



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
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October 13, 2021

Biography of Death Notice N. 24

The Region of Chile recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Juan AYUSO ARROYO**, of the Nuestra Se ora del Pilar Community, Santiago de Chile, Chile, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 3, 2021, in Santiago de Chile, Chile, at the age of 88 with 70 years of religious profession.

Juan was born in a small town in Burgos, in the heart of a very large family, 11 siblings. One of them, Jes s, is also a Marianist. His brother is a member of the Province of Spain and has visited Chile several times. In 1951, both became Marianist religious. Juan prepared himself for teaching and his first assignment was Tetuan (North Africa). After that, he had a short stay in Ciudad Real. In 1958, after crossing the Atlantic, he arrived in Chile. He went to Linares and worked as a teacher at the Linares Institute and as principal at the school of San Miguel.

Bro. Juan left an indelible mark with his testimony of faith, joyful spirit, diligent work and simple depth in his actions as a believer, religious, teacher, director and human being. This led him to repeat to himself, with great spontaneity: *"This*

is nothing, there are many more valuable and important tasks and people in this world."

In summary, Juan's life was one of learning and teaching, in enjoying and suffering, and in caring, taking care and letting himself be cared for. For him, being an educator was a mission that led him to realize his full potential as a Marianist religious.

He learned a lot from his uncle, Bro. Victorino Alegre, a great educator at the Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Madrid. He learned to teach and to encourage the educational work of his students. He excelled in mathematics. Juan liked this subject; he was very proficient in mathematical calculus. He enjoyed recommending the exercises and challenges of calculus to young and old alike. For this, he had a special skill. He confessed that he *preferred addition and multiplication to subtraction and division*. When he said this, he was expressing preferences that were a reality in his daily life. Juan liked to add, to join, to gather, to include other people. He enjoyed very much making things and people grow, giving fruitfulness, developing his own personal abilities as well as those of others. He gave and asked for generosity in the educational process. He often repeated: *"The work beckons us, and we have to work hard and well."* He did everything he could to take care of the Marianist educational institutions, giving them a lot of life and taking care of their quality

He worked for some time at Ediciones SM in Madrid, where he wrote and edited the mathematics books for each grade of primary school in 1982-1983. Many recognized that Juan gathered and transmitted all that he had learned in his daily work as a teacher of this subject. He himself repeatedly expressed that this work took a lot of energy and helped him grow in teamwork skills. There is no doubt that Juan had the vitality and simplicity of those who reap by sowing and receive by giving. At the request of the government, he gave support for many educational works in Chile. Juan offered this support with great quality and generosity.

In 2007, already in his advanced years as an educator and director, he reaffirmed the need to re-engage lay educators in our schools. He expressed this task graphically by saying that the Marianist religious educator has to be *"a well-lit candle that has abundant light for himself and for lighting other candles."* He was talking about the many lay educators who make up the educational communities

of our schools. Religious educators must give generously and abundantly, using the gifts that God has given them.

He learned to enjoy his life in community. Juan enjoyed a simple fraternal life, helping and collaborating, doing the housework and community work. He enjoyed teaching and really had the qualities to do it well. He was very enthusiastic about this task. He enjoyed being in the classroom. One of his students said that he *was happier when he went in to class than when he was leaving*. He enjoyed gardening, planting, and growing flowers at the house in Pejerrey. He enjoyed contemplating nature, especially the mountain ranges surrounding Linares. He spent hours contemplating and enjoying the mountains full of diverse trees and, at night, the starry sky.

He had to suffer for several years. Especially the last 12 of his life and in a special way the final four. He did not complain; he endured the pain. At the same time, he was very grateful for the care given to him. He earned a very special affection from one of the nurses -Iván Alarcón- who, along with his family, came to admire and love the sick Juan Ayuso, his "king." For several years he was no longer able to transmit what he felt and thought. Undoubtedly, this limitation must also have made him suffer, but he knew how to conceal his limitation.

He learned to take care of others, to take care of himself, and eventually to allow others to take care of him. Juan learned to take care of the community house, his own person, and that of his brothers. He cared for prayer. Neither in the educational task nor in community life did he become angry. A healthy and pleasing environment was of great importance to Juan. He had a special ability to give good advice. A lot of wisdom came out of him and he transmitted it in a very spontaneous way. Those who lived close to Bro. Juan's appreciated his great capacity to console, to help others in their sorrow, suffering and error. He was able to grow in this capacity because in his early years as director someone suggested to him that he needed to be less energetic and authoritarian. In this aspect, he made great progress with the passing of time.

He allowed himself to be cared for. He came to depend on others for everything: getting up and going to bed, eating and dressing, walking and grooming.... He was very grateful for all this help. Gratitude that, when he was no longer able to talk, was always translated into a gesture that appeared on his face or in a gesture of his hands and in a special way in a smile

At 88 years of age, with 70 years as a Marianist religious, 55 as an educator, 18 as a primary school principal, 12 as a sick person and 4 as a bedridden man, Juan left for the Father's house on October 3, 2021. Evoking his life leads us to celebrate his death above all as a thanksgiving for what he did and had been for the Marianist religious of Chile, as well as the students, educators and parents especially of our school in Linares.
