NORTH SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Brother Albert J. Morel, SC, (Adrian), a brother of the Sacred Heart for 51 years, and former teacher at St. Dominic Regional High School, died Sunday, March 15, on his 69th birthday at St. Antoine Residence, after an extended illness.

Born at Pawtucket, R.I., March 15, 1929, the son of Zephirin J. and Angelina Ross Morel, he entered the congregation at Harrisville, R.I. on April 3, 1945.

In 1951, Brother Morel obtained a bachelor's degree from Spring Hill College at Mobile, Ala. Throughout his ministry he earned a number of other degrees including a master's degree in teaching English from St. Michael's College, Winooski, Vt., a master's degree in education from Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., a master's degree in Divinity from Weston College, Cambridge, Mass., and certificates in Spiritual Direction and Spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha, Neb.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Louis E. Gelineau on May 6, 1972, the first member of the congregation's New England Province to be called by his brothers to the ordained ministry.

He also held numerous positions in the congregation and its ministries, including principal and director of Sacred Heart Academy, Central Falls, R.I., director of novices, provincial councillor and delegate to the congregation's 1968-1970 General Chapter at Rome, Italy. He also served as chaplain and translator at the order's summer renewal programs at Rome for many years.

Beginning in 1948, Brother Morel taught and served in other capacities at Sacred Heart School, Sharon, Mass., Sacred Heart School, Andover, Mass., Notre Dame High School, Fitchburg, Mass., Mount St. Charles Academy, Woonsocket, R.I., and St. Dominic Regional High School, Lewiston. From 1972 to 1981 and again from 1984 to 1994, he was a chaplain, teacher and counselor at Bishop Guertin High School, Nashua, N.H. In 1994 he was appointed chaplain to the Provincial House community at Pascoag, R.I.

He is remembered as an outstanding educator, counselor and ordained brother but mostly as a loyal friend and confidant by the many hundreds of students with whom he remained in close contact over the years.

Survivors include one brother, Oscar A. of Margate, Fla.; and nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, Victor J. of Pawtucket, R.I.; and two sisters, Adrienne Gagnon of Fall River, Mass., and Angelina Bessette of Pawtucket, R.I.