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Death Notice No. 5 (To all Unit Administrations):

The Province of the France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RENÉ MULLER**, priest of the Saint Hippolyte Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 5, 2009 in Chaux (Belfort), France, in the 90th year of his age and the 73rd year of his religious profession.

Born in Rougegoutte, near Giromagny, in the region of Belfort, René Muller was a postulant at St. Hippolyte from October 1931 to August 1935. He entered the novitiate at Saint Remy August 27, 1935, and professed his first vows September 12, 1936. He then went to the scholasticate in Fribourg, Switzerland, until 1939. After a time as teacher in the postulate at la Tour de Sçay (Doubs) and a period of military mobilization until 1941 (?), he undertook the study of the humanities in the Faculty of Besançon (Doubs) while continuing to teach at la Tour de Sçay.

After pursuing his studies in Paris, he left for the Marianist Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, where he was ordained in 1949. He then came to Colmar, to the diocesan Collège Saint André, where he taught the first level literature course until 1954. From there, he was sent to Caudéran to the School of Sainte Marie Grand Lebrun. He was chaplain and teacher in the classes of the college.

Father Muller was known as a serious person, profoundly religious but rather discrete. He spent a fruitful religious and sacerdotal life in spite of a profound hurt that he underwent at the end of his seminary which marked the rest of his life. To those who knew him, he was a competent and demanding teacher, but very human. His ministry to the youngest and in various movements was enriching for many of them.

The death of his mother around 1963-64 gave him the occasion to revisit his birthplace; he would not be able to return until years later. During his presence in the community in Bordeaux he encountered some difficulties which, with the authorization of his superiors, led him to distance himself from it. His relations with the Brothers of the community remained cordial, even if sporadic.

At the time of his golden jubilee in 1986 the Superior General, Fr. Salaverri, congratulated him warmly and wished him peace and serenity for the years to come. In 1997 he went to live with a family member in Chaux (Belfort): his sight and his health were very poor, and he needed constant care. The priests of the region came often to visit him, recognizing his experience and the depth of his faith.

In a last letter dictated to his cousin, he spoke of his calm gratitude for the authorization given him by the Provincial to live “on the margin of our communities” for health reasons. His physical condition and his morale deteriorated rather rapidly these past years, and he was hospitalized several times. It was in peace and in faith that he died in the home of his cousin in Chaux. He is buried in the cemetery of St. Hippolyte, surrounded by several of his Brothers in religion, as he had wished. The funeral took place in the church of St. Hippolyte in the presence of members of his family and of some former students, especially from Colmar.

May he rest in peace in the love of God and Mary.