

November 17, 2007

Death Notice No. 33 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Madrid, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **SEVERIANO AYASTUY HERRASTI**, priest, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 8, 2007 in Madrid, Spain in the 94th year of his age and the 77th year of his religious profession.

Our brother, Severiano, was born on January 7, 1914 in Aozaraza – Arechavaleta– (Guipúzcoa). His family, deeply Christian and close to one another, consisted of his parents: Eulogio (+1914) and Matiasa (1875-1969). Together they had 8 children: seven sons and a daughter. The seventh, Sabino, was a Marianist and a martyr. He was beatified on October 28, 2007. The “Benjamin” of them all, Severiano followed his brother and became a Marianist too.

His first contact with the Marianists was at Holy Family School, known popularly as “the Sorbonne” as it was attached to the postulate in Escoriaza (Guipúzcoa).

Between 1925 and 1929, he was an aspirant at Escoriaza. After completing these four years, he spent a year in the novitiate at Elorrio (Vizcaya), where, on September 5, 1930, he made his first religious profession.

In September of 1930, he began his term at the scholasticate in Vitoria, remaining there for one year. He continued his studies for two more terms in Segovia. Here, he completed his university degree in 1933.

Severiano began his work in education in the school/foundation of Nuestra Señora de El Pilar in Elgóibar (Guipúzcoa), at the age of 19, remaining there from 1933 to 1935. During the last year, he enlisted into military service at Arechavaleta. During the school year 1935-36, he served in Segovia as a teacher and soldier attached to the 13th Light Artillery Regiment.

From 1939 to 1942, he was sent to Colegio de El Pilar as a middle school teacher.

On August 15, 1940 he professed perpetual vows in Escoriaza. In August of 1941 he concluded his graduate degree in Philosophy and Letters at the University of Zaragoza, specializing in history.

On July 10, 1942 he commenced four years of seminary study in Fribourg, Switzerland, eventually completing his degree in Theology. He received priestly orders on April 6, 1947, in Fribourg.

From 1946-1948 he worked as chaplain and teacher at Colegio de El Pilar in Madrid. During the school year 1948-49 he studied at the Pontifical University at Salamanca. Afterwards, he once again returned to work as chaplain at Colegio de El Pilar during the year 1949-50.

From 1950 to 1953 he served as Superior of the scholasticate in Carabanchel Alto (Madrid). During the following three years, 1953-1956, he was sent to La Quinta de Santa María del Pilar in Valladolid as Novice Master for the new novitiate of the Marianist Province of Madrid.

In 1956 he accepted the responsibility to serve as Provincial, remaining in that position for ten years, finishing in 1966.

For the term 1966-67 he was named Assistant for Apostolic Action at the General Administration in Rome.

The following term, 1967-68 he went to Fribourg as the one responsible for Pastoral Formation at the Marianist International Seminary. The following year, 1968-69, he was in charge of the Novitiate at Santa María de Gredos, La Parra (Ávila), again serving as Novice Master.

In 1969 he began his missionary work in the Collège Chaminade of Lama-Kara (Togo), as a teacher and chaplain for a period of three years. He remained at Mission Catholique de Siou in Niamtougou (Togo), as a Pastor until 1981.

Between 1981 and 1983 he was at Colegio Nuestra Señora de Dorleta in Escoriaza, pursuing studies and serving as chaplain.

In 1983 he moved to become Pastor of the parish of Perpetuo Socorro in Montequemado (Argentina), remaining there until 1986. Between 1986 and 2004, he worked in Comandancia Frías. Fuerte Esperanza (Chaco), in Argentina.

During the summer of 2004, he returned to Spain. While visiting his family, he had to be rushed to the hospital in Mondragón due to chest pains and other ailments. He was later moved, temporarily, to Siquem, the Marianist nursing facility in Madrid. After a period of time, his health having improved, he moved to the community of the Provincial Administration in Madrid. His return to Argentina was conditional upon the improvement of his health. But, in the beginning of 2005, at his own request, he returned to Siquem. Little by little, his health failed and he became weaker and weaker. He was inspired, though, in great part, by the anticipation of the beatification of his brother, Sabino. A little more than a week after that beatification, at dawn on November 8, 2007, he passed on to the House of his Father, to be forever in the presence united in joy with the Blessed ones.

He celebrated joyfully the jubilees of his religious profession: silver in 1955, gold in 1980, diamond in 1990 and platinum in 2005. Similarly, he joyously renewed his fidelity to his sacerdotal commitment celebrating the anniversaries of his ordination: silver in 1971, gold in 1996 and diamond in 2006.

His brother, Sabino, three years older than Severiano, preceded him in the Marianist life, was his example and guide. Sabino wrote to him often, always conveying abundant advice and direction regarding his formation as a Marianist.

He held many administrative responsibilities, carrying out his mandate with courage and skill. Over the years he held these offices on both the provincial and general levels: Provincial Chapter participant from 1950-53 and 1955-56 as well as between 1956 and 1966; Director de Scholastics, Master of Novices, and Provincial Superior. He participated in national organizations: FERE, Consejo Superior de Enseñanza de la Iglesia, Consejo Nacional de Educadores... and the General Chapters of 1961 and 1966-67 as well as Assistant General for Apostolic Action.

His long and fruitful life permitted him the opportunity to be involved in direct evangelical mission work outside of his country for 33 years: in Africa (12 years) and in Latin America (21 years). As a sign of his hard work and generous service, he was awarded the "Golden Heart" given by the "CORDES" Foundation of the Diocese of Corrientes in Argentina. We rejoiced with him and thanked God for all of the good that this indefatigable missionary was able to do.

We thank God and our Mother for his full life and for his wonderful example. We will never forget his fidelity to his vocation, even to the end of his life. Thank you for all these things, Lord, may Severiano enjoy well-deserved eternal repose and send future vocations to the Society of Mary.