



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
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September 1st, 2021

Biography of Death Notice N. 19

The Region of Chile recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Nicolás LARA MARTÍNEZ**, of the Our Lady of the Pillar Community, Santiago de Chile, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 16, 2021, in Santiago de Chile at the age of 86 with 68 years of religious profession.

Nicolas was born in 1935 in Humienta (Burgos- Spain). He was the youngest of four boys in the family. He did his first studies in the school of that town. As a student he did very well and achieved very good results.

He entered the Marianist Postulate in Segovia when he was 14 years old. At the end of his novitiate in Elorrio, he made his first profession on September 12, 1951. Shortly after, he went as a missionary to Argentina, assigned to the Scholasticate of Brandsen (Argentina).

He moved to Chile three years later and after a short stay in Linares he arrived in Santiago where he studied Biology at the Catholic University of Santiago. He also became proficient in pedagogy.

Years later, he spent a sabbatical year in Rome, residing at the Generalate and attending courses at the Salesian University. Nicolas was a professor of Biology and Head Teacher at Instituto Linares for 25 years, as well as the Instituto Miguel León Prado, at the Colegio Parroquial San Miguel, at the Colegio Santa María de la Cordillera and at the Colegio Nuestra Señora y Madre del Carmen de Melipilla.

Helpful in the community, He became famous for the preparation of his potato omelets. He also rendered service to his fellow brothers as a barber. Among his other pastimes, we note that he was a Real Madrid fan, a friend of nature and long walks as well as a Good sportsman. He created laboratories in the schools where he taught in order to teach his subjects more thoroughly. In all of the schools where he taught, his colleagues highly appreciated and valued his work.

Dedicated to his students, he was generous with his time. Nicolas was considered an excellent educator. He was able to motivate his students to have a love of science. Many of his former students credit him for having awakened in them a desire to enter the field of medicine.

In the school communities through which he passed, colleagues, parents and, above all the students appreciated and loved him. "I always tried to teach in such a way that no one failed and everyone managed to get very good grades and know the subjects well." He highly valued effort and encouraged continuous work.

Nicolas was a good listener and counselor. Always attentive to simple people, he himself was very simple in his way of dressing and in general in his way of living. He knew how to suffer very well and testified to this, especially during the last month of his life when the pain was very intense. He valued people very much and in a special way the Brothers in community. He expressed many times that he did not like or want to emphasize the negative things about other people.

Pious and austere in his way of being and acting, both in Linares and Santiago, Nicolas was a religious faithful to his Marianist vocation. He accompanied several Marianist Lay Communities as Advisor. The members of these Marianist Lay Communities deeply appreciated his presence among them. During the summers, he also went on summer missions for several years and in this task, he accompanied the Marianist alumni students who participated in this pastoral work.

Over the years, Nicolas lived in several different communities. When he became more seriously ill, he moved to the community of Our Lady of the Pillar, where he remained until the end of his days.

His health began to deteriorate recently. His kidneys failed and he had to undergo dialysis three times a week. The spine and the heart itself began to suffer seriously. In the last weeks, he had very serious pains that he endured with a lot of patience.

He was a great educator and managed to combine very well in his life this double reality: Marianist and educator. He was a wonderful educator because of the fact that he was a Marianist religious and he was a very good Marianist religious because he knew how to enrich his life as a religious in his role as a good educator. The number of greetings sent by his former students, parents of former students and colleagues with whom he was able to share his experience as a teacher was impressive. In 2002, he was nominated for the award as the best educator in Chile.

After being a missionary in Chile for so many years, working mainly for the building of the Kingdom in the field of education, he died on July 16, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, patroness of Chile.

In order to bring together in one volume his educational experiences and to serve in the process of initiation in the formation of new educators who come to our schools and to keep his memory alive, a book is about to be published under the title: "Thank you, Nicolas for being a very good Marianist educator."

May Mary accompany you into the presence of God the Father.