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**Death Notice No. 37 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JACQUES MAS**, of the Maison de Retraite “La Collégial” Marianist Community (Albi) who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 25, 2008 in Albi, France, in the 86<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 62<sup>nd</sup> year of his religious profession.

The life of Jacques MAS passed smoothly and evenly. He was born at Amélie-les-Bains, a famous hot springs center known for its cures and trout fishing, in the Eastern Pyrenees on September 22, 1923. He was Catalan and proud of it!

He made his first vows November 20, 1947, after a year of novitiate at Antony. His perpetual profession was August 23, 1951.

Having earned the Licentiate in Mathematics in 1945, when he returned to Cannes September 8, 1948, he began a teaching career as a professor of mathematics that lasted there for 21 years. From Cannes he moved to Bordeaux, where he continued his teaching until his retirement in 1989. From then on he served the community at Grand Lebrun until 1999, when he shared in the foundation of a new community of three Brothers at a retreat house in Albi.

As a teacher of mathematics and physics, he certainly must have had a sense of pedagogy, but, in spite of all his efforts, he had some difficulties in gaining respect from the students.

What can be remembered of this confrere, so experienced in spite of his difficulties with discipline? He loved mathematics and would willingly work at solutions to certain problems that his colleagues had given up on long before.

Brother MAS, throughout his life, had contact with young people with whom he had an excellent rapport. For example, he shared in the creation of a Saint Vincent de Paul Team with the students at the Collège de Bordeaux. His participation in several successive choirs at Cannes and at Bordeaux kept him young. At breakfast, he loved to recall stories of Marianists. That inclination to live with young people allowed him to learn the languages he would later use as a guide for the Marianist networks in the Southwest. If a foreign Brother arrived, at whatever time of year, even during school holidays, Brother MAS willingly took him to follow the paths that Father Chaminade had trodden, both in Bordeaux and throughout the Region. With his loud voice, he brought back to life the founders of the Society of Mary. Japanese, English, Spanish and the Langue d’Oc of Southern France gave him no problems.

Sa vie de religieux se nourrissait de la messe, des exercices dont la ponctualité était remarquable. Son livre « Prière du Temps Présent » regorgeait d'images et de fiches qu'il recueillait pour les partager avec les membres de sa communauté. Plusieurs personnes bénéficiaient de la communion à domicile, véritable apostolat auprès des personnes âgées. On se souviendra longtemps de son béret basque, de son vélo préhistorique et de son imperméable tendance Colombo. Ce frère modeste, plein d'humour et de sagesse, tout donné à ses élèves et à la Sainte Vierge, restera longtemps dans les souvenirs des frères qui ont eu la chance de le côtoyer.

His religious life was nourished by the Mass and community prayers with his remarkable punctuality. His prayer book "Prayers for the Present" was stuffed with pictures and notes that he had collected in order to share them with other members of the community. Many people benefitted from what was a real apostolate of bringing Holy Communion to the aged and infirm in their homes. We will always remember his basque beret, his prehistoric bicycle, and his raincoat that made him look like the TV detective Colombo. This modest Brother, full of humor and wisdom, completely dedicated to his students and to the Blessed Virgin, will long remain in the memories of the Brothers who were fortunate enough to rub elbows with him.