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Death Notice No. 21 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Madrid and the District of Mexico, recommend to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **MARIO GONZÁLEZ-SIMANCAS LACASA**, priest, of the Marianist Community of Santa Maria de los Ángeles (Puebla) who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 21, 2009 in Puebla, Mexico in the 84th year of his age and the 66th year of his religious profession.

Our Brother, Mario, was born in Madrid February 13, 1926. His parents, Mario and Julia, had a large and deeply Christian family (eight sons and one daughter).

He received the Sacrament of Baptism on February 25, 1926, and that of Confirmation on May 10, 1943.

He completed his studies in the Colegio del Pilar in Madrid, finishing there with the Bachillerato Universitario of the Universidad Central of Madrid, in June 1943.

He entered Elorrio (Vizcaya) on August 26, 1943, began his novitiate year on September 11, 1943, and made his first profession of vows on September 21, 1944.

Between 1944 and 1947 he continued his religious and academic formation in the Marianist Scholasticate of Carabanchel Alto. He began studies for his Licentiate in Philosophy and Letters, philosophy section, in the Universidad Central, Madrid.

Throughout this period of formation he undertook a long list of services and responsibilities of every kind, within and beyond Spain, with his habitual simplicity and honesty, accomplishing much good for the Province and for the Society.

In September 1944 he began his long history and work as a creative missionary, teacher and counselor. First in the Colegio del Pilar of Valencia. He was there for three years, interrupted only in March 1949 because of his conscription in 1946 into military service with two postponements. With the luck of the draw he was assigned to the Colegio del Pilar in Tetuan, where he was both soldier and teacher.

On August 15, 1949, he made his final profession in Escoriaza (Gipúzcoa).

During the academic year 1950-51 he was assigned to the Colegio del Pilar in Madrid as teacher in the older boys' section. In July 1951 he completed his Licentiate in Philosophy at the Universidad Central in Madrid.

From 1951 to 1955 he spent four years of theological and pastoral studies as a seminarian at the International Seminary in Fribourg (Switzerland). He was ordained priest on July 18, 1954.

In September 1955 he was assigned to the Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Prado in Ciudad Real, where he spent one year. The following three years he was chaplain and teacher at the Scholasticate in Carabanchel.

His next assignment lasted one year in the Colegio del Pilar in Madrid, as teacher at the 6th and Preuniversity levels, and in the following year he was named on August 15 as Superior of the Colegio.

During the next period he took the opportunity to connect with the university world and to open new channels among the university personnel; the consolidation of the CUMI/CEMI; and the option for different types of communities, living in an apartment far from the workplace. Those were not easy years, but he always maintained his tranquility and objectivity, analyzing the situations.

1963-66: Madrid, Colegio Mayor Pio XII: Christian Citizenship, chaplain, spiritual director.

1966-67: Salamanca, University Residence, Director.

1967-71: Madrid, Fernando de los Ríos: CEMI. Director.

1971-72: Madrid, Federico Rubio, as Director of Seminarians.

1972-73: Madrid, San Mateo: Chaplain.

1973-76: he took on the responsibility of direction of the International Seminary, Regina Mundi in Fribourg, as Superior.

1976-85: This was his last period in Spain, where he remained in Madrid in the Provincial Administration, with various occupations and works: Superior of the Community, Coadjutor and Vicar of the Parish of Santa María del Pilar.

He made go the collection *Barco y Vapor* for Ediciones SM and gave large contributions to General Publications.

From 1985 he realized that he could be more useful to the Society in Mexico and then spent 25 years collaborating in the implantation of the Marianist charism in that land.

Father Mario arrived in Mexico September 13, 1985. He had wanted to be a missionary since his novitiate. After his arrival, he went on September 15 to Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, to the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, staffed by Marianists. In 1989 he spent a few months in Ecuador to direct a Mexican novice there. He returned to Sacred Heart parish in the summer of the same year. During the following year he was in Querétaro, Querétaro, as assistant to the Master of Novices. While the Marianists were living with the Marists in "El Molino," awaiting the completion of the construction of the Marianist novitiate in Corregidora, Querétaro, Mario

served also as the chaplain for the Marist community. Then, when the community of the novitiate moved to Corregidora, Mario continued as assistant to the Master of Novices and also offered clerical services to the people in the neighborhood of the new community in the Colonia Almanacer Balvanera.

He returned to Sacred Heart Parish in Coatzacoalcos in 1993 and then was transferred to the San José Community in Coatzacoalcos as chaplain of the Taller Obrero Primo de Mayo and as spiritual director for the pre-novices and the youths in the hostel that the Marianists of the community were running.

In 2002, he was transferred to Puebla, Puebla, to be chaplain of the Marianist Scholasticate, which opened that year. He remained there until his death on December 22, 2009. During his years in Puebla, he was spiritual director for many persons, and with the Brothers of his community founded the first Lay Marianist Community in Puebla.

He always distinguished himself by his continuous collaboration in the formation of young Mexican religious, to which he brought a fundamental contribution.

We should also mention his role in the Fraternidad San José of the Communion and Liberation movement. He gave them retreats, spiritual direction and close accompaniment for many years.

Those who lived in community with Father Mario and those who knew him agree that it was a grace to live with him and to know him. Endowed with enormous intelligence, he took upon himself to attempt always to raise the level of conversation; his prudent judgment and his passion for justice were contagious for all around him. His passion for reading and for sharing what he had read impacted everyone. With always well prepared liturgies, both within and outside the community, with a homily that went right to the core of the matter, he formed, animated and mentored both his Brothers and the people of the two parishes, Sacred Heart in Coatzacoalcos and Mary Queen in Puebla, where he offered his services in Mexico. Never, even in his last illnesses, did he let go of his marvelous sense of humor.

Mario, a good friend of Fr. José María Salaverri, S.M., understood what his friend had said once—that until a Marianist is buried in a foreign land, the Marianist charism has not yet been completely implanted. Mario, with his passage into the arms of Mary, has taken this step in the founding of the Marianist Family in Mexico.

May God and his Mother reward him!