

June 16, 2008

Death Notice No. 8 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Madrid, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **GREGORIO OLMO CEA**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 27, 2008 in Madrid, Spain in the 85th year of his age and the 66th year of his religious profession.

Our brother, Gergorio, was born on March 27, 1924, in Aubervilliers (France). His family, deeply religious, consisted of his parents, José Olmo Alonso and Felicitas Cea Cea and their four sons: Gregorio (+), Pedro (+), Claudio and Paulino as well as their three daughters: Flora (+), Carmen and Cándida, who died as a religious sister.

He was baptized on May 4, 1924 in Pautin (Seine) and received his Confirmation in Quintanaloma (Burgos), on May 10, 1930.

Gregorio entered the postulate at Escoriaza (Guipúzcoa) on September 1, 1941, at the age of 14. On September 11, 1941 he began his novitiate year at Elorrio (Vizcaya) and on September 12, 1942, Patronal Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, he professed his first vows as a Marianist religious. On September 15, 1942 he moved to Segovia in order to begin the first year of scholasticate. He spent the next two years studying for his degree in Carabanchel Alto (Madrid) attending the university. He entered military service in Quintanaloma in 1944 and served in Madrid, in the Pharmacy Corps, until his discharge in 1949.

In September 1945 until 1947 he was stationed in Cádiz serving as a teacher in the primary school.

From 1947 until 1951 he taught the middle school students at Colegio de El Pilar in Madrid. On August 15, 1949 he made his Perpetual Profession at Escoriaza. He spent the school year 1951- 52 at El Pilar in Jerez.

For the next five years, he completed his studies for an advanced degree in the field of Chemical Science at the University of Salamanca. For the school year 1957-1958 he was transferred to Colegio de San Felipe de Cádiz-Extramuros, as a science teacher. From 1958 until 1968 he served as a teacher and administrator at Colegio Ntra. Señora del Prado in Ciudad Real.

For the next 29 years (1968 to 1997), he taught at in the Upper School at Colegio del Pilar in Madrid. In 1997 he retired from his professional work, but remained in the community of El Pilar de Castelló.

During a surgical operation for an inguinal hernia, he suffered a cerebral thrombosis from which he only partially recuperated, leaving his mobility significantly impaired and unable to speak. As he needed medical care, he transferred to the Marianist infirmary at Siquem, in Madrid. There he remained until April 27, 2008, when he died. Throughout these 10 years, he has served as a fine example of one who remained patient in his infirmity, willing to adapt to the limitations that age and sickness presented to him.

Our brother, Gregorio, throughout his long life, had very good professional preparation as a formator and educator owing to the many different places where he studied and served. He was very conscientious in his daily work, drawing the best out of his students.

During the summer months of 1964 and 1965 he entered into the experience of the 2nd novitiate available at Respaldiza (Álava). These offered him times for renewal and a deepening of his spirit, as he lived out his religious consecration as a Marianist.

He celebrated his various anniversaries and jubilees with great joy and gratitude, enjoying the company of his brother Claudio and his entire family. He was very happy to receive so many offers of congratulations, especially from the Superior General and his Provincial. On the occasion of his 60th anniversary, the Provincial wrote to him “Congratulations and many thanks for your witness of fidelity and for your many years as a teacher of science in the schools of the Province. I hope that you feel much peace and great satisfaction as you look back over the years. For the future: May the Lord, the Blessed Virgin and Blessed Fr. Chaminade obtain for you all that you desire and need!”

During these last 10 years of purification, Gregorio persevered through his difficulties with both patience and hope.

May he rest in Peace.