



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



**November 28, 2025**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 20**

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **Prudencio ZUAZO ECHAZARRA**, of the Marianist community of Santa María del Pilar in Zaragoza, Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 7, 2025 in Zaragoza, at the age of 92 and with 75 years of religious profession.

Prudencio was born in 1933 in Oyón, a town in Álava very close to the city of Logroño. His parents were named Mariano and Orosia. His father was a winegrower in the region of La Rioja, famous for its wines. On September 3, the couple's first two children were born: Prudencio and his twin brother Luis. A few years later Jaime was born and after a while Angelines, the only sister, and later Mariano.

He was baptized in the parish of the same town the day after he was born and was confirmed at the age of 13 in Aretxabaleta, when he was already a postulant.

In fact, he had entered the Postulate of Escoriaza a year earlier, in September 1945.

His formators during these years describe him as serious, docile, simple, with good feelings, dutiful, at the same time shy and cheerful, endowed with very good intelligence, with excellent grades in his studies and with interest in his religious formation.

In the letter he addressed to the Provincial in 1949 to request admission to the Novitiate, he expressed his desire to be a fervent, observant and generous Marianist. He would like to dedicate himself to teaching, although he is willing to do what his superiors say.

Prudencio made his first profession on September 12, 1950, precisely at the time when the Marianist Province of Spain was divided into those of Madrid and Zaragoza. Prudencio was assigned to the latter, although the Scholasticate of Carabanchel to which he was assigned remained unique for both provinces.

In 1953, at the end of his three years as a scholastic, he finished his Baccalaureate and was assigned to the school of *Nuestra Señora del Pilar* in Valencia, to begin his work as a teacher. He remained there for seven years, teaching and also taking care of sports. On August 28, 1955, he made his perpetual profession.

In 1960 he was sent to Vitoria, where he stayed for only one year, at the end of which he moved to the community of the school of *Nuestra Señora del Pilar* in Madrid, to study Biological Sciences at the university. He finished the degree in a short period of three years, taking in a single year the subjects corresponding to more than one academic year. He also did not forget his religious formation.

And when he finished his university career, he was assigned to the community of the school of *Santa María del Pilar* in Zaragoza, where he would remain for the rest of his long life. He began as a teacher of several science subjects, especially those of his specialty, biology, an activity that he continued for thirty-five years. He was a very competent teacher and appreciated by his students, who showed him great respect and admiration from the beginning. He was not

one of many words, but he always maintained great authority in his classes, which he knew how to combine with his kindness and patience.

He was also in these early years responsible for the library, companion of the sodalists and in charge of sports. In the meantime, he showed interest in continuing his training in his specialty of biology and in progressing in his knowledge of English. He also participated in the elaboration of a book on Natural Sciences of SM editions.

In December 1972 Prudencio was involved in a serious car accident. As a result, he was left with two broken ribs, cracks in the hip, dislocation of the femur and a broken pelvis.

After two surgeries, the recovery began, which was long and painful. Despite this, he never lost his smile. The accident left him with a slight limp, which did not prevent him from starting to play tennis in the championships that were organized at the school, in which he even won several trophies.

At the beginning of the new academic year (71/72), he had been appointed administrator of the community and the school, while continuing to teach his classes in Natural Sciences. He assumed this new responsibility with enthusiasm and enormous dedication, which he carried out for nearly thirty years. From 1998 he was replaced by a lay person, but Prudencio continued to work as an administrative assistant until almost the end of his days.

In 1972 Prudencio was appointed administrator of the Province and member of the Provincial Council until 1976. And in 1977, with Fr. Salaverri at the head of the Province, he was again appointed provincial councilor until the end of the 80-81 academic year.

At school he continued with the tasks assigned to him: administrator and biology teacher, tasks he carried out until the 1997/98 academic year. He was always highly esteemed by all his students for his good work in class, his interest and

his taste for biology, his simplicity and the authority that he knew how to impose in a friendly and natural way.

When for reasons of age he ended his time as a teacher, he did not stop being active. He spent long hours, in summer and winter, raking and picking leaves from trees (which he had labeled with the corresponding scientific name), pulling weeds in the schoolyards and helping to maintain the school facilities. He was a great sports fan. He had practiced it in his younger years. Later, he did not usually miss any televised broadcast of the athletics, tennis and especially Basque pelota championships in recent years.

Prudencio always maintained a very close relationship with his family. He usually did not miss the meeting with his relatives when September 3 arrived every year. That day was his birthday and that of his twin brother and, coincidentally, it had also been his father's. It was a habit that he maintained until the end: the last time he participated in that festive meeting was a few weeks before his death.

At the end of September this year, 2025, he began to feel some discomfort in his skin, which did not seem to be too serious but which required a visit to dermatology and vascular surgery specialists. On October 7, while some of these medical consultations were still pending, he suffered a sudden attack shortly after getting up in the morning. The medical assistance he received almost immediately could not prevent his death. He left in a discreet way, as he had always been in his long life.

From the moment the news spread both in the school and outside it, messages of condolence did not stop arriving, some very emotional, which showed everything that Prudencio meant to those who had known him. There have been countless testimonies from people, most of them former students, who have expressed in many ways their admiration and gratitude to Prudencio for what he has meant to them. There are words that are repeated in practically all of them: he was welcoming, good, a tireless worker, he always had a smile, he transmitted peace and serenity. They all also show his kindness, his closeness and his patient listening.

He was also an excellent professor of Science and, in particular, of Biology. Many refer to his dedication, his wisdom, his intelligence and his memory. Because if all the students he had – and the same can be said of their families – remembered him, he also remembered practically all of them.

Shortly before his death, on September 12, he had celebrated with the community the 75th anniversary of his first religious profession. And a few days earlier he had turned 92. A teacher from the school dedicated a radio broadcast to Prudencio addressed to all high school students. This is a part of his message:

*Some of us have been lucky enough to see that kindness (authentic kindness, without interests, without appearances, without making noise) from our earliest childhood, when, as children, we arrived at school for the first time. There he was. Because for many, he was always there. Since the school was born. In the middle of the morning he put on his white coat and went to class. And in the afternoon, whether it was cold, foggy or windy, or a scorching summer sun, we would see him taking care of the school, watering or pulling weeds, climbing on the roofs of the pavilions to repair leaks, turning on the heating or helping the cars park on the day of parents' meetings, or cleaning the pool... We never saw him in the important places, or in the top positions. Sometimes God puts us on the path people who, from their silence and discretion, read the Gospel to us with their lives and speak to us with their example of dedication and affection.*

Prudencio has been a faithful and happy religious. A few paragraphs from the Provincial's homily at the funeral summarize well what Prudencio's life has been like as a Marianist religious:

*Prudencio believed in Jesus and bet everything on a card, putting his life at the service of the Kingdom of God as a Marianist religious. Choosing the same free and available lifestyle as Jesus, Prudencio, with his vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, renounced to form a family... and it turns out that he discovered himself being part of a huge family, loving and educating an uncountable number of children, like Abraham; renounced having his own property... and God showed him that he had everything he needed to live, that sharing everything set him free, and that he was rich in another way; by the vow of obedience Prudencio*

*renounced to choose to do what he wanted... and he thus discovered himself free and available like Jesus, at the service of a greater mission, for whatever was needed.*

The celebration of the funeral brought together a multitude of people related to the school: former students of various promotions, families, current and retired teachers, Marianist religious from various communities. And it is that Prudencio had aroused the admiration, affection and sympathy of many people linked to the school and of all those who knew him. Thank you, Prudencio. Rest in peace.

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