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Death Notice No. 11 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Zaragoza, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSÉ MARÍA EGUÍLUZ RUIZ DE OLANO**, of the Marianist Community of Vitoria-Gasteiz who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on June 8, 2010 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain in the 80th year of his age and the 63rd year of his religious profession.

José María Eguíluz was born in Vitoriano, a town of the province of Álava in the Basque Country of Spain. At the age of 12 he entered the postulate at Escoriaza, and at 17 made his first religious profession in Elorrio, pronouncing his perpetual vows in 1954 at the age of 24.

He earned his Teacher's certificate in 1951 and some years later passed the competitions to achieve an official position as teacher in 1965. In 1949 he had begun his teaching career in San Sebastián, and nine years later was sent to the postulate in Escoriaza as a prefect. In 1961 he made his second novitiate in Castelgandolfo, and from 1962 he worked as teacher and director in Vitoria, in the small school of St. Ignatius which had been confided to us. It was a school inserted into a new working class neighborhood, made up principally of migrants from the interior of Spain. He adapted very well to that ambiance, was for many years director of the school, which was growing slowly, and he worked a great deal in the neighborhood, above all in sports activities. He founded a club that promoted sports, so necessary for the education of those young people. He was well known and popular.

In 1984 he was relieved of his charge and given time to study the Basque language in Loyola (Azpeitia). He was one year there, then four in Escoriaza, in the former postulate, now converted into a school of the Mondragon Cooperatives, in which we continue to work as teachers, in campus ministry and in sports.

From here he went again to Vitoria. There he worked as a teacher in a public school until his retirement at age 65. From that time on he dedicated himself to work with Proyecto Hombre, an organization dedicated to the recovery of drug addicts. He spent two years in Almería, and from there he returned to Vitoria, where he continued to work with Proyecto Hombre and to visit recluses who needed to be hospitalized. He was also a Volunteer for the City Anti-AIDS Commission of Álava.

In recent months a dementia came over him, and then followed physical complications of one type or another, which took him to his death last June 8.

We can say that José María was a man with many friends, thanks to his great story-telling ability, open, welcoming, happy, with a sense of humor. He had a special concern for the marginalized (prisoners, drug addicts, AIDS patients....) with whom he worked in one way or another until the day he became sick and could no longer care even for himself. He loved his native land, he did advanced studies in its language, but was at the same time a person open to other realities.