

CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gensecsm@smcuria.it

November 23, 2011

Death Notice No. 31 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **PIERRE RUHARD**, of the Issenheim/Saint Hippolyte Marianist Community (France), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 31, 2011 in Guebwiller, France, at the age of 90 with 73 years of religious profession.

Our brother Pierre Ruhard was born January 31, 1921, in Eckartswiller, in the Department of Bas-Rhin. He had two brothers, of whom one is a Marianist today in Colmar. After a visit by Bro. Albert Kaeffer, he left his village for the postulate at Saint-Hippolyte where he continued his studies from 1932 to 1937. He made his novitiate at Saint-Remy-Signeulx, in Belgium, and pronounced his first vows on September 14, 1938. He completed his formation at the scholasticate in Reves, Belgium, in 1938-1939, then in la Rochelle, at the Collège Fénelon, from 1939 to 1941.

After the baccalaureate, Pierre began his teaching career in Cugard, in Vendée, then at Ste Marie de Monceau in Paris.

As he wrote several times to his superiors: “In the Society of Mary, I am more drawn towards the life of a teaching religious than to that of a priest – I still feel hardly any attraction for the priesthood.” It was in that spirit that he made his perpetual profession on September 8, 1946, at Art-sur-Meurthe.

After the war, in 1945, he was sent to the Collège Saint Étienne of Strasbourg. While teaching, he prepared for his licentiate in classical letters at the University of Strasbourg, which he earned in 1950. During almost all of his career, he taught French, Latin and Greek in the 4th class. He was also responsible for a religion course and was moderator for a group of the Eucharistic Youth Movement. Pierre had perfect control of his classroom; he had only to raise his eyebrow for calm to return. He worked methodically and had a sense of responsibility for the entire establishment. He followed politics with a passion. Needless to say, he left an imperishable remembrance with the students he left at the time of his retirement in 1986.

At Art-sur-Meurthe, he continued to devote himself to the pastoral activities of the parish, especially catechism. He was also involved in the library of the hospital in Nancy.

At the time of the closure of the house in Art-sur-Meurthe, our brother returned to his native Alsace in 1998 and joined his brother in the community of Colmar until his departure for Issenheim in 2009. Transferred to the Guebwiller hospital, it was from there that he departed to join the Lord whom he had served all his life, on October 31.

Pierre had gone through some difficult periods in his life with tenacious anxieties and times of depression. We remember his determination, his professional conscience, his concern for work well done. For some of his former students or teachers, he represented: “the model teacher.” As one former student from Saint Étienne of Strasburg wrote at his funeral: “He was the perfect incarnation of the brother of Mary, with all that that meant in reserve and discretion.”

May he rest in peace.