

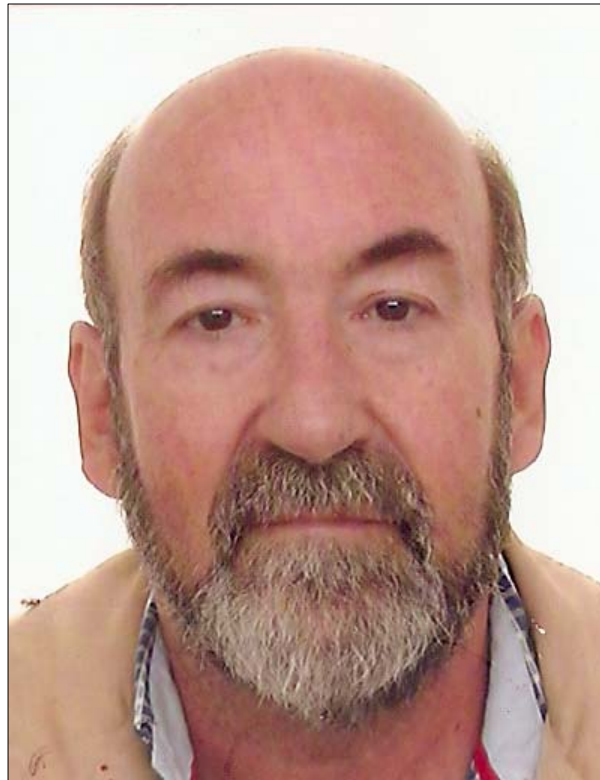
MARIANIST REGION OF COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR
"Doing what Jesus asks of us with a merciful heart"



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The General Council and the Region of Colombia-Ecuador, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **VENANCIO GARAGORRI LÁNGARA**, priest, Regional Superior of the Region of Colombia-Ecuador who died suddenly of a heart attack in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 11, 2009 in Girardot, Colombia in the 65th year of his age and the 48th year of his religious profession.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As he was ending his term of governance in the Marianist Region of Colombia-Ecuador, just one day before giving up his responsibility as superior, our dear brother Venancio fell victim to a massive heart attack. The Brothers responded to his call and immediately conveyed him to the emergency center of Girardot. In those few minutes he died.

Venancio was born in SAN SEBASTIAN (Spain) August 23, 1945, and died today, December 11, at the age of 64.

His Marianist life played itself out over the span of many years in:

- ELORRIO NOVITIATE 1961-1962
- ELORRIO 1ST PROFESSION 12 September 1962
- VITORIA PERPETUAL PROFESSION 5 September 1968
- ENVIGADO COMMUNITY 1978-1981 (Seminarian)
- SAN SEBASTIÁN ORDINATION 3 January 1981
- GUÁTICA COMMUNITY 1981-1990 Pastor
- GUÁTICA COMMUNITY 1987-1992 Regional Superior
- SAN CLEMENTE COMMUNITY 1990-1992 Pastor
- GIRARDOT COMMUNITY 1993-2003 Pastor
- GIRARDOT COMMUNITY 2001-2009 Regional Superior

And it is without regret that we place him into the hands of Our Lady the Virgin, whom he served as a religious during 47 years from his first profession on September 12, 1962, so that she might accompany him to her beloved Son Jesus, the meek and humble shepherd.

This is a decisive moment for Marianist life in Colombia and Ecuador since, coming out of all these years of service to the Society of Mary, he has left us a mission plan that we must develop with great care, because it is the new life that will make us the men who do not die, as our tradition has always wanted.

Let us thank Venancio for all his years dedicated to the dear people of Guática and to the students and parents of the Cooperative School of the Holy Spirit of Girardot, years of love, passion and service.

It is not without pain and sorrow that we bid goodbye to our brother and superior Venancio, but we feel content about all that he lived through with us in this land of God which is Colombia.

On a personal level, I feel like an orphan as the new superior...because the man has died who was to guide me, drawing from his experience, along my new path. I pray to God to receive him into his Kingdom and from there to enlighten us that we might be all that we need to be...*Marianists with a big heart.*

Venancio...we are pilgrims who are still en route towards heaven...you have gone on before us, we shall see each other anew at the feet of Our Lady.

Rodrigo Betancur, SM
Regional Superior
December 11, 2009