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Death Notice No. 22 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Spain, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **SEGUNDO EGUILUZ GUINEA**, of Marianist Community of the Colegio de Santa María de Logroño, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 8, 2014 in Logroño, Spain, at the age of 91 with 75 years of religious profession.

Segundo was born in Zambrana, Álava, on October 26, 1922, into a very Christian family; one of his older brothers, Benito, would also become a Marianist religious. Segundo grew up as a person who would become profoundly religious and would live out in a normal way his consecration to God in the mission of education.

His beginnings in the religious life followed the same trajectory as that of many other adolescents and youth in those years. After a time at the Postulate of Escoriza, he began his novitiate in Elorrio on January 1, 1938. He made his first profession on July 10, 1939, although he was not yet 17 years old, an age which would be too young today but which seemed normal in a less pluralistic era and in a society in which religion was more visible. Those were the difficult last years of the Spanish Civil War.

After his first vows, Segundo did his scholasticate in Segovia, where he continued to consolidate his vocation and pursue his studies. In 1942 he began teaching in the Colegio Catolico de Santa María in San Sebastián. For the next seven years, Segunda worked in the schools in San Sebastián, Madrid and Vitoria. His religious vocation matured and he decided to make his perpetual profession. On August 15, 1947, he made his final vows in Vitoria.

1949 was the year when he began his stay in South America. He spent his first assignment in Coronel Brandsen, Argentina, a time about which he recalled anecdotes for many years. Next he went to Chile as one of the Marianist pioneers in the Instituto Linares, in the city of the same name, some 200 km to the south of Santiago. It was a diocesan school, founded in 1919. After it had been in operation for thirty years, Bishop Roberto Moreira of Linares, who was acquainted with the excellent performance of the Instituto Miguel León Prado in Santiago, asked the Society of Mary to take over the direction of the Linares school. Segundo was one of the four religious who began the work there. The first thing they had to deal with was improvement of the facilities: the entire building had badly deteriorated, to the extent that the boarding students' dormitory did not even have any beds.

One year later, the bishop made a new proposal: he asked the Marianist religious to take charge of the San Miguel Parochial School, a small school of twenty pupils located in one of the poorest *barrios* of the city. Segundo took over the direction of it. He was there for eight years, in a difficult environment, with delicate social situations and a minimal cultural level that marked the pupils and offered many educational challenges. His memoirs recount the very harsh realities with which he lived: broken families, absences of pupils due to incidents of domestic violence, persons with zero

cultural interests and all kinds of unforeseen incidents. His desire to be close to all and his spirit of service won over to him the families and the children. He remained a presence in the school until 1960; then he went to Santiago to continue his mission in the Instituto Miguel León Prado. Seven years later he returned to Linares, and was there until 1973. A complicated ulcer, difficult to treat in a chaotic country like Chile was in those years, forced him to return to Spain.

Counting his two stays, Segundo had been in Linares seventeen years. The city remembers him with loving gratitude. In the year 2000, the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Marianist presence in the Instituto was an occasion to demonstrate it. The Municipality, with the unanimous vote of all the council members, named him "Honorary Citizen of Linares." The decree, signed on October 12, stresses, among other qualities, "his pioneering work in promoting education in Linares, his activities spread lovingly among the children with the least resources, his preponderant role in pedagogical development, in teaching and formation in the San Miguel school, and his efforts at integrating minds and wills."

Upon his return to Spain, he asked to become a member of the Province of Zaragoza. When the Province of Spain had been divided in 1950, the communities in Chile, and therefore also Segundo, remained linked to the Province of Madrid. In 1965 the Province of the Andes was created, independent of Madrid, including the communities of Argentina and Chile; Segundo was there at the time. When he returned to Spain he wanted to join the Province of Zaragoza: he had his brother, Benito, there and it was the part of the country where his family lived.

After a year in San Sebastián began another long stay of fourteen years in which he joined the community that directed and animated the Editorial SM. He was a good coworker in the work of the business office. After a few years, in 1982, the Provincial, Fr. Ignacio Otaño, asked him to be the superior of the community. He felt incompetent because of his character and his life-style, but he accepted. The community needed someone at that moment who would take an interest in each one of the brothers with simplicity and care.

Service in the Provincial Archives was his last mission assignment. He passed thirteen years there: a punctual man, methodical and devoted to the work. In 2001 he was 79 years old. From that time on, he appears in the official listings as retired; he moved to Logroño. He did not stop working, however, and continued to collaborate in small jobs which at best pass unperceived but are indispensable: from helping to clean the patios to watering the plants, including care for answering the door. He continued to show his character, available, open and full of life. He was a steady person, who was life-giving for the community. Age began to weaken him, but he continued to lead a normal life and inspired the community by his presence.

Little by little the decline grew worse. He began to need personal attention. The brothers could see his life fading away. On Friday, August 8, he finally rendered himself into the hands of God. A great man and a great religious, who took as his goal in life to do simply all that he could do, who lived for others and who kept his sense of humor until his last moment. God is with him and he with God.

His life had one special element that few or no other Marianist religious have experienced: without having any particularly exceptional moving around throughout his life, he went through four changes of province. We have already mentioned his successive presence in the Provinces of Spain, Madrid, Andes and Zaragoza. One might also recall that in 2011, Zaragoza and Madrid were reunited in the Province of Spain, in which Segundo was also included.

May he rest in peace.