



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



**March 9, 2026**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 1**

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **Jos  Ram n SEBASTI N DE ERICE Y S NCHEZ-OCA A**, Priest, of the Marianist Community of Ciudad Real, Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 2, 2026 in Madrid, at the age of 84 with 65 years of religious profession.

Jos  Ram n was born in Bombay, India on January 6, 1942, because his father was a diplomat by profession and was stationed in India for six years. From the marriage formed by Gonzalo Sebasti n de Erice and M<sup>a</sup> del Socorro S nchez-Oca a, 11 children were born, Jos  Ram n being the second oldest . Five are still alive.

Before coming to Spain for good, the family lived for a few years in Bordeaux,

which is why José Ramón spoke perfect French since his childhood. Later, once in Madrid, the sons studied at the school of Nuestra Señora del Pilar.

There José Ramón met the Marianists and when he finished his studies he wanted to begin the journey that would lead him to embrace religious life. In December 1959 he entered the Novitiate, which was in La Parra, province of Ávila. There he made his first profession, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary in 1960.

In his student years, at the scholasticate of Carabanchel, he first completed his studies as a French teacher and then a degree in Philosophy. Later he would also study Sociology (doctorate), and then Theology (bachelor's degree). In 1964 he began to teach first at the Nuestra Señora del Pilar school in Madrid and then in Cádiz, until he made his final vows and was destined for the priesthood. He was then sent to the Marianist International Seminary in Freiburg, Switzerland, where he was ordained a priest in March 1971. Immediately afterwards he spent a year studying in San José (USA), where he completed a degree in Theology.

Back in Madrid, he was assigned to the Colegio Mayor Universitario William Joseph Chaminade, where he worked as a teacher and chaplain, and later also as technical director. In the following ten years he also continued as a teacher and chaplain, in three Marianist schools in Madrid: El Pilar, Santa Ana and San Rafael, and Santa María del Pilar, becoming principal in the latter two schools.

In September 1986, at the request of the General Administration, the Provincial Council sent José Ramón back to the international seminary in Freiburg, this time as director of the Marianist residence.

From there he returned to Madrid two years later, first to work as director of the ESCUNI teacher training school, whose ownership was shared (and continues to be shared) by several religious congregations and the archdiocese of Madrid. Later he was, for three years, technical director at the Marianist school in Ciudad Real.

From there he went to the community of Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Madrid, working as principal of the school for three years. At the end of that period, during

the 1998-99 academic year, José Ramón was able to enjoy a sabbatical, living in the community of Santa Ana in Madrid. For four months, at the request of the Spanish Catholic mission in Switzerland and with the authorization of the provincial council, he was chaplain to Spanish emigrants in Bern. It was a positive and pastorally fruitful experience, both for the emigrants and for José Ramón.

He was then assigned to the Marianist community of Carabanchel. He was working in the SM publishing house and also in parish work as a priest. He was first vicar for five years and then parish priest of the parish of Santa María Madre de la Iglesia.

In 2007 a request came from the Marianist district of India. They wanted José Ramón to collaborate in formation tasks with the aspirants, in Bangalore. He was excited about the proposal, because it was his homeland, also because he was fluent in English and believed that he could contribute his grain of sand in that service that was asked of him. The Provincial Council authorized it and José Ramón was in India from 2008 to 2014, in two phases, with a brief period in between in Spain.

When he returned, after a few months of transition, he joined the community of Santa María del Pilar in Madrid, where, already retired from teaching, he served as chaplain at the school and in the parish from 2015 to 2024.

During all those years, and especially after leaving teaching, José Ramón collaborated as a translator in numerous international meetings of the Society of Mary, contributing his gifts in simultaneous oral translation and also in written translations, both from English and French.

In September of 2024, he was assigned to the community of Ciudad Real. José Ramón expressed his desire and hope to end his life in Madrid. What he did not intuit, surely, is that he would soon have to move to Madrid. After being rushed to the hospital last November and miraculously recovering, he was transferred to the Siquem infirmary community. His deterioration was already irreversible and, despite having been exquisitely cared for during those three months, he died (painlessly, thanks to palliative care) on the evening of March 2.

In the final period of his life, as death approached, José Ramón had to live the mystery of loss. He had already seen it coming for a long time and faced it without anguish, with serene acceptance. Without a doubt, it was faith that allowed him to live it like this. That faith that the brothers remembered and expressed in the funeral Eucharist, when they recited Psalm 30: *I trust in you, Lord. You are my God. In your hand are my chances.*

We thank God from the bottom of our hearts for the life of José Ramón and pray with confidence for his eternal rest.