



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma



October 8, 2021

Biography of Death Notice N. 23

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Segundo IBABE OCHOA**, of the Siquem Community, Madrid, Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 29, 2021 in Madrid, Spain, at the age of 94 with 75 years of religious profession.

Segundo was born on March 29, 1927 in a farmhouse in Araoz (O ate, Guip zcoa), an area from which a good number of Marianist religious have come. His parents, Pablo and Maria, strove to give their children a good education and a simple, deep and intense faith. He spent the first years of his life in the village where he was born, surrounded by mountains, meadows and forests. His mother tongue was Basque, but he learned Spanish at school.

The village where he was born was not far from the postulate that the Marianist religious had in Escoriaza. His parents were delighted to have a son who wished to be a Marianist religious. Segundo entered the postulate at the age of 17. Other young men from nearby villages, such as Ignacio Unzurrunzaga and Eusebio Olar n, went to the postulate at the same time as Segundo. They had difficulty

speaking Spanish with their classmates, but Segundo soon got along with everyone, with no major difficulties in understanding each other.

After spending a year in Escoriaza, in 1944 he entered the novitiate in Elorrio (Vizcaya). Segundo adapted well to the life of the novitiate and always kept a grateful memory of his Novice Master, Father José Asenjo, formator of generations of novices. Fr. José saw Segundo as a simple, humble and pious person, with a desire to be a good religious. On September 18 of the following year, he made his first religious profession in Elorrio.

From Elorrio he went to Carabanchel Alto (Madrid) to begin his Scholasticate, where he was assigned to be a working brother. He accepted it very well, feeling at home and useful. He dedicated himself to the cultivation of the vegetable garden, with the work of a gardener: planting tomatoes, lettuce, onions, leeks, etc. There was also a farm with cows, chickens and a carpentry shop. He was always showed concern about the employees who helped him take care of the farm.

It is nice to read what Segundo says in a letter he sent to the Provincial in 1950 asking for the renewal of his vows. "In a few lines I ask a great favor for my soul, so that I may work more intensely renewing my holy profession. I have consulted with my confessor. I am very happy with my holy vocation and with my occupation. I am unworthy to belong to this Society, but since the Blessed Virgin has called me, she will help me to overcome the difficulties and to fulfill my obligation". This is Segundo, a person who, throughout his life, always manifested himself as man who was humble and simple, a good religious. On August 26, 1951, he made his perpetual profession in Zaragoza.

In January 1953, he was assigned to the recently inaugurated community of Valladolid. There he began his very long and uninterrupted period of almost 60 years, always devoted to the care and cultivation of the farm. When he arrived in Valladolid, Segundo was 23 years old. If the Carabanchel farm was large, the Valladolid farm was much larger. Many generations of postulants who met Segundo there, have a fond memory of his role in their lives. How many young men have you put on the tractor or trailer...!

The first years of their stay in Valladolid were hard as they usually are in any foundation: the unfinished house, the chapel, rooms and bedrooms without

windows, the harshness of the cold winters in the Castilian plain and the fog typical of Valladolid. The difficulties in the cultivation of the farm were not minor. Technical resources were scarce and economic difficulties were great. With a couple of mules, he did what he could. The tractor and its trailer, the harvester, would arrive later. Segundo mastered his trade well and the years gave him experience and wisdom. Eventually he got what he needed and the means to cultivate the farm improved.

Throughout his long stay, the circumstances of the Marianist mission in Valladolid changed. In the 1970s, the house was converted from a postulate to a school. The city was expanding towards the area where the school was located. At the beginning, there were only a few students, but today the school has gradually grown to more than 1,000 students. The facilities of the house have undergone many improvements and the Colegio del Pilar is now a very prestigious school in the city.

In 1996, Segundo celebrated his golden jubilee as a Marianist religious and the Provincial sent him a letter of congratulations in which he said: "By embracing religious life in the Society of Mary you committed yourself to follow Jesus, Son of God, become Son of Mary for the salvation of mankind. Fifty years in Mary's orders are many pages of the Gospel written in your life from the different services you have had to perform". How true these words are! All of us who have known Segundo can corroborate this.

In 2006, he celebrated his 60th anniversary of religious life and the Provincial wrote to him: "Your religious life has been both simple and profound. The quiet mission of tending a vegetable garden and helping to feed the postulants is a necessary and important part of the mission. In God's eyes, importance does not depend on human criteria; what matters in his eyes is fidelity to his call and love for one's brothers and sisters". These words reflect well the manner in which Segundo lived his life.

In September 2011, at the age of 83, Segundo was sent to the community of Siquem, in Madrid, where the provincial infirmary is located and where he has spent the last 11 years of his life. Over time, his health became weaker and weaker. However, he has always continued to give a good testimony of simplicity and joy. He endeared himself to everyone in Siquem, who remember him strolling

around in his wheelchair. On the morning of September 29, Segundo went to the Father's house.

We give thanks to God for the life of Segundo, confident that he is now enjoying the fullness of life and that we can count on his help in the communion of saints.
