

**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](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)

September 7, 2012

**Death Notice No. 15 (To all Unit Administrations):**

The Province of France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **EDOUARD ROLLET**, priest of the Saint Hippolyte Community (France), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 in Colmar, France, at the age of 91 with 73 years of religious profession.

Fr. Edouard Rollet was born October 30, 1920, in Ohlungen (Bas-Rhin), the last child of a family of three boys and two girls, one of whom died in infancy and the other, a Sister of Charity of Strasbourg, died in 1940. His family suffered severe losses in World War II: his father and one brother were killed close to their home during a bombardment, and another brother disappeared in the USSR.

Recruited by Bro. Albert Kaeffer in June, 1933, Edouard began his postulate at St. Hippolyte for two years and continued it at Rèves for another two years before entering the novitiate at Saint-Rémy-Signeulx (Belgium) in 1937. He professed his first vows on September 24, 1938. While he was a scholastic at Rèves, the War obliged the religious in formation to flee to refuge in France. The train had hardly left Luttre in Belgium when it was bombarded several times by airplanes. The noise was terrifying. The scholastics, scattered through several of the cars, wondered if there were any survivors among their confreres. But all escaped unharmed – the Blessed Virgin was protecting her sons!

Having taken refuge at La Rochelle, the young Bro. Edouard continued his studies and passed his two baccalaureates (letters and philosophy) with a grade of *bien*. After a short stay at Ste Marie de Monceau, he joined the community of Merville (Nord) in 1942, where he got his first taste of “battle” as a classroom teacher. At the beginning of the 1946-47 academic year, Edouard came to Ste Marie de Monceau in Paris, where he studied for certificates in Latin and Greek in view of the *licence*. Then he transferred to Fribourg in 1947 and was eventually ordained priest by Bishop Weber at St Hippolyte with two other confreres. The young priest was sent to Ste Marie de Monceau, then to Antony where, while teacher and chaplain, he continued his studies in French literature, in philology and grammar, finishing up his *Licence ès lettres et education* in 1954.

From 1954 to 1959, he returned to his native Alsace and taught at the Collège St Étienne of Strasbourg in the senior class. Assigned again to Ste Marie de Monceau, he moved in 1968 with the entire institution to the new buildings of Ste Marie d’Antony until his professional retirement in 1986.

He was a tough teacher, but prepared his students well for success in their studies.

Fr. Rollet had a long-term interest in different languages and accompanied several language study sessions in Great Britain. When the General Administration needed a translator and editor, given Edouard’s knowledge of German, English, Italian, Hebrew and a bit of Russian, as well as his other competencies, he was assigned to Rome, where he remained from 1987 to 1991. From there, he returned to the St. Jean house in Antony, and then moved in 2004 to the community of St. Hippolyte.

From 1977 until a few years before his death, Fr. Rollet was chaplain of the *Sillon Catholique*, founded by Marc Sangnier, and wrote for the journal of that association: *L'âme populaire*. It was thus that each month he gave highly appreciated conferences at the Collège Stanilas in Paris.

Passionately interested in astronomy, he built himself a telescope to admire from afar the work of the Creator. Fr. Rollet suffered from a problem of deafness since the postulate, but it grew worse as time went on to become a real handicap. Here is a little anecdote: when a helicopter was passing by the windows to land and evacuate a person from the property, Fr. Edouard, not being aware of what was happening, told a student: "Speak louder, the noise of the motorbikes is drowning out your voice."

Fr. Rollet had some periods of great anxiety, which manifested itself in serious nervousness.... His life was marked by study. Until his last days he would carefully prepare his homilies, which were real teachings.

May he rest in peace.