

Father Pierre Grayer 1919-2017



Father Pierre Grayer was born on 17 December 1919 in Witternheim, Alsace, in the diocese of Strasbourg, the son of Aloys Grayer and Anna Sturn. On 3 December 1930, at the age of eleven, he entered the minor seminary of Exaerde in Belgium which was transferred to Tournai in September 1935. He began his novitiate on 28 September 1936 in Haucourt, France, and made his temporary profession on 29 September 1937. He continued at the seminary in Tournai from September 1937 to November 1939; he was then at Angers (France) from December 1939 to April 1940 and at Lyons from 1 January 1943 to April 1943.

On 10 April 1943 he was ordained a priest in Lyons, with the laying on of hands by Cardinal Gerlier, and was sent to Haucourt until February 1945.

During his religious life he engaged in various ministries:

- Assistant and lecturer at the minor seminary of Niderviller from January 1946 to May 1950.
- Superior of the house of Tournai and teacher of aspirant religious from May 1950 to May 1953.
- Director of the minor seminary of Velaine from September 1953 to July 1960.
- Superior at Sherbrooke in Canada and chaplain of the hospital from August 1960 to August 1965.
- Superior of the house of Lyons and teacher of aspirant religious from September 1965 to September 1966.
- Superior of the community Velaine and parish priest from September 1966 to May 1971.
- Chaplain at the CHR of Reims in June 1971.
- Provincial Superior of the Camillian Province of France during the three-year period 1973-1976.
- Superior of the community of Bry-sur-Marne 1977-1984 and chaplain in Malnoue (a nursing home).
- Chaplain at the Bocage Hospital of Dijon (1984-1989).
- Chaplain at Malnoue from 1989 to 2001.
- From 2001 to 2004 he was a substitute chaplain in various religious communities.

Father Grayer was always:

- A man of service; as long as his sight and his hearing allowed him to do so he presided over the daily celebration of the Eucharist and was the substitute of the chaplain at the hospital of Bry-sur-Marne ...
- A highly educated man, which made him a congenial companion in discussions, he loved to offer his service, learning to read and study Greek in order to revise and correct the texts of his fellow religious... he liked to read newspapers and to listen to the radio, keeping up-to-date on current affairs...
- A man of faith, punctual in community prayer and in meditation; he especially loved to behold God in the creation, in flowers...

For a number of months, limited by a decline in his sight and because of his deafness, he felt increasingly isolated from the world. Despite this, his company as a confrere remained very agreeable and pleasant.

On 17 June 2017 he was admitted to hospital because of his illness. He faced up to this trial with faith and he prepared himself for his encounter with his heavenly Father.

On Tuesday 29 August 2017, a few days after receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, Father Pierre Grayer died in his ninety-eighth year, having lived eighty years as a religious.

The celebration of his funeral will take place on Thursday, 5 September 2017, in the chapel of the community of Bry-sur-Marne.