



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
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May 27, 2022

Biography of Death Notice N. 16

The Area Community of Switzerland recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **Jean-Paul FEDERNEDER** of the Chaminade Marianist Community of Sion, Switzerland, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 28, 2022, in Sion, Switzerland, at the age of 80 with 59 years of religious profession.

Jean-Paul was born on February 1, 1942 in Martigny, at the same time as his twin brother Jean-Bernard, who died the day after his birth. Jean-Paul was also in critical condition and had to receive an emergency baptism. On May 31, he was solemnly baptized in the church of Aigle, his place of residence at the time.

His mother Bernadette was from the Métral family of Martigny. His father, Theodore, had to start working at the age of eleven after the premature death of his father.

Depending on the father's professional activity, the family lived in different places, notably in Langenthal, Canton of Bern, from 1946 to 1956, where Jean-Paul attended primary and secondary school and acquired a good knowledge of the German language. Beginning in 1956, he attended the Collège Sainte-Marie in Martigny as a boarding student and thus, became acquainted with the Marianists.

In 1960, he entered the postulate of St-Raphael, Fribourg. The following year he entered the novitiate at Tour de Sçay, France. He professed his first vows in the Society of Mary on September 12, 1962.

Jean-Paul completed his initial and continuing education in several stages. He obtained a diploma in commerce in Sion (1962-65), a diploma in stenography and typing in Lausanne (in parallel with his professional activity), a teaching certificate at the Ecole Normale de Sion (1969) and finally a diploma in religious education at the Catholic faculty of Lyon in 1977.

From 1969 to 1975, he taught for three years each in the elementary schools of Sion and Monthey. At the Collège Sainte-Marie in Martigny, he had taught manual crafts, shorthand and typing from 1965 to 1968, then religion for 17 years (1977-94).

After the departure of the Marianists from Martigny, Jean-Paul worked from 1994 to 2004 as a pastoral assistant in parishes in the city of Fribourg and in Villars sur Glâne.

After the illness and death of Pierre Cattin in 2004, his superiors requested that Jean-Paul be the director of the Chaminade Community in Sion.

Jean-Paul had been involved in the media apostolate for decades. He had good contacts with the press and radio and participated in several General Chapters of the Society of Mary as a typist and reporter. Very early on, in addition to the printed publications destined for the brothers and interested persons of the Marianist family, Jean-Paul became involved in the creation of an Internet site for the Swiss Marianists. Over the years, he also built up an extensive digital image archive.

The Marianist Family was particularly close to his heart. For many years, he was

in charge of the lay communities in Monthey and especially in Sion. Several brothers and a group of dedicated lay people assisted him in this work. Even today, many remember the pilgrimages and trips to Marianist sites of interest that he organized.

Until his serious illness, Jean-Paul loved to travel and to make many contacts with confreres from other Units and with other members of the Marianist family.

He also rendered many services to the Swiss Marianist community. Thus, he represented them at the bicentennial of the Marianist Sisters in Agen, in 2016 as well as at the General Chapter in Rome in 2018. In addition, he collaborated in the commissions that organized the meetings of the European Marianists, in which he participated with enthusiasm.

After serious cancer surgery in 2019, he had to give up responsibility for Chaminade House, and as of Fall 2021, his health had visibly deteriorated.

In 2009 and 2018, Jean-Paul had written a spiritual testament entitled "*Praise be to you, Lord.*" He reworked it a few weeks before his death. It was read during the farewell Mass in the Cathedral of Sion. Jean-Paul thanked God for his family and his baptism, for his vocation in the Society of Mary, for his confreres, the Marianist sisters and the members of the lay communities.

In thanksgiving for his time spent teaching, especially as a religion teacher in Martigny, he offered a supplication to God: "*I entrust all my students to you; may they discover in their lives what I have not always been able to witness: You are a God who madly loves men and women, the children of this world.*"

He then asked God for forgiveness for negligence and for all the people he had offended. Jean-Paul could sometimes react in a harsh manner. However, the abundant tears at the farewell celebration of a young woman whom he had taken in and with the help of the community had aided in a difficult situation, showed that he could touch hearts and bring substantial help.

John Paul concluded his spiritual testament by commending to God all those with whom he had walked part of the path of life: "*I entrust to your love all those who have crossed my path, who have walked part of the road you have shown us. I thank you for all the Marianist brothers and sisters (religious and lay) who have*

walked with me on earth and in heaven. May we all glorify you eternally with Mary, Mother of the Marianist family, our founders, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Venerable Adele de Trenquelléon, and all the blessed Marianists.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Be glorified in all places

Through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. »

May he rest in peace!