

May 26, 2008

Death Notice No. 9 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Region of Switzerland, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **HERMANN HUBER**, of the Marianist Community of Saint-Raphaël, Fribourg, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 10, 2008 in Fribourg, Switzerland in the 91st year of his age and the 71st year of his religious profession.

Hermann was born February 9, 1918, at Laufenburg in the Canton of Aarau. He was the seventh and last child of August and Hedwig. On the family farm – his father was a farmer—he quickly learned to work with his hands. After secondary school he met Marianist Brother Franz Häseli, professor at the Normal School for teachers in Sion, who used his vacations to cover the German part of Switzerland to look for vocations, and not without success. It was thus that Hermann was steered towards the postulate at Martigny, where, for two years, he learned French and solidified his vocation. On September 12, 1937, he made his first profession at Saint Remy-Signeulx in Belgium. Expelled from Freistadt, Austria, by the invasion of German troops, Hermann split two years between the scholasticate at Sion and military service before realizing his dream to become a Working Brother at Grangeneuve, Middel, Greisinghof and Rome. At the General Administration, where he took care of the big garden for eighteen years, he most enjoyed his work. After a period of four years as gardener at Martigny, he cultivated the garden at Saint-Raphaël in Fribourg from 1986 until his death with an admirable devotedness, supported in that work until 2006 by his confrere Karl Greiner. The sale of our property there was a hard blow for him. On May 8, 2008, after having worked in the garden, he suddenly collapsed. Taken as an emergency to the hospital, he died there two days later without recovering consciousness, according to the American expression: “dying with your boots on.”

Brother Huber was a great worker. He was strong as a horse. He was not talkative, but engaged willingly with customers who came to the garden to purchase salad greens or vegetables. He must have succeeded very well, since his customers remained faithful to him. We have to admit that our two gardeners kept unbeatable prices, and their vegetables were of a quite superior quality. We Brothers in Fribourg admired our gardener Brother, without being able to imitate him, because we could not have sustained his rhythm of work. Every day he carefully noted in his journal the work he had done that day and the changes in weather.

Despite his work, he was faithful to prayer and to daily Mass in the chapel. He knew how to stop work in order to be present before God when it was time to pray. Brother Huber was interested in vocations. When we would come back from a meeting and speak enthusiastically about the conferences, he would ask: “How many vocations will your session bring in?” Evidently, we had no answer. It is certainly easier to cultivate salad greens than to fish for vocations. Brother Huber was not a lover of long discussions and community meetings. He preferred practice to theory. Nonetheless, he followed politics on the radio, in the papers, and later on TV news.

Brother Huber was interested in our mission. He would have loved to have been among the pioneers in Togo and volunteered as such to the Provincial. But the latter perhaps thought his presence on the farm at Middel to be more important. Bro. Huber accepted the verdict of the Provincial. He saw his life as one of service. On one page (of his journal) he wrote in German: "All my life, I have made others happy and thought of myself only in last place. I have served, my reward is peace."

Dear Hermann! You always gave us your example of work and of gift of self. We thank you for your involvement. Now that you have become our intercessor in heaven, you can really do something for us. Bring us some new Marianists. Thanks in advance!