



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma



August 9, 2022.

Biography of Death Notice N. 29

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Julio MANRIQUE HIERRO**, of the Marianist Community of Siquem, Madrid, Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on July 30, 2022 in Madrid, at the age of 81 with 64 years of religious profession.

Julio was born on December 4, 1940 in Guadilla de Villamar, a small town in the Province of Burgos. He was baptized in the town's Gothic church, in a Romanesque baptismal font. Julio's parents were simple peasants. They were deeply religious and transmitted their faith to their eight children, two of them Marianist religious, Rosa and Julio. A third, Secundino, was also a religious for a time.

Julio entered the postulate in Segovia at the age of twelve. This postulate was also the preparation school for those who would later go to the missions, at that

time mainly to Argentina and Chile. After four years in Segovia, in 1956 he entered the novitiate of the Marianist Province of Madrid, in the city of Valladolid. Julio would later spend most of his life in this place. His first profession of vows took place on September 12, 1957, in Carabanchel Alto. Several months later he left as a missionary to Argentina, assigned to the scholasticate of Brandsen. Shortly after his arrival, Julio suffered his first psychiatric crisis and was diagnosed with a mental illness that would accompany him throughout his life. Several times during his stay in Brandsen, he was admitted to specialized centers to alleviate his suffering.

He returned to Madrid and joined the scholasticate of Carabanchel, where he remained until 1961. He made his perpetual vows in the city of Vitoria in August 1962. He was assigned to school of Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Madrid (1961-1966) as a primary school teacher. His illness prevented him from teaching, as he would have liked. From 1966 to 1970, he lived in the community of the school of Santa Maria del Pilar in Madrid. In 1970, he was assigned to Valladolid, to the postulate, where he spent 40 years of his life. In the first years, he was as a teacher of literature. Later he worked in the garden and in the community tasks that were assigned to him.

In 2008, because of his illness, he went to the community of Siquem (Carabanchel Alto/Madrid). He stayed there for 14 years, until his death on July 30. Julio was a pious religious, faithful and dutiful, methodical and orderly, with a great idealism. He was a good man, peaceful, detail-oriented, and always reading. In addition, he was a lover of plants and flowers, of conversation, of games and activities carried out by the sick members of the community. He was a dedicated Marianist and tried to keep himself informed of all the provincial activities, as well as the progress of the Society. He loved to sing, which he continued to do until his strength failed him.

Julio is remembered in his community as a calm patient, who accepted all treatments knowing that they were for his own good. He was always serene. This year, he was finally diagnosed with liver cancer of a very rare type. In fact, he was already in a terminal phase. He bore his last months with great fortitude and a great religious spirit, giving a testimony of faith, hope and charity.

He recited the complete Hail Mary in bed, until he was not able to continue the

full prayer. Then he kept saying only Hail Mary, the Lord is with you, Jesus, Holy Mary, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death.

The second reading at his funeral, on Sunday of the 18th week, gave us the key to his life: "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the good things that are above. For you have died; and your life is with Christ hidden in God. When Christ, your life, shall appear, then shall you also appear glorious, together with him."

Before the gospel, all sang Alleluia, with its verse: "blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, alleluia."
