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January 2, 2009

Death Notice No. 1 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Region of Switzerland, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ALFRED ZURFLUH**, of the Chaminade Marianist Community (Sion), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 2, 2009 in Sion, Switzerland in the 81st year of his age and the 62nd year of his religious profession.

Alfred Zurfluh was born in Flüelen (Canton of Uri, Switzerland) on May 21, 1928, the third in a family of five children. His father Paul was employed in business, and his mother, Emilie, looked after the family.

Alfred attended the primary school of Altdorf, directed by Marianist religious. At 17, after his business training, he entered the Society of Mary. He finished his novitiate at Middelstalden on September 12, 1947, and pursued his studies as a Scholastic at the Normal School in Sion. From 1950 to 1959 his superiors assigned him to the primary school in Brig, which he then directed from 1957 to 1959.

From 1960 to 1962, after the second novitiate at Castelgandolfo, the young Alfred prepared himself at the University of Fribourg for a missionary assignment. He ended his two years of studies with the Diploma of Secondary Education (DES).

For thirty-three years Brother Alfred Zurfluh taught German, geography and history in the Chaminade and Adèle high schools in Kara, Togo. He was also the business manager for Chaminade and for the community. He had numerous contacts with the students.

In 1995, health problems no longer permitted this valiant missionary to return to his adopted country. Nevertheless, his heart remained in Africa. He relived his missionary commitment at each visit of a Togolais or each time he could bring it up. It was also the time of a serious surgical operation for the removal of a kidney. He recovered and did not remain inactive. His superiors confided to him the task of business manager for the Chaminade Community of Sion.

He lived happily among his Brothers, seeking to do little things for them. At the jubilee meal celebrating fifty years of priesthood of Father Otto Jossen, Brother Alfred was taken ill. Little by little his strength declined considerably and, two years ago, he realized that his health would no longer permit him to be cared for in the community. He spoke with the director; he resigned himself to entering the Maison St-François for the last stage of his life. His gentleness, his smile won the hearts of his nurses.

A cardio-vascular attack caused Alfred to fall in his room. He was hospitalized. He was missed at Saint-François and the nurses threw a party for him, ten days later, at his return, but it was not to be for long. On Friday, January 2, 2009, he gave his last breath to the Father.