

KNOCKAERT Gustave (Brother Gerard)

Was born in Courtrai, Belgium, on 16th June 1845. He already had some experience in building and architecture before he became a Redemptorist, but his remarkable talents were to develop only after his profession. He took his vows as a Brother of the province of France and Switzerland in Avon on 1st May 1874. His work contributed greatly to the province, his building in Paris especially winning the praise of fellow architects. He was called the architect of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a title gained especially by his designs for the churches dedicated to Our Lady under that title in Madrid and in Santiago, Chile. In 1898 Brother Gerard was summoned to Rome by Father Raus, Superior General, to collaborate with Brother Max Schmalzl in beautifying the church of Sant'Alfonso. Brother Gerard also designed the community oratory and sacristy of the same house as well as assisting in the design of San Gioacchino in Rome. In 1900 he was again summoned to Rome, this time by Pope Leo XIII, who requested his advice on work at the Lateran Basilica. Brother Gerard died in Mouscron on 17th March 1928.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

E. Gautron, *Un saint religieux architecte, le cher Frère Gérard, Rédemptoriste, 1845-1928*, Mouscron, 1928; *Analecta*, 7 (1928) 354-359; MA, 134-135.