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October 10, 2012

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



The Province of France, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **GASTON DEBOR**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 17, 2012 in Albi, France, at the age of 95 with 77 years of religious profession.

Our brother Gaston Debor was born on May 5, 1917, in Gabriac, a commune of les Albrès in the Department of Aveyron. The family included three boys and two girls. Gaston became acquainted with the Marianists in primary school and attended the postulate in Montauban from 1930 to 1934.

He left his native southern France for the Belgian mists of Saint Remy-Signeux, where he made his novitiate and professed his first vows on September 12, 1935. Gaston remained two more years in Belgium, at Rèves, to do his scholasticate and to prepare for teaching.

Assigned as a teacher to Réquista in 1937, he was mobilized in 1939, but returned to his teaching post from 1941 to 1944. He would have a second stay at Réquista from 1957 to 1960 as business manager and then again in 2012 at the town's retirement home.

In 1944 Bro. Debor first took on the direction of a school – at Réalmont, all the while continuing to teach.

From 1955 to 1957 he was active as business manager and teacher at Fiac.

In 1960 he was assigned to teach at the St. Joseph School in Tarbes, and two years later he became its director until 1980. It was then that the Foundation (Tutelle) of the Sisters of Compassion asked the Provincial if Bro. Debor could take the direction of the Notre Dame School of Castelsarrasin, at that point in difficulty. He went there for one year, accomplished a renewal of the school and more than doubled its enrollment.

At age 72, he took a well merited retirement, although remaining active, several times being appointed as community director. He arrived in Fiac in 1989 and remained there until 2007. At that time the Province founded a small community in a retreat house of the Diocese of Albi. Bro. Debor became its director, but his companions soon went to the Lord. Remaining alone, his sight and his hearing declining, he went through a difficult time. A fall, an operation on his leg, and it was his own time to leave to go to the Father, a moment he had long awaited.

Gaston Debor accomplished what he had written in his letter requesting first vows in 1935: "I have always intended to become a teaching brother because my preferences go in that direction. I believe that through hard work I can devote myself to primary education."

Gaston loved his work. He was always happy to tell us about his life as a teacher. His optimistic temperament, his good humor, his sense of humor certainly facilitated his activities with youth. Always ready to give encouragement, he wanted each one to attain his best: to develop his intelligence, certainly, but above all to form the personality, the entire person. For he loved young people; and in return, young people loved this educator.... He knew how to establish bonds with the children as well as with their parents.

Profoundly religious, Gaston tried from the beginning to send a Christian message throughout all his activities; a man of faith, a faith that shone forth from him.

In his old age, one sensed the man of faith; he spoke about life, about death, accepting the lot which was his: "*I'm not sick, I just old,*" he loved to say....

May he rest in peace.