

Sister Yvonne Vlieghe.



On 28 January 2022, 96 years ago, Yvonne was born in Wevelgem. She often spoke to us about her brother, her sister-in-law and their family. In her youth, she attended the school of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph in Mouscron.

Just before the end of the war, in 1944, she entered the congregation. After her postulancy and novitiate, she taught in primary school in Belgium for several years.

In 1957, she flew to Burundi where she spent many years. She taught in Kanyinya, Gisanze, Busiga, Bururi, Muyaga and became headmistress in some of those Schools. She was also provincial of the sisters in Burundi for some years.

Her former pupils in Burundi have always appreciated her great quality of listening. Indeed, Yvonne sought to meet these young people and to respond to what was entrusted to her. She understood that being an educator means being attentive to the development of the whole person.

Several of her former students with whom I have communicated in recent months have emphasised this quality of Yvonne and have confided how important it was for them.

After many years in Burundi, she returned to Belgium. Yvonne became involved in various communities in Brussels. She was involved in catechesis, visiting the sick and in the health insurance.

During her stay in the community of the Clos, in Uccle, she became very ill and was admitted at Saint Elisabeth hospital. This is also the time when the congregation decided to close the community of the Clos. The sisters were invited to express where they wanted to live. Yvonne chose Erpe Mere, where she spent several more years. Yvonne was always very welcoming and caring when the sisters visited her.

Yvonne told us how convinced she was of the action of Providence in her life. She knew she was loved by God. This conviction sustained her all her life, both in Belgium and in Burundi, and she liked to tell us so, while remaining very discreet. She loved her family, she loved the congregation, the sisters and her former pupils.

May Yvonne rest in peace

Sister Agnès Charles