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Death Notice No. 11 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JEAN MOUGEL**, of the Les Cèdres Marianist Community (France), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 7, 2012 in Limeil-Brevannes, France, at the age of 87 with 69 years of religious profession.

Born on June 23, 1925, in Remiremont, a small village in the Vosges Mountains, Jean Mougel received his primary education at the brothers' school in La Bresse, staffed by the Marianists since 1854 and source of numerous religious vocations to the Society of Mary. Upon completion of his novitiate under the German occupation, he pronounced his first vows on April 18, 1943. He was then assigned to manual work, such as gardening, at Courtefontaine (Jura), then at St. Hippolyte. After the liberation of France, he was sent to St. Claude as a teacher, before leaving for Switzerland in September of 1948 to take a three-year course at the Institut Agricole de Grangeneuve, in the Canton of Fribourg, where he earned his diploma in agricultural engineering.

Assigned to the agricultural school of Sainte Maure (Aube), founded three years before by Joseph Fimbel, our confrère was to pass his entire active life there. As an agronomist, he specialized in phytotechnics and vegetable biology. He used his talents as an agricultural technician and educator for the students of the Department of the Aube, but the reputation of the school attracted young men from the neighboring departments, from the Champagne-Ardenne region, from the Parisian Basin, from Burgundy and from many other regions of France.

Jean belonged to that generation of religious who devoted themselves to teaching in an institution intended to train farmers. The vast majority of the students were boarders, which allowed the religious, to form their young students through living with them day in and day out.

Thanks to his professional competence, his pedagogical talents, his qualities as a teacher, Jean knew how to capture the attention of his students, to motivate them for their profession, to get them excited not only about putting together a herbarium or taking a tour of the region, but also about writing up an internship report. And above all, by his example, his advice, his nearness to the students, quite simply by his life, he inculcated a concern for work well done, for exactness and order, for professional conscience, for will power and tenacity, for meaningful effort and for seeking the common good. We can also add the sense of responsibility – our confrère could proudly count up numerous former students who have occupied and still today occupy high positions in politics and professional life.

He lived 24 hours a day with the students, sharing their life completely in class, in study hall besides the 5 or 6 hours of daily courses, taking his meals with them in the dining room, sharing their games in recreation, supervising the dormitory from a minuscule monastic cell. He organized snow day classes, especially at La Bresse, in the house called "City 10," set up with much taste, devotion and generous work by his former students, itself a concrete and eloquent witness to the attachment and gratitude they had for our brother. Jean Mougel loved young people and consecrated to them his entire life, his talents, his time, his competencies. He gave them all, he was entirely given to them.

Leaving Sainte Maure when the time came for his professional retirement was a painful rupture, but he made himself useful in the various positions he occupied during the last years of his life. He retained to the end a nostalgia for Ste Maure, where he had passed 40 years of his life. The crowd of former students who attended his funeral on July 12, 2012, at Ste Maure showed the profound and durable influence that this "master" had exercised upon them.