



**Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie**  
*Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma*



**September 2, 2022.**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 23**

The Region of France recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **René SCHAUER**, of the Marianist Community of Saint Hippolyte, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 12, 2022 in Issenheim, France, at the age of 94 with 62 years of religious profession.

Our René was born in Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace, on November 2, 1927. His father worked on the railroad. He had a brother and a sister.

When war broke out in 1939, Strasbourg was evacuated to the southwest of France. After about a year away, the Schauer family returned to Strasbourg, which had been annexed to the Reich. It is in the language of the occupier that René pursued his commercial studies.

This period deeply upset René, including his faith. It would take several years for

him to rebuild his life and become involved in various groups in his parish, especially in the Legion of Mary. For 17 years, he worked in sales administration for a food wholesaler.

The Marian year of 1954 was decisive for his vocation. He discovered the important place of Mary in his life and thought of giving himself to God. Through a young man in his parish, nephew of Father Hilzendeger, a Marianist, he encountered the Society of Mary.

It was a "late vocation", as they used to say at the time, and he entered the novitiate at La Tour-de-Sçay in the Doubs, when he was 30 years old.

After taking his first vows on September 12, 1959, he continued his religious formation for two years in Fribourg, while being employed as a bursar at the Villa Saint-Jean.

At the time of his request for first vows, he had wished to serve in the Society of Mary as a working brother while continuing his trade, and that is how he was employed.

For the next two years, he was a member of the Antony community while working at the school documentation center. In this capacity, he gathered Marianist documents that could be used by the members of the Society of Mary in their personal growth and their apostolic work. In this community, he found it difficult to live the ideal of prayer and total consecration that he had set for himself, but he remained confident and at peace. The superiors considered this difficulty and appointed him to Saint-Hippolyte at the beginning of the 1963 school year: he flourished there as bursar for 20 years.

In 1983, he was supposed to go to Rèves to take charge of the bursar's office of the school. However, not feeling up to this new mission in Belgium, he was appointed to the chapel of the Madeleine where he rendered many services including that of sacristan. He participated in the Charismatic Renewal group of the city and in the Focolare meetings.

During his scholasticate, René had been moved by the experience he had had with the students of the Villa Saint-Jean at the Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Living in the city of Bordeaux gave him the opportunity to renew

his action in the service of the poor. Easy to talk to, he distributed numerous "Miraculous Medals" from the Rue du Bac in Paris to those he met.

In 2001, his health deteriorating, he returned to Saint-Hippolyte and his native Alsace. Hospitalized several times, his legs were no longer able to support him. In 2013, he entered the retirement home of the Sisters of Divine Providence of Ribeauvillé in Issenheim where other confreres were living. On July 12, he went to the Lord and to the Virgin Mary whom he had loved and served so well.

We will remember, in particular, his kindness and his smile.

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