

December 2, 2008

**Death Notice No. 28 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of Madrid, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **AGAPITO GÜEMES VILLANUEVA**, priest of the Siquem Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 20, 2008 in Madrid, Spain, in the 81<sup>st</sup> year of his age and the 65<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Fr. Agapito Güemes Villanueva was born in the small town of Temiño on March 24, 1928. His parents, Alfred and Magdalena had five children. Among these, two are still alive, Jacinto and Magdalena. The family was familiar with the Marianists from the surrounding area and on September 28, 1939, Agapito entered the Postulate at Escoriaza.

Four years later, he began the Novitiate in Elorrio. On September 21, 1944 he professed his First Vows as a Marianist religious. For the next three years, his formation continued at the Scholasticate in Carabanchel. At the end of this period of preparation, he received his first assignment, being sent to Jerez. The following year he went to Cádiz.

In 1950, the year that Spain was divided into two Provinces, he made his Perpetual Profession on April 12 in Zaragoza. That school year saw him assigned to Colegio Ntra. Sra. del Pilar in Madrid, where he put to good use his pedagogic talents as a teacher of the older students for three years, under the leadership of Fr. Francisco Armentia. At the same time, he completed his licentiate in Classics at the University of Madrid.

Following theological studies at the seminary in Fribourg, he was ordained to the priesthood on July 22, 1956. He completed his doctorate in Theology with a thesis entitled: "Freedom in St. Paul." In 1958 he was named Superior of the Scholasticate at Carabanchel, spending six years there.

In 1967, he began a three-year term as principal of Colegio San Felipe Neri in Cádiz and then went on to become principal and Superior of El Pilar in Madrid for another two years. In 1972, he was assigned to Brussels for sabbatical. The following year he went to Ciudad Real, as an administrator in the school.

His next assignment was in 1974 when he was sent to Sta. María del Pilar in Madrid, as school chaplain and coadjutor in the parish. For thirteen years he engaged in great pastoral ministry at the Parish of María Madre de la Iglesia in Carabanchel Alto.

Then, in 1995, he returned to Sta. María del Pilar as pastor for the next seven years. He was next sent to the community at Colegio Ntra. Sra. del Pilar in Castelló where he continued to be involved in various ministries while assisting at the parishes of Ntra. Sra. del Monte Carmelo and Asunción. On October 20, 2008, he passed away at the Siquem Community.

He left behind this written message: "My death will be a journey to a New Life that is both spiritual and enjoyable. I do not desire exquisite mourning rituals and sadness, but rather a Pascal celebration of resurrection. No bereavement bouquets, but simply a single handful of flowers as testimony of love and new life, with white colors and songs of the goodness of God. I will give thanks for you from a new home where I wait for you and intercede for you."