

Obituary of Fr. Arsène Michels

1935-2018

Father Arsène Michels, the son of Jean and Clémentine Michels, was born on 30 April 1935 in Nousseviller les Bitche in Lorraine.

He entered the novitiate on 7 September 1952 in Lyons and there made his first religious profession on 7 September 1952. He made his perpetual profession on 27 September in Tournai. Again in Tournai, in Belgium, he received the first tonsure of the minor orders on 11 July 1959 and the sub-deaconate on 17 July 1960. He was ordained a deacon on 2 October 1960 and a priest on 8 January 1961.

During his religious life he exercised various ministries:

- Assistant and teacher at Velaine-en-Haye from 18 July 1961 to 6 January 1963.
- Home care at the house in Paris from 6 January 1963 onwards.
- Chaplain at the medical and surgery centre of Foch a Suresnes (outskirts of Paris) from 25 August 1963 onwards.
- Provincial councillor in 1968.
- Provincial Superior until the end of the General Chapter of Vienna 11 May 1971 and *ad interim* Superior of the Community *de la Source*;
- Chaplain in Reims, June-July 1974.
- Superior of the community of Lyons from 17 July 1974 onwards.
- Chaplain of the *St. Camille* Nursing Home.
- Chaplain of the *Les Invalides* Nursing Home.
- Director of the *St. Camille* Nursing Home from September 1977 until 28 February 1992.
- Superior of the community of Lyons until 2010.

During his mandate as Provincial Superior, Father Arsène sold the house of the Community *de la Source* to allow the construction of the *Saint Camille* Hospital of Dojbo, in Benin.

Father Arsène was a man who related to others; he was welcoming and good humoured, faithful in friendship and also very pragmatic. He liked to animate the guests of the nursing home, whom he knew well, one by one. We will remember his sense of humour which at times was rather ironic and which contributed to the creation of a relaxed atmosphere.

Father Arsène died suddenly because of a heart attack.

The funeral will take place on 26 March 2018 at 14.00 in the chapel of the *St. Camille* Nursing Home in Lyons where he performed his office of director with great devotion. He will be buried in the chapel of the Camillian religious of Lyons.