

Dear Janine,

Here we are gathered to give thanks to God for all you have been for him and for us through your 88 years of life.

39 years ago, we left together for Burundi. You had already been there for 3 years having said goodbye to your dear family in Chimay and ready for the mission. You had taught a little while in the DMJ school near here in Uccle. Now, for 12 years you would be in charge of Clarté Notre Dame high school in Bujumbura. But what concerned you most was to help the less fortunate of the country and that's how you left Bujumbura for the diocese of Ngozi.

You designed a basic education program. You applied it, going yourself to the most remote corners of the diocese to teach adult literacy. At the same time, you started to visit the prisoners. Your dear prisoners! What to do for them? You gave yourself thoroughly. With your sense of organization, you also worked as a parish secretary. In charge of project management in the Diocesan Development Office, you made every effort to get grants to build and equip a carpentry workshop for prisoners. And you sought help so that their children could go to school. You also took care of the welfare of Batwa children ...

How hard it was to have to leave Burundi suddenly for health reasons! Yet when we visited you, you seemed peaceful. A light and a little humor in the eyes as if you still wanted to make us laugh. You spoke less and were sometimes confused but smiling and the spirit woke up every time anyone spoke to you of Burundi, your family, Chimay and its Abbey and its beer! The most recent memory of you is to see in a wheelchair in the corridors of the nursing home, a little lost but yet attentive to everyone you met. Now you have left us gently.

When at your death, I thanked Stockel for having welcomed you so well and included you, they answered saying: "we loved her very much! "

Dear Janine, here you are joining the Lord who has guided you throughout your mission. You are alive with him, we do not forget you.