



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



**March 16, 2022**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 7**

The Region of Chile recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Francisco Jos  GARC A DE VINUESA ZABALA**, 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 21, 2022, in Santiago de Chile (Chile), at the age of 84 with 66 years of religious profession.

Francisco was born in Madrid on August 4, 1937 in the middle of the Spanish Civil War. His parents were Antonio and Mar a de los Angeles. He had five other siblings, three boys and two girls.

He studied at the Colegio de Nuestra Se ora del Pilar in Madrid where his enthusiasm for following Jesus germinated and his religious vocation matured. He entered the novitiate of the Society of Mary, professing his first vows in 1954. Enthused by the mixed composition of the Society of Mary, he expressed his strong desire to become a lay religious.

Francisco studied law at the Complutense University of Madrid. At the end of the Scholasticate, he began teaching at the Santa Mar a del Pilar School in Madrid,

which had just opened recently. Shortly afterwards, he joined a community of Marianist religious who were entrusted with directing a section of the new Colegio Mayor Pio XII in the University City of Madrid, where they began an inter-congregational experience.

In 1964, he was appointed Rector of the Leon XIII Christian School of the University of Madrid. He participated actively in the creation of communities of university students with Marianist spirituality (CEMI). In 1967, he became Rector of the new Colegio Mayor Chaminade founded by the Society of Mary in the University City of Madrid. The following year, 1968, he visited the USSR to conduct a sociological study of Russian and Czechoslovakian Youth during the Prague Spring. On this occasion, he traveled to several European countries visiting universities and learning about the experiences of university residences.

In 1971, he received his doctorate in Canon Law with a doctoral thesis entitled: "Relationship of the Society of Mary and the Congregación-Estado (forerunner of the CEMI)." In 1972, he asked his superiors to be sent to Latin America. He arrived in Chile in December 1972 and was assigned to the Cardenal Caro University Residence (RUCC), property of the Archdiocese of Santiago. He became rector of this residence in 1973. Francisco remained in this position for many years, living between the RUCC and the community of Nuestra Señora del Pilar de San Miguel. For a short time, he taught in the Pedagogy Faculty of the Pontificia Universidad Católica. In addition, he participated in the Pastoral work of the Catholic University. Francisco was in charge of this Pastoral work until January 1976. At the same time, and continuing for some years, he participated in the pastoral work of the Universities of Chile and the State Technical University (USACH).

A few months after his arrival in Chile, he began working as a lawyer for the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the diocese of Santiago. In 1984, he had a Sabbatical Year in Rome in order to learn in depth the new Canon Law, recently promulgated in January 1983. In 1986 and subsequent years, he was professor of Canon Law at the Talca-Linares Seminary. Over the years he has actively cooperated with the Ecclesiastical Tribunals of other dioceses, especially that of Punta Arenas. He gave numerous lectures to the clergy of Linares, Temuco and Punta Arenas on the new Code of Canon Law.

For several years, he taught Marriage Law at the Pontifical Seminary of Santiago,

where he also published a text on: "Matrimonial Law". He was appointed Judge of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of Santiago. He had a very active participation in the founding of the Marianist Lay Movement of Chile (CLM) and in advising it. He was also very active in the founding of the Faustino Movement.

Francisco also worked at various times as a religion teacher. The students at the San Miguel Parish School and at the Santa María de la Cordillera School had a very positive reaction to him and to his teaching.

In 2001, as a member of the Chaminade community (Departamental 1940, Comuna Pedro Aguirre Cerda), he was diagnosed with cancer of the mediastinum, which he managed to overcome. In 2006, he had a vascular accident. In 2009, he was diagnosed with the onset of Parkinson's disease. He was assigned to the San Juan Bautista community in the parish of the same name. When his Parkinson's disease worsened, he was transferred to the community of Our Lady of the Pilar (Curiñanca 1510) in San Miguel, where he remained until his death.

A forward thinking religious, he has been able to state clearly his position on social and political situations, as well as ecclesial ones. Although he did not seek notoriety in any way, he was requested for interviews on radio, television and in the written press, especially on marriage and ecclesiastical topics. We give thanks to God for the life of Francisco!

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