



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



July 1st, 2026

Biography of Death Notice N. 7

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **Jes s Mar a ORBEGOZO IBARRETA**, priest, of the Marianist Community of Siquem, Madrid, Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on June 28, 2026 in Madrid, at the age of 81 with 62 years of religious profession.

Son of Jos  Orbegozo and Mar a Rosario Ibarreta, he was born on February 23, 1945 in Donostia - San Sebasti n, a beautiful coastal city in the Basque Country, capital of the province of Gipuzkoa. They baptized him with the name of Jes s Mar a, and although among the Marianists he was known as Jes s, for his relatives he was always called *Jesusmari*.

He studied from a young age at the Marianist school in his city, standing out among other things for being a good athlete. At the end of his studies, he felt the

call to a religious vocation and, with the appropriate accompaniment, underwent a process of discernment until he entered the Marianist novitiate of Elorrio (Bizkaia), where he made his first profession on September 12, 1963.

During his years as a scholastic, first in Zaragoza and then in Valencia, he completed his civil studies with a degree in biological sciences. He was always passionate about life, in all its aspects.

He renewed his vows year by year, until he made his perpetual profession in 1968. He began his life as an educator teaching in Valencia, initially with primary school students, and then, beginning in 1971, with secondary school students.

In 1976 he was sent to complete his theological studies at the seminary of Fribourg (Switzerland) and was ordained a priest on April 16, 1979 in his hometown of Donostia, San Sebastian.

His first assignment as a priest was in the Almunia de Doña Godina, serving as superior and director of the school in that rural region of the province of Zaragoza.

Three years later he was sent to Vitoria, where he was director of that school for 6 years. In 1988 the Province asked him to be a formator of young religious in the new formation community that was created in Valencia for pre-novices and scholastics.

Four years later, in 1992, it was his turn to learn to serve the local Christian community as a parish priest, in a new mission for him, in the parish of Santa Cruz, in Zaragoza.

At the end of his mission there, he began a long stay in the Marianist community of Donostia-San Sebastián, because his only brother had died and his parents, now elderly, needed his close attention. He lived and worked there as a teacher and chaplain of the school, from 1995 until 2013, the year in which his mother died.

He was then sent to the community of Santa María del Pilar in Zaragoza, already

retired from teaching, but still active as chaplain. The following year he was appointed superior of the community.

Five years later, due to his fine sensitivity in dealing with sick and elderly brothers, he was sent to serve as superior in the provincial nursing community of Siquem, in Madrid, where he stayed from 2018 to 2022.

At the end of that period, because his health was quite diminished and he was worn out by responsibility, he was sent to the community of Valencia, where Jesusmari had many good friends. But his health continued to deteriorate quite rapidly, and two years later he had to be sent again to the provincial infirmary of Siquem, this time not as superior but as a sick man, to be cared for. He had severe pulmonary fibrosis, which made it very difficult for him to breathe and made him feel tired continuously. Added to this was the experience of depression from which, with accompaniment and the help of medication, he was recovering. But the respiratory limitation increased. At the beginning of 2026 he already needed oxygen continuously. He was able to get out of bed for only a few moments. Finally, on June 28, a bronchoaspiration while eating dinner caused irreversible asphyxia and he died a few hours later.

Jesús María was always an attentive and affectionate brother in community, with a great desire for evangelization, very sensitive in the accompaniment of suffering people and much loved in the context of Marianist lay communities. We trust that God the Father, in whose infinite mercy he always trusted, and our Lord Jesus Christ, whom he always tried to follow closely, will welcome him into the Kingdom of full life, accompanied by the Virgin Mary, by whose hand our dear brother Jesusmari always tried to walk.