at St. Thégonnec, he was named principal at Kerriou, Antony, and Guiclan, for 20 years, and then became engaged in administrative positions and catechism at Ste. Marie d’Antony. He retired in 1988 and lived for a short time in Alsace at Saint Hippolyte before going to Sucy, his final resting place. His was a full life in the service of youth.

What will be remembered about our brother François Jestin?

He was a distinguished gentleman with great worldly wisdom. His black hat, à la Jean Moulin, was known throughout the town. Every morning and every evening he walked up or down Mounié Street. So many hand shakes, greetings and conversations or questions about health were willingly shared! He knew how to listen and discuss the problems of his former students, so numerous at Antony. Always well dressed, his shoes well shined, with his cane and his hat, he had the air of an English gentleman.

He was a man who treasured his relationships. Everything around him interested him. His little notebook, in which he wrote birthdays, namedays, and family events, was a treasure-trove of data. His large correspondence was generally for namedays and birthdays of those he knew in Breton and from Léon, as he was attentive to his roots and to the memory of his very pious parents.

He was a model religious, too. The times he was late could be counted on his ten fingers. His Marian devotion was evidenced by his pilgrimages, for example, to Notre Dame of Folgoat in north Finistère. For some time he was the official “recruiter” with his uncle, a Marianist religious. Several Breton brothers owe it to him that they became postulants. Kerriou manor was his base camp.

When he retired, he continued his role as catechist. He had a natural authority and the children esteemed him greatly. He liked teaching the children to pray. In community, he could laugh with each one. He could share the sorrow of another, encourage the weary and help those who needed help.

Professionally, he was an irreproachable school principal. His long experience and his desire to educate the very young gave him dynamism for this mission in the schools, a dynamism that he preserved until his

death. Father Boulet accompanied him on his last journey. The personnel at Sainte Marie often asked about him, thus showing the quality of the memory he left behind.

The loss of this wonderful Marianist figure leaves a great emptiness in the Province. He was always ready to volunteer and easily adapted himself to whatever was proposed as a community activity. From his parents he received the faith, a solid faith which he amply nourished during his long life.

Goodbye, Bro. Jestin, until we meet again!