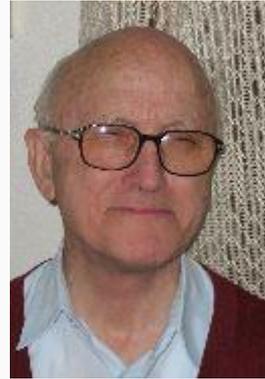




Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
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April 7, 2022

Biography of Death Notice N. 10

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear Brother **Ignacio TEIXIDOR DE OTTO**, of the Marianist community of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin on March 30, 2022, in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, at the age of 89 with 69 years of religious profession.

Ignacio was the third in a family of ten siblings. His parents were Juan and Carmen. Ignacio was born in Barcelona on September 19, 1932. When Ignacio was two years old, the family moved to Madrid. This was due to the professional demands of his father's occupation. In 1938, in the middle of the civil war, they moved to Valencia. The last four of his siblings were born in that city.

Their parents possessed deep Christian convictions. For this reason, they looked for a school for their children where they would receive a Christian education. They enrolled the boys in the Marianist school of Nuestra Se ora del Pilar in Valencia.

While Ignacio was a student at the school, he was attracted by the witness of the Marianist teachers. After finishing high school, he decided to become one of

them. He entered the novitiate in Elorrio in September 1951. Ignacio professed his first vows the following year.

From the beginning of his novitiate, his formators observed in him a nervous character, a guileless personality, a religious spirit, good dispositions, and an attraction for teaching.

In September 1952, he entered the Scholasticate. After three years, he completed his education and received a degree in education.

He began teaching in San Sebastian in September 1955. Four years later, he was assigned to the community of Vitoria, where he remained for 58 consecutive years until his death. The only exception was for a sabbatical in 1974-75. During this time, he lived in Fribourg, Switzerland.

A significant aspect of Ignacio's stay in Vitoria was his strong educational influence through sports and personal relationships. The responses of affection and gratitude after his death have been incredible. There have been countless testimonies in remembrance of a man who tried to go unnoticed in his vocation of service.

The funeral, two days after his death, was held at the school's sports center. This locale was chosen in anticipation (rightly so) of the multitude of people who were going to attend. Even before his funeral, Numerous people had already sent messages of thanks for his life.

The Eucharist was introduced by the school principal, who said, "If Ignacio were physically here, he would be very discreet, in a corner or in the back, observing a lot, watching everything and everyone, approaching each one to say a word to us with his characteristic sense of humor. He also made sure that everything was in its place. He always accomplished this without being noticed, in a spirit of humility and friendliness. He made us smile, leading a simple life of service for others. As a former student said, 'a piece of the school is gone'. We celebrate today the good fortune of having known him. He was a true gift that will continue to be present in our lives. This is something for which we thank God in this liturgy".

However, Ignacio's educational mission was not limited to sports, balls, t-shirts,

nets, etc. Many former students emphasize the personal relationship that was established with him when he was a class tutor or teacher.

As a sample, here is part of a comment from a former student who left the school 50 years ago: "At reunions of former colleagues, there was always a comment about 'the Teixi' and his humanity. All the students, from elementary school to Preu/Cou [last year of high school before entering the University], had dealings with him. He was kind, affectionate and always ready to help... Thank you, Teixi, you will always be in my school memories".

The presence in the hospital of many people who heard of his serious health issue, was a tribute to a vigorous Marianist Family. Their constant presence and support were a great blessing. One of the persons most active in this accompaniment wrote: "I feel that Don Ignacio has given me one last gift, which is to feel again the warmth of the Marianist family, and this has brought me closer to you and to the community. I thank the Lord for that."

In the homily at the funeral, the Provincial said, addressing Ignacio: "You were a faithful reflection of Mary. You were hard working, always going out of your way to make sure everything was in order, very attentive (you always asked everyone about their family but with names and surnames, or you always had time to call us on our birthday...). You didn't like the limelight; you wanted to be in the background, discreet, humble... like Mary".

Ignacio, like every human being, had his limitations. But every day he renewed and put into practice his vocation of service, trying to live the Marianist ideal proposed by the *Rule of Life* in article 8: "We hope to reflect to those around us Mary's warmth of welcome to God and to others." May he rest in peace.
