

**CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI**  
**Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia**  
**Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406**  
**E-mail: [gensecsm@smcuria.it](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)**

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**Death Notice No. 26 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of Madrid, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSÉ PÉREZ MARTÍN**, of the Colegio Nuestra Señora del Pilar Marianist Community (Valladolid), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 7, 2011 in Valladolid, Spain, at the age of 86 with 69 years of religious profession.

Our brother, José, was born August 27, 1924, in Villusto (Burgos).

His family, very numerous and profoundly religious, included his parents, Victoriano and Clementina, who had ten children, of whom seven survived: Jesús, Pompilio, María Consuelo, Victorina, Elvira, José and Eliseo. The last two became Marianists.

José was baptized in his native town, four days after birth, on August 31, 1924, and confirmed on October 7, 1924, in Sandoval de la Reina (Burgos).

He entered the postulate in Escoriaza (Guipúzcoa) on October 8, 1937, and after four years of initial formation, began his novitiate in Elorrio (Vizcaya). There he made his first vows on September 12, 1941.

From there he began his first year of scholasticate in Segovia, and the two following years were in Carabanchel Alto (Madrid). From September 1944 he was assigned to various works and schools, especially as a teacher of French, religion, crafts and pastoral catechetics. During those years he pursued his studies for the Teacher's diploma, earning the title in the Normal School of Guadalajara in September 1950.

He began teaching classes in the Colegio de Jerez de la Frontera from 1944 to 1947, and then was assigned to the Colegio del Pilar in Madrid, where he remained until 1955. In 1948 he made his perpetual profession on August 15 in Escoriaza and, although since the novitiate he had requested the priesthood, in the end he decided not to pursue it but to dedicate himself with enthusiasm to primary teaching and to the education of those pupils with a total gift of himself.

In 1955 the Colegio Santa María del Pilar was opened, and José spent two years there as a teacher, before being sent in 1957-58 to Castalgandolfo for the Second Novitiate.

Upon returning from Italy in 1958, his superiors sent him, as Director, to the Missionary Postulate in Segovia, a responsibility he accepted with humility and to which he gave of himself with total availability in the preparation of these adolescent aspirants to the Marianist life.

In 1962 he returned to the Colegio del Pilar where he was a teacher of French for two years in order to perfect his mastery of that language. He earned in 1966 the Diploma in the French Language from the Alliance Française in Paris and the title of Auxiliary Teacher of Letters from the Central School of Languages.

From 1965 to 1981 he was assigned to the Colegio del Pilar in Pola de Lenas (Asturia), where he enjoyed dividing his time between educational and pastoral activities, collaborating with the Parish and participating in the charismatic renewal.

In 1981, the Superiors, relying upon his availability and personal values of a mature, experienced, realistic and profoundly religious man, sent him to Saragossa on a new mission. José, despite his supposed limitations, accepted with humility: Brother Master of Novices. He would be there until 1984, collaborating in the formation of young aspirants to the Marianists.

In 1984 obedience sent him to what would be his last community, the Pilar of Valladolid, where he was a teacher until his retirement in 1989. But until his death on August 7, 2011, he continued to collaborate in various community activities, both cultural and pastoral.

Pepe's retirement in 1989 led him to being an exemplary witness to what persons of the Third Age can accomplish.

He dedicated part of the day to improving the school library, which he endowed with advanced technology, keeping it in careful order and attending to its young readers with discipline, affection and personalized attention.

He participated as director of theatre performances and accompanied the Choir of Singers, formed by fathers of families, and went with them to their performances in various places. He attended excursions and meetings connected with the Colegio del Pilar of Valladolid for many years.

As moderator of a Marianist Fraternity, he prepared religious topics for meditation and attended and encouraged their meetings. Before the beginning of classes in the mornings he liked to go to the primary school classrooms to entertain and encourage the teachers.

He dedicated a lot of time to producing works of pyrography with religious themes, flowers, castles, and above all places associated with the Virgin Mary, later donating them to the school or to friends. Some of these activities may have affected his health, but true to his tough Castilian character, he paid little heed.

He was a man who always loved perfection, but above all in his fidelity to community prayer. On the very eve of his death he presided at vespers, but the next morning his absence from the chapel led the community to suspect the worst, since he never missed the encounter with the Lord at morning prayer.

May God reward him for all the good he did in his life. It was always his desire to do good through his mission in the Society of Mary in the best way possible.

May he rest in peace!