PEACEMAKER

Abbé Pierre

Born as Henri Groues (1912- 2007)

He was a French catholic priest. His fight against injustice started in 1942 when he supported jewish refugees. He supported them to escape abroad. He is considered as one of the greatest representatives of the Resistence in the Second World War.

In 1949 he started to create the movement Emmaus to help poor and homeless people and refugees. In 1954 this movement increased enormously. During the very cold winter in this year a woman died in the streets. With this scandal Abbé Pierre made an appeal in a radio speech to all French people for generous help. This event lead to a law that forbid house owners to remove people from their homes during the winter. The movement Emmaus continued growing. In 1987 he received the award of Commandant de la Légion d'honneur for his actions for the homeless. Abbé Pierre sacrificed his life for the fight against misery. He was the symbol of solidarity and generosity.

'The opposite of misery is not richness. The opposite of misery is sharing.'