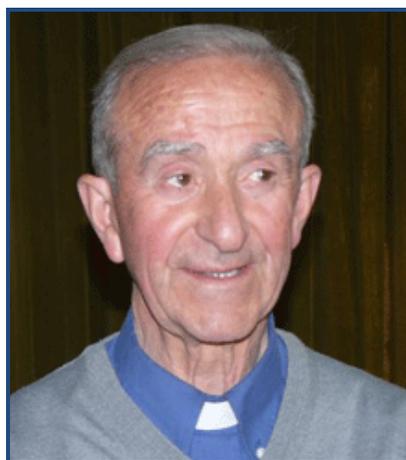


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August 25, 2011

**Death Notice No. 25 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Region of Argentina recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **AUDELINO ALFONSO GIL SANTIAGO**, priest of the Colegio Marianista Community (Buenos Aires), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 4, 2011 in Junín, Argentina, at the age of 83 with 66 years of religious profession.

Alfonso Gil was born in Bustillo del Monte (Santander, Spain) on December 7, 1927. He made his first vows as a Marianist religious on September 21, 1944, and his final profession on April 12, 1950, in Saragossa.

After assignments in Madrid and North Africa, he prepared for the priesthood in Fribourg (Switzerland) and was ordained on July 17, 1955.

For ten years, starting in 1957, Alfonso remained in Chile, first in Linares and then in Santiago, until he was appointed Provincial Superior of the Marianist Province of the Andes, the unit for Marianist religious life in Argentina and Chile. He moved to Buenos Aires and served as Provincial until 1975.

In 1976, the General Chapter of the Society of Mary elected him Assistant General for Apostolic Action and he moved to Rome, where he remained, serving with generous devotion, until 1981. Upon return to Buenos Aires, he was named Provincial Superior of the recently created Marianist Province of Argentina, a responsibility which he bore from 1982 to 1990. He was no stranger to fraternal unity in religious life. Contemporaneously with his provincialate, Alfonso was also President of the Argentine Conference of Religious (CAR). In the decade of the '90's he was a member of the Department of Theologians of CONFAR (Argentine Conference of Men and Women Religious), bringing to it his wisdom, experience and fraternal collaboration.

From 1991 to 1992 he served in the city of Catriel (Rio Negro) in the Parish of Christ the Worker. Later, Alfonso was assigned to Nueve de Julio (1993-1998 and 2004-2010) and to Buenos Aires, where he lived from 1999 to 2003, and where he had returned in February of this year.

Father Alfonso has left us a witness of fidelity and of a deep and authentic life of faith. He dearly loved the Society of Mary and the Church.

During this last year, besides giving spiritual leadership to the Marianist religious community of Buenos Aires, he was always available to be present to the sick and to collaborate with simplicity in whatever was asked of him in the school. He spent a lot of time reflecting and writing about religious life (he recently published an article in the review [www.mundomarianista.org](http://www.mundomarianista.org)) and was preparing a conference about “The Seven Last Popes” and his “Personal Experience of the Church” across their reigns.

While traveling to Nueve de Julio last August 1, he fell on the steps of the bus and suffered a fracture of several cervical vertebrae. Transported to Junin for better medical care, always completely lucid, he underwent intensive therapy while awaiting the surgery that would be necessary. During that therapy, he suffered a cardiac arrest and died on Thursday, August 4, in the late afternoon.

His remains were sent to Buenos Aires for the wake in the Colegio Marianista, and at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, Mass was celebrated with the body present in the neighboring parish church of Santa Julia. At the end of his homily, Father Andrés Tocalini, Regional Superior of Argentina, said: “Dear Alfonso, with you passes an important part of our history, you were a true sign of a stage of our Marianist life. We are confident that you are going to assist us from heaven to live this new stage which we are beginning with a spirit of faith and fidelity of heart.”