



*“Whoever wants to be a disciple of Jesus
– like each of us, monk or not –
has to forego a lot, but not the freedom of love.”*

Vinzenz Mora OSB, July 1, 2001

Father Vinzenz (Fernand) Mora OSB (1922-2021)

Father Vinzenz (Fernand) Mora OSB was born on January 20, 1922, in the small French town of Saint-Sever in the foothills of the Pyrenees. After his classical studies, he was forcibly shipped to Germany as a lathe worker during World War II (1943-45). After the war, he continued his studies in philosophy and theology with the Lazarists in Paris and Dax and finally entered the Benedictine abbey of Sainte-Marie-de-la-Pierre-qui-Vire in Burgundy, where on May 22, 1952, he made solemn profession.

After being ordained a deacon on October 12, 1952, and ordained a priest on May 30, 1953, his superiors sent him to Vietnam where French Benedictines had been founded since the 1930s, he worked there as a professor of the New Testament and Christology. And so, during his time as a monk in Thiên-An (September 1953 to September 1967) he had to witness once more a bloody and brutal war at close range.

After he finally left the country, he came to Israel, where he intensified his biblical studies and obtained a doctorate (1967-72). During this time, he also made contact with the monastic community on Mount Zion and on June 22, 1974, he transferred his monastic Stabilitas to Dormition Abbey. Within our community, he served both as professor for the New Testament in our “Theologisches Studienjahr” and for Christology at the seminary of the Franciscans as well as prior in the abbey (1975-1979), as superior in Tabgha (early 1980s) and again as Prior and bursar in the abbey (1990-1996/1997). Since then, he has devoted himself again to studying the New Testament with devotion and zeal.

His various places of residence and multi-layered experiences, his diverse language skills and his alert mind made Father Vinzenz an astute observer and commentator, whose comments were nevertheless very much appreciated, as was his apt humor and French charm. Up until old age he used the means of modern technology for his scientific work and his private contacts in order to keep his horizons wide. And even as his circles and his possibilities naturally became smaller and smaller, walks in Jerusalem with dear acquaintances became part of his daily routines.

In 2019/20 he returned to Tabgha for a short time when some of our Jerusalem brothers moved to the lake in preparation for the general renovation works in Jerusalem. After a hospital stay, care in our community was unfortunately no longer possible, so that in July 2020 he moved to the Notre-Dame des Douleurs care home in Jerusalem, where he spent the last year of his life. In August 2021 he had to be taken to St. Josefs Hospital because of medical difficulties. Here he died after a short ordeal in the early morning of August 23, 2021.

Father Vincent may now be safe in God’s loving hand and rest in His peace!

Abbot Bernhard Maria Alter O.S.B. with all Brethren of Mount Zion and Tabgha

Abtei Dormitio B.M.V. zu Jerusalem im Monat Jahr

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