



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
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February 23, 2022

Biography of Death Notice N. 6

The Region of Chile recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Cipriano GUTI RREZ RIOCEREZO**, priest, of the Marianist community Nuestra Se ora del Pilar of Santiago de Chile (Chile), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 19, 2022, in Santiago de Chile (Chile), at the age of 85 with 67 years of religious profession.

Cipriano was born on March 10, 1936 in the town of Villanueva R o Ubierna in the Province of Burgos in Spain. He was born three months before the Civil War began. His parents were Avelino and Claudia. Nine days later, he was baptized in the parish of his hometown. The family was very large. He had eight siblings. One of the sisters was a nun and lived most of her life in Zaragoza.

Cipriano received the faith from his family and, in turn, he transmitted the faith to his family. He learned to work hard and to lead a life marked by simplicity and generosity.

At the age of 13, he entered the Postulate in Escoriaza. At the age of 17, he entered the Marianist Novitiate. He professed his first vows in Valladolid the

following year. He then spent four years at the Scholasticate of Carabanchel (Madrid).

He was 24 years old when he gave himself definitively to the Lord. Cipriano professed his perpetual vows on September 4 in the city of Vitoria.

After completing his initial formation, he was sent to the school of Nuestra Señora del Pilar as a teacher. He then served as the prefect of postulants in Valladolid for two years. After those two years, he returned to the school of Nuestra Señora del Pilar.

He studied at the Complutense University in Madrid where he completed a degree in Biology. Later, he became interested in sociology and obtained a degree in that subject. During two of the years of his stay at the University, he was part of a pilot community that opened in the Marianist Province of Madrid, in the Colegio Mayor Pio XII. There he had the mission of accompanying the university residents who lived on one of its floors.

In 1966 he entered the Seminary in Fribourg (Switzerland) where he spent four years preparing for the priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 21, 1970.

At the end of the seminary, he spent a year in Paris where he continued his training in Sociology, which he had begun in Spain.

He began his priesthood in 1971 in the school of Jerez de la Frontera as chaplain and teacher. At the end of that year, he offered himself as a missionary in Latin America. He arrived in Argentina and worked at the Colegio in Buenos Aires. He stayed there for three years.

Then, in 1975, he was assigned to Santiago de Chile as pastor of Nuestra Señora Reina de los Apóstoles in Santa Adriana. He remained there until 1982. For the next seven years he served at the Linares Institute as chaplain and teacher. After that, he returned to the Parish of Nuestra Señora Reina de los Apóstoles for another five years.

In 1994, he returned once again to the Linares Institute for two years. Later he was entrusted with the parish of San Juan Bautista in the Dávila section (Pedro

Aguirre Cerda), where he would be its pastor until 2002. In that year, he was given the mission of being pastor of San Miguel Arcángel in Santiago. He remained there as pastor until his death 20 years later.

Cyprian was a good man, persevering in his following of Jesus. Always ready to give the best of himself in the different and multiple missions that were entrusted to him. His two main tasks as a Marianist were that of pastor and that of educator. At three different periods of his life, he also served as the director of the community in which he was living.

Cipriano possessed a great capacity for study, although, he never boasted about this aspect of his life. He was rather reserved, giving an initial impression that it was difficult for him to open up or get too close to those around him, until he gained confidence. He eventually made good friends in the places where he worked.

In the last years of his life, he had to cope with severe diabetes, which he endured with perseverance. Soon after, a painful experience of shingles on his legs made it difficult for him to move and finally an illness, which proved difficult to diagnose, ended up causing his death.

He was a man of faith. In his living will he wrote the following: *"I consider life in this world to be a gift and a blessing from God, but it is not the absolute supreme value. I know that death is inevitable and puts an end to my earthly existence, but from faith I believe that it opens the way to a life that does not end, together with God"*.

He lived, as he promised when he made his vows, *"For the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, the honor of Mary and to follow Christ more closely in his saving mission."* Hard working, he was very efficient in fulfilling the tasks or responsibilities assigned to him. Cipriano's advice was always helpful and accurate. At the same time, he was able to mix it with simple affection.

May he rest in peace!
