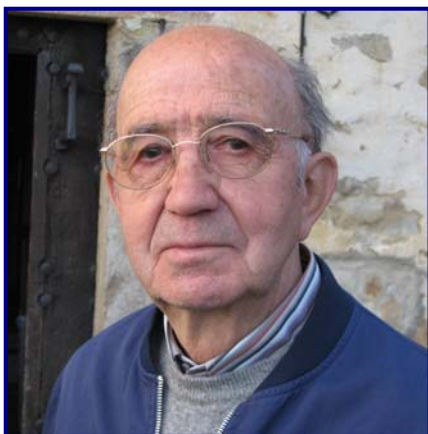


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February 16, 2010

Death Notice No. 3 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Zaragoza, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **TOMÁS ORTIZ DE ZÁRATE**, of the Marianist Community of Vitoria-Gasteiz, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 8, 2010 in Vitoria, Spain in the 83rd year of his age and the 67th year of his religious profession.

Brother Tomás was born on March 7, 1926, in Ondátegui, a village of the province of Álava (Spain). He was baptized the following day, March 8, and confirmed on July 11 of the same year. At the age of thirteen, in 1939, he entered the postulate at Escoriaza. In 1942 he began his novitiate in Elorrio, where he made his first profession the following year, 1943, as a Working Brother.

On September 15, 1943 he moved to the Scholasticate in Segovia and month later, in October, he was assigned to the Scholasticate at Carabanchel to learn the tailoring trade. In September 1946 he returned to Segovia to work there in tailoring. As a tailor he was assigned later to the postulate in Escoriaza from 1947 to 1954. He made his final profession of vows at Escoriaza in 1948. He was assigned to the novitiate at Elorrio from 1954 to 1959, and then again to Escoriaza until 1965, when he moved with the postulate to Logroño.

Since the 1960's the trade of tailor held less meaning for religious, so that the tailors of the province took on other duties. Tomás moved into assisting with the business management of the school in Vitoria, where he lived from 1967 to 1977, the year in which he was assigned to San Sebastián. In the latter school he was the business manager until 1984, when he went to Rome for a year of renewal.

In 1985 he returned to Vitoria as assistant business manager, then in Burjassot as business manager for the community, and in 1987 in Valencia. In 1991, at the age of 65, he was assigned to San Sebastián in charge of the duplicating service, and from there to Vitoria in 1997, where he also helped in the duplicating room until the end of his life in 2010.

From 1967 Tomás worked in auxiliary positions, collaborating to the best of his abilities, with simplicity and gentleness in educational work. He put into his school and parish work his own grain of sand, like others and no less important as those of his colleagues in Vitoria, San Sebastián, Burjassot and Valencia.

He was an austere and simple man, kind and sensitive, always ready to help and to serve. His sensitivity caused him suffering, but his kindness earned him the appreciation of his fellow workers wherever he was. On several occasions he dedicated himself to the care of the sick in the communities in which he lived.

Generally speaking, he did not have an excess of good health, but he knew how to take care of himself and to benefit from little things. A quiet and curious person, he did not waste the opportunities which offered themselves to get to know, visit or see new things.

May he rest in peace!