Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
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November 10, 2026

Biography of Death Notice N. 14

The Province of Spain recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **José María OSBORNE YSASI**, priest, of the Marianist community of Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz), Spain, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 30, 2026 in El Puerto de Santa María (Cádiz), at the age of 82, with 63 years of religious profession.

Fr. José María left a very deep mark on the places where he passed, both for his affable character and his very Andalusian sense of humor, and for collaborating with all those who asked for his help, motivated by the religious sense that inspired his Marianist consecrated life and his apostolic mission.

He was born in the beautiful Andalusian city of Seville, on April 14, 1944 and three days later he was baptized in the parish of El Sagrario, a large chapel of the cathedral and full of valuable artistic works. His father was called Eduardo

Osborne and was from Seville, while his mother, Paz Ysasi, was from Jerez de la Frontera. They had 11 children and José María was the ninth. They were a well-known family with abundant possessions, owners of important food factories and the famous Cruzcampo beer.

In Seville José María studied with the Jesuits, of whom he had very good memories. However, José María was mischievous and a bad student, so his parents made the decision to send him to the boarding school that the Marianists had in Jerez de la Frontera. It is there that he grew as a person and also as a Christian, improving in his studies and feeling called by God to the Marianist religious life. From the beginning he felt the inclination to the priesthood, but with the help of his formators he learned to value the religious vocation and also his mission as a teacher.

He completed his novitiate in the Sierra de Gredos, in the house of La Parra, in the 1962-1963 academic year. The novice master, seeing that some candidates came from families with a very good economic position, thought that it was appropriate for them to do humble work such as taking care of the pigs and chickens of the house. José María recalled, with a sense of humor, that this was difficult for him, but that it helped him to value things properly and see the value of hard work.

He studied for a degree in biological sciences at the Central University of Madrid, being part of the Marianist community of the Colegio Mayor Chaminade, a work of the Society of Mary dedicated to university students.

He enjoyed education and close contact with students. He was a teacher in the Marianist schools of Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, Carabanchel, El Pilar de Madrid and Pola de Lena. The bad students found in that young Marianist an ally, because he, who had had problems with his studies, always encouraged them a lot and valued their progress. He prepared his classes with dedication and was appreciated by parents, teachers and students.

José María made his perpetual profession in Vitoria, on September 5, 1969. He asked the Provincial to be assigned to the Regina Mundi International Marianist Seminary in Fribourg (Switzerland). The consultations made among the brothers

with whom he had lived unanimously resulted in everyone indicating that José María would be "a great priest". With great effort he finished his studies in philosophy and theology, being ordained a priest in the chapel of the Marianist school of Jerez de la Frontera on September 6, 1975.

With a sense of obedience, he accepted the call to be director of a school on occasion, although he struggled with managerial tasks and was more comfortable as a pastoral manager and chaplain. He was appointed superior of the community on many occasions, because the religious proposed his name to the provincial superior when it was necessary to choose.

He had a special appreciation for the educational work of Pilar de Castelló, where he spent many years of his life. In 1996 he was assigned to Pola de Lena (Asturias). He lived there for only 5 years, but it made a deep impression on him, because he was able to meet many families from the rural area. He usually offered himself to the parish priest of the village to help him in the celebrations in the nearby villages.

In 2014 he was sent back to Jerez de la Frontera, where, now retired, he worked as a chaplain and helped the parish priest in the parish tasks. In 2022, the first symptoms of physical and mental deterioration began. Various illnesses and some signs of dementia appeared. In this context of weakness, and due to some disagreement in community life, José María experienced a deep crisis that led him to ask the Provincial for permission to live outside the community for a while, in his family home. During this time of life in solitude, José María maintained his religious sense, taking care of prayer and the Eucharist. The Provincial asked a Marianist priest to visit him weekly and to accompany him in his situation, and the brothers from Jerez continued to visit him.

On September 12, 2025, José María celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest with great joy in the basilica of the Virgin of Miracles, patron saint of Puerto de Santa María. The Marianist parish priest of Jerez presided over this celebration and a good group of religious from Cádiz and Jerez accompanied him, as well as his family and friends. Aphasia, a neuronal disease that affects speech, barely allowed him to speak at that time, so he communicated with great difficulty, but he looked serene and happy.

In the summer of 2026, José María asked the Provincial to fully rejoin community life in the Society. He humbly asked forgiveness for the suffering caused, thanked him for his patience with him and the two embraced each other fraternally. He peacefully accepted to be assigned to the Marianist infirmary of Siquem in Carabanchel (Madrid).

But very shortly before that transfer, he suffered a domestic accident and had to be admitted to the hospital. He died in El Puerto de Santa María on September 30, at the age of 82. Fr. José María leaves us an endearing memory. He was a very valuable man in the community for his closeness, simplicity and spirit of collaboration. A good religious, with a clear spiritual sense of life and mission. His actions were moved by a deep faith, love for Jesus Christ and filial trust in the Blessed Virgin. May our dear José María rest in peace.