Obituary for Wilhelm Henkel, OMI (1930–2020)

Father Wilhelm Henkel, OMI (17.01.1930–19.11.2020) was the last link in a long chain of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate from the German Province who dedicated many years of their life to the Library of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. He was the successor of people like Fathers R. Streit, OMI, J. Dindinger, OMI, J. Rommerskirchen, OMI, and N. Kowalsky, OMI. In 1951 he became a member of the Congregation of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and in 1958 he was ordained priest. After his studies in philosophy and theology in Rome, he returned to Germany where he pursued the doctorate in Missiology at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Münster under the supervision of Professor Joseph Glazik, MSC, with a dissertation on “Die religiöse Situation der Heiden und ihre Bekehrung nach John Henry Newman”. From 1966 he was assistant, and later successor, of Father J. Rommerskirchen as Librarian of the Pontifical Missionary Library which was merged with the library of the Pontifical Urban University in 1979. During that time he was also co-editor of the *Bibliotheca Missionum* and editor of the *Bibliografia Missionaria* (co-editor of vols. 30–40 and editor of vols. 41–63). He was member of the Association for Mission Studies (IAMS), the International Association of Catholic Missiologists (IACM), the International Society for History of Councils, the International Biographical Centre Cambridge, the Internationales Institut für Missionswissenschaftliche Forschungen (IIMF), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Missionswissenschaft (DGMW).

Marek A. Rostkowski, OMI