

**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)

May 13, 2010

**Death Notice No. 9 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of Madrid, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSÉ MARÍA FERNÁNDEZ DE RETANA SUBIJANA**, of the Marianist Community of Siquem (Madrid), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 27, 2010 in Madrid, Spain in the 83<sup>rd</sup> year of his age and the 65<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Our brother, José María, was born on February 26, 1927 in Yurre de Vitoria (Álava).

His family, numerous and very religious, included his parents, Ángel and Faustina, and their eight children: Victoriano, Eulogio, Agustín, Segundo, Ricardo, Aurea, Cipriano and José María. The last two became

Marianists: Cipriano until 1959 and José María until the end of his life.

He was baptized in his birthplace on March 2, 1927 and confirmed in Lopidana (Álava) on May 11, 1935.

Four years after his brother Cipriano, he entered the Postulate at Escoriaza (Guipúzcoa) on September 28, 1939 where he underwent formation for four years.

On September 11, 1943 he began his novitiate in Elorrio (Vizcaya), and in the same town pronounced his first vows on September 21, 1944.

In September 1944 he began his first year of Scholasticate in Segovia, and then spent the following two years in Carabanchel Alto (Madrid). During those years he studied for the Magisterio, finally earning his degree in the Normal School of Córdoba in 1950.

In September 1947 he began his long journey through the various schools of the province as teacher and educator, spending the early years at the primary level, and then as prefect and teacher of French in the middle and upper levels.

He began with classes at the Colegio S. Felipe in Cádiz (Puerta Tierra) from 1947 to 1951. He enlisted for his military service in that city in 1948, in the Cádiz Coastal Artillery, and was mustered out in June 1953.

On August 26, 1951, he professed his perpetual vows in Vitoria.

For the academic year 1951-1952 he was transferred to the Colegio of Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Madrid.

Later he was sent to the Colegio of Nuestra Señora del Prado in Ciudad Real (1952-1955), and then to the Colegio of Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz) (1955-1958).

And he completed this first stage of his career in the Colegio of Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Tetuán (Morocco) (1958-1961).

He spent one year (1961-1962) at the International Second Novitiate in Castelgandolfo (Rome).

In the summer of 1962 he gained his diploma in French Language at the Escuela Central de Linguas in Madrid and the Alliance Française of Paris with Honorable Mention.

In September 1962 he received another assignment to the Colegio San Felipe (Extramuros) in Cádiz, where he remained for ten years.

He finished his fruitful teaching career over the next twenty years at the Colegio of Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Valladolid (1972-1992). And he continued his stay there until he had completed thirty-four years in that community (1992-2006), retired but an active worker in various community and province affairs, such as the development of the community library catalogue. He dedicated himself with constancy and careful attention to the translation of the Letters of Father Chaminade. He also translated into Spanish Vincent Gizard's biography of the Founder, which was well received among the Spanish speaking Marianists.

In 2006 he was transferred to the Marianist infirmary community in Siquem where he could receive special care.

In Siquem he spent the last four years of his life, an example of amiability, simplicity, religious disposition and knowing how to be at the service of God and the Brothers.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.