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**Death Notice No. 22 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ALOYSE WELTER**, priest of the Saint Hippolyte Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 23, 2009 in Saint Hippolyte, France, in the 97<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 81<sup>st</sup> year of his religious profession.

Father Aloyse Welter was born in Seltz in the Department of the Haut-Rhin on February 13, 1913, into a family of 17 children, which the local pastor called “one of the best families of my parish.”

After his postulate at St. Hippolyte, he professed his first vows at St. Remy-Signeulx in Belgium on September 12, 1929 and his perpetual vows in Strasbourg on October 30, 1938.

One sister and two brothers of Aloyse became religious. His brother, Antoine, had preceded him in the Marianist way (first vows in 1923) and another brother became a Salesian.

During his seminary years, Father Welter had to be operated on for a lung ailment and spent several years in a sanatorium, where he offered several classes of theology. He made part of his seminary at Antony because of the war, and was ordained on April 25, 1944 in Paris.

The motivation at the origin of his vocation was teaching. Father Welter had a solid formation in philosophy and psychological pedagogy. It was principally as a teacher of philosophy that he spent the greater part of his life. He taught at Antony, La Rochelle, Art-sur-Meurthe, Besançon, Fribourg, and above all, at St-Étienne in Strasbourg. For years after withdrawing from teaching, he continued to lend a hand to teachers by correcting philosophy papers.

After his retirement, he continued to exercise his ministry in parishes: St. John in Strasbourg, in Belfort, at Sainte Maure and at St. Hippolyte.

He celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in religious life last September 12 and declined gently with all his faculties intact. After learning that he had contracted pancreatic cancer and returning to St Hippolyte, he received the sacrament of the sick with several Brothers of his community.

The illness quickly gained ground and he departed peacefully to the Lord and the Virgin Mary whom he had served all his life. As he wrote at the time of his Jubilee: “I remember that during the night of September 12, 1929, I prayed very fervently that I might stay faithful. And that prayer was heard generously.”

In recalling Father Welter, we recall his example of a man who was rigorous and meticulous in his work and his ministry. He was conscious of being a bit timid, but that did not prevent him from making his mark on generations of students. He was a good spiritual director, a true son of Father Chaminade, showing us by his life that “the essential is the interior.” Father Welter accomplished what his pastor in 1924 had written when he first became attached to the Society of Mary: “I hope that he will become not only a good Brother of Mary, but also a priest according to the heart of Jesus in the Society of Mary.”