



Fr. JEAN (Johannes) SCHAUFELBERGER,

Camillian religious, died on Tuesday, February 22, 2022,
in the clinic Val d'Ouest of Ecully, at the age of 94.

Born on October 22, 1927, in Degersheim, in the canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland, Johannes was baptized on July 15, 1944, as he put it, by immersion and with admission to the Lord's Supper (Eucharist) in the "evangelical free" Church. Later, on May 19, 1961, he was baptized into the Catholic Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Between 1945-1957, he studied architecture and obtained a diploma in designing. He worked in several architectural firms in Zurich, Wattwil in Switzerland, and Dublin in Ireland.

He did his annual military service as a soldier in the military health department. At the same time, he experienced a growing crisis of faith, with the consequent decision to "leave everything" to seek "absolute truth." He continued his spiritual search and met the Camillians in 1966 when he first heard about St. Camillus from his friends in Dublin.

After visiting the Camillian nursing home in Killucan (founded by the French in 1935), he had a desire to become a priest dedicated to caring for the sick. He entered the novitiate at Bry-sur-Marne (France) on October 8, 1969 and made his first religious profession on December 21, 1970 in Lyon, followed by solemn profession on December 27, 1976 in the Camillian community of Lyon.

Johannes was ordained a deacon on March 5, 1977 in Paris. Msgr. Guy Herbulot, to whom he was bound by a deep friendship, ordained him a priest on April 19, 1979 at the *Jean XXIII* Center in Les Ullis.

Ministry and apostolate of Fr. Johannes:

- July 1972 to July 1975: He was involved in the construction of the hospital in Dogbo, Benin. He was urgently repatriated before the work was completed, due to an acute form of malaria.
- August 1977: he was appointed superior of the community of Lyon. He did a course to become an assistant in nursing.
- October 1980: he was appointed superior of the community of Lyon, with the position of assistant nurse in the community.
- November 1983: he was re-appointed for a third term as superior of the community of Lyon.
- October 1986-1989: He was appointed in the community of Théoule-sur-Mer, as in-charge of the health service and chaplaincy. He also accompanied the renovation and modernization of the existing buildings, preparing a

preliminary project for the demolition of the old buildings and the construction of new living spaces, according to a radically innovative design plan.

- From June 1992 to 2000: He was assigned to the Bry-sur-Marne community, working as a part-time nursing assistant at the *Saint Camille* hospital and continuing education at the *Centre Sèvres* in Paris. He also took care of the secretariat of the *Missions Camilliennes* and the chaplaincy of *La Malnoue* retirement home.

- 1994: He took part in the preliminary study for the reorganization and renovation of the community house of Bry-sur-Marne, with the architects of the hospital.

- July 2, 2000: He was appointed in the community of Théoule-sur-Mer as chaplain of the *Villa Saint Camille*.

- 2002: He was appointed superior of the community of Théoule-sur-Mer. He collaborated in the elaboration of a project for a 'large chapel' conceived as an annex to the existing buildings. As this project was not accepted, he prepared a technical proposal for the transformation of the existing oratory into a chapel with 50 seats.

- 2003-2004: He participated in a study for the realization of a center in Lourdes, accompanied by several visits and inspections in Lourdes and followed by the presentation of a preliminary project on March 25, 2004.

- 2004: He was re-appointed as superior of Théoule-sur-Mer for three years, with the commitment of the chaplaincy of the *Villa Saint Camille*.

- 2005: He oversaw some projects for the *Maison d'accueil St Camille* in Lourdes according to a programme proposed in collaboration with the architect Patrick Wattel of Arras. He did a feasibility study for a small house for the Camillian community of Théoule-sur-Mer, above the *Allée des Eucalyptus*.

- 2007-2021: He was re-appointed superior of the community of Théoule-sur-Mer, with the commitment of the chaplaincy of the *Villa Saint Camille*.

In September 2021, at the end of a Eucharistic celebration, he suffered a stroke. Fr. Johannes, who was rarely ill, was suddenly affected by the partial loss of memory and the faculty of speech. No longer able to celebrate Mass, he asked to be transferred to the *Saint Camille* community in Lyon, in view of entering the *EHPAD Saint Camille* (residence and care home for the elderly). His health condition being suddenly worsened, on Monday, February 21, 2022, Fr. Johannes was admitted to the *Val d'Ouest* clinic in Écully (near Lyon).

Fr. Johannes died on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, in the early morning hours.

His funeral will be celebrated on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., in the chapel of the *Saint Camille* residence in Lyon.

Fr. Johannes had the grace to reconcile with his father - who had estranged him after his conversion to Catholicism - shortly before the latter died. Very interested and well-prepared in biblical studies, Fr. Johannes cultivated and shared very clear ideas and positions of thought on life and faith that could irritate or seem avant-garde: nevertheless, he left the memory of a religious who was available, devoted, attentive to others and faithful in friendship.

In addition to his talents as an architect, always seeking perfection, he was also an artist who loved to use colours in his works and compositions. He exhibited his paintings for the benefit of the association "*Aide aux Missions Camilliennes*" of which he was an active member.

Let us pray for him, for his family members and for all his loved ones!