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Death Notice No. 3 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ROBERT KNOBLOCH**, of the Saint Hippolyte Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 17, 2009 in Guebwiller (Alsace), in the 87th year of his age and the 69th year of his religious profession.

On January 10, 1923, the storks delivered a baby with the eyes as blue as the windows of Chartres,¹ whose future looked very promising. Brother KNOBLOCH, entered the postulate at Saint Hippolyte and the Marianist cycle of formation. He pronounced his first vows on September 12, 1940. After his scholasticate, he began teaching. His perpetual vows on January 22, 1947, became the point of departure for a very active professional life. The business office became his “kingdom.”

What image can we retain of his passage on this earth, devoted to service of the community and of educational institutions? In Robert there was an easy marriage of the temporal and the spiritual: “For everything its own time, for every time its own thing.” He came to be seen through a prism of goodness. To begin with, there shown out from him a glow of simplicity and of purity. His face and his speech both accented his Alsatian origins. A radiant smile, supported by a constant joviality, highlighted his human qualities. His tenor voice contributed to chanting the Divine Office. His gentleness of character and his serenity reinforced the competence with which he undertook his mission. A strongly emotive type, he had an abundance of the gift of tears. For recreation, he loved to tease the fish in the Ill River.² Colmar was his base for more than 50 years.

Robert KNOBLOCH was an authentic Brother of Mary. He understood how to reconcile the two dimensions of his professional life: the religious and the profane. The service of his Brothers and a constant devotedness made of him a prototype of the Working Brother. A professional conscience, united to a concern for social justice for all his personnel, made of him a model business manager for a Marianist institution.

¹ Among the cathedrals, the blue of the windows of Chartres has a very particular tonality. It is a metaphor for speaking about the deep blue of a person’s eyes.

² The river which waters Colmar.

His goodness sometimes led him to prophetic actions. For a long time he distributed the leftovers of the dining room to the poor, giving him occasion to meet and listen to them. In his own way, he was a missionary engaged in service after the example of St. Stephen, the first deacon.

At one point in his time in La Rochelle, during the 1940's, he was the victim of an accident, the after-effects of which he suffered all his life with courage and self-denial. These became particularly painful during his last years.

His Marian devotion and his love for the Blessed Virgin made of him a true apostle of Mary. He leaves to all those who knew him the image of a simple religious, very committed to the path of perfection.