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**Death Notice No. 18 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of Madrid, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **TOMÁS GARAY LÓPEZ DE ECHAVE**, of the Marianist Community of Siquem, Madrid, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 3, 2008 in Madrid, Spain in the 97<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 80<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Tomás was born in Bedoña, Guipúzcoa, (Spain) on March 7, 1912. His family, deeply Christian, consisted of his parents, Juan Garay and Dominga Echave along with his four sisters.

He entered the Postulate at Escoriaza on September 28, 1923 and later the Novitiate at Elorrio, (Vizcaya), where he pronounced his First Vows on September 5, 1929. His first year of Scholasticate was in Vitoria, and the following two were in Segovia.

Tomás returned to Escoriaza in 1932 as a working brother serving as a tailor. He became known by the title “master-cutter.” He completed a year of military service in Segovia and returned to Escoriaza in the beginning of 1936, just as the Spanish Civil War was about to break out. He was mobilized once again, and was involved in the conflict until its end in 1939.

After the war, in 1939, he was sent to the Scholasticate, first in Segovia, but during the following year to Carabanchel Alto, the new house of formation. For twenty years he worked as tailor and infirmarian, exercising a great influence upon the young Marianists to whom he was known to be quiet, pleasant, competent and, above all, a man who was faithful in both work and prayer.

After a brief time in Valladolid (1959), El Pilar (1960) and Carabanchel (1961), he was sent to Colegio El Pilar in Madrid where he spent the next 44 years doing his customary work as tailor and infirmarian for the Marianists, as well as helping in various administrative areas in the school. During this long assignment, Bro. Tomás continued to give witness as a true Marianist, exquisite in his work, elegant in the way he conducted himself, smiling and pleasant with everyone, thoughtful, always making himself available to assist another with whatever was asked of him. He did all of this while remaining faithful to his life of prayer, surrendering his life to his beloved Society of Mary, as a “pearl of great price” to the communities in which he lived and the Province of Madrid to which he belonged.

Already suffering from illness and problems of mobility, he transferred to the infirmary at Siquem where he spent the last four years of his life. Although he could barely move, he received all who came to see him with the only language he had left: a smile and a kind look. He was never a burden to anyone, spending his time in this world doing good, without calling attention to himself, but nevertheless giving great witness as a wonderful example of what it means to be a “Working Brother.” He incarnated so very well the phrase: “Ora et Labora.”

*“Last night, in silence, Bro. Tomás Garay left us, during the most silent time of the day. He was a faithful servant, prudent and thoughtful. I would add: “elegant.” His whole life was in service of others. He was the “elder statesman” of the Province.”*, Fr. Rafael Ganzábal reflected.

We have a new intercessor in Heaven where he will continue to watch over us, listening and smiling just like he did here on Earth. May he rest in Peace!