

## Death of the sixth Superior General: November 21

### Father Albert BOURGEOIS (January 30, 1921 – November 21, 1992)

#### Biographical profile



Fr. Albert Bourgeois. Sixth Superior General (June 6, 1967 - June 6, 1979), was born on January 30, 1921 in France. He made his first profession on September 29, 1938 and was ordained on July 6, 1947. Fr. Bourgeois was elected the sixth Superior General of our Congregation on June 6, 1967, and re-elected for a second six-year term on June 22, 1973. He ended his mandate on June 6, 1979, and died in Paris on November 21, 1992.

#### **BOURGEOIS, A., Reflections on our Rule of Life, Dehoniana 1974/10.11, 1-46.**

##### **In the Life and Faith Experience of Father Dehon**

It is quite clear that the presentation which our Rule of Life gives to the "life and faith experience of Father Dehon is succinct and reduced to the essentials. It does not dispense us from a more profound study of the sources which are more indispensable than ever if one wishes to communicate with this "experience" as we are invited to (n. 47), if one wishes also, as it is normal and desirable (if one wants) to communicate authentically with this "experience of Fr. Dehon" (n. 47), if one wants to judge the historical, psychological and spiritual truths of the themes which have been retained.

Whatever it is in itself, according to the Rule of Life, Jesus Christ for Fr. Dehon is in the first place an experience of faith and love, "a love of which he experienced the active presence in his own life". It is the experience of St. Paul according to the well-known text: "... the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me" (Gal 2,20).

In this experience Jesus Christ appeared as a loving person with a love proved by the gift of himself even to death for men being "the source of salvation for men", to the Father as "a filial obedience".

Number 6 takes up these elements to describe the purpose of the Congregation: "The oblation of Christ to the Father for the salvation of men". The order "men-Father" is reversed here recovering the profound level and the hierarchy of the reason for the Passion, "so that the world may know that I loved the Father" (Jn 14,31).

## Intention for Lauds and Vespers

Open the arms of your mercy to our brother Albert Bourgeois, Superior General,  
- Welcome his soul into the peace of your kingdom.

## Prayer for the Congregation and its superiors (Adoration)

Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
we ask you to guide our Congregation.  
Help us,  
who are dedicated to your heart,  
to live as brothers united in chastity,  
poverty, and obedience.

Bless our communities.  
May all that we are and do  
draw strength from the love  
made visible in your pierced side.

Be with our brothers  
who are given the service of authority.  
May they work with courage and love  
to build up our common life and ministry.  
May we collaborate with them,  
faithfully searching for God's will.  
In this way,  
may the whole Congregation participate  
in your offering of love to the Father. Amen.