

A Man for God



José Pío Gurruchaga Castuariense
1881 - 1967

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for God*

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24-7-19.
Roy de Din... Roy a l...
~~E. J. J. J. J.~~

Bishopric of Palencia

With license of the bishopric of Palencia 20-11-89



AUXILIARY PARISH SISTERS
OF CHRIST PRIEST

Allende El Río s/n
34005 PALENCIA

All roads of Spain knew him, without being his intention.
He was always a man behind the providential action of God.
And given in earnest to His will.
He was A MAN FOR GOD.

HIS CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH: PRIESTLY EDUCATION



Baptistry of the Parish Church of Toulouse: He was baptized here on the same day of his birth (May 5th, 1881)

Native from Tolosa (Guipúzcoa), son of a couple of teachers, he lost his father before his birth and received from his widowed mother an intense and intelligent cultivation of his faith.

José Pío was lucky to receive a good soul. Intelligent, gentle, and exquisite sensitivity, he responded very positively to the influences of his family environment, saturated with religious experiences.

Soon, the priesthood vocation dawned on him. The numerous clergy who served at that time the Basque Parishes, the solemnity of worship, reached the bottom of his white soul.

At the age of 10, he began the pre-seminary. At 14, he entered into the Major Seminary of Vitoria, whose spirituality, clearly Ignatian, marked him with an indelible sign.

The strength of his ideal, together with the strong base of order and discipline innate in him, made him overcome many obstacles. His psychological and moral qualities were a fertile ground for obedience. He was an exemplary seminarian. As a theologian, he was considered by the philosophers as a "holy man".

He never received a warning from his superiors... as indicated by himself in a letter to his bishop.



Parents of the Servant of God: Florentino Gurruchaga died on March 14th, 1881, (two months before the birth of the child) and Narcissa Castuariense died on January 21st, 1921



Parish of St. María de Tolosa. José Pío, a child of four years old

Young seminarian of 16 years old



Needless to say that he was a good student: his marks show it: "meritissimus", ie, excellent in all subjects and in all courses. Even in mathematics, which he did not like.



Most illustrious Fr. Asunción Gurruchaga, General Vicar of the Diocese of Vitoria and spiritual Director of the Servant of God until his death.

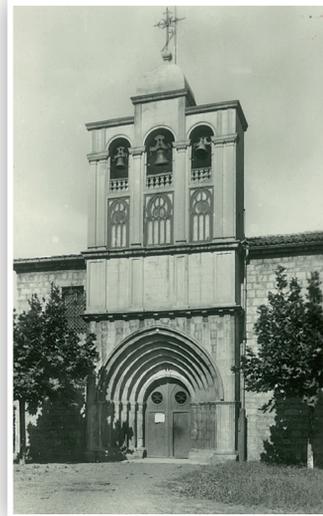
When he finished his studies, he left many good friends and admirers in the Seminary, and also his Spiritual Director, Fr. Asunción Gurruchaga, then Rector of the Seminary and General Vicar of the Diocese. It is great to highlight the predilection with which this holy and wise priest honored José Pío until his death, serving uniquely the evolution and history of the spiritual life of that boy, while he sensed in that young, complex in his simplicity, the future priest capable of all heroism. He was not wrong. José Pío never disappointed him. He saw him leaving at the newly created Pontifical University of Zaragoza, where he graduated in Theology, keeping the same line of exemplary conduct and the same level in all grades. He was not unnoticed

there: Sir Remigio Gandásegui, professor at that Center, and later Archbishop of Valladolid, honored him with his friendship throughout all his life.

St. Carlos Seminary in Zaragoza, where he studied Sacred Theology before his priesthood ordination



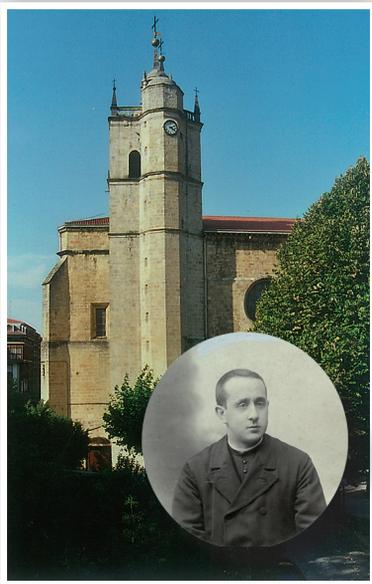
CURATE IN IRÚN AND HIS MULTIPLE PRIESTLY MINISTRY: CATHECHETICAL, PENITENTIAL, EUCHARISTIC...



Church of the Augustinian Nuns in Hernani. He celebrated here the first solemn Mass on December 27th, 1905.



Ordained priest in Vitoria (23-XII-1905), he was soon destined -January 1906 – to the Parish of St. María del Juncal, Irún, where he worked very hard for sixteen years as simple curate. But... an extraordinary curate.



Parish Church of St. María del Juncal in Irún. The new priest was there assigned on January 6th, 1906

So was soon cataloged by his Pastor, Sr. Leandro Soto, who was one of the leading figures of the Guipúzcoa clergy, an educated man, a good speaker and debater. Soon he will choose him as his confessor, although José Pío was so young. And soon, due to a stroke, he will discharge on the young priest's shoulders much of his own responsibilities... Sr. José Pío never says enough: his apostolic ambitions are very strong because, gradually, they go deeper into the endless mine of the Christ Priesthood in which he participates, and they focus his objective in the sanctifying efficacy of the cross.

Sir José Pío cannot understand himself without the Cross; which was his strength and weakness, his ruling passion.



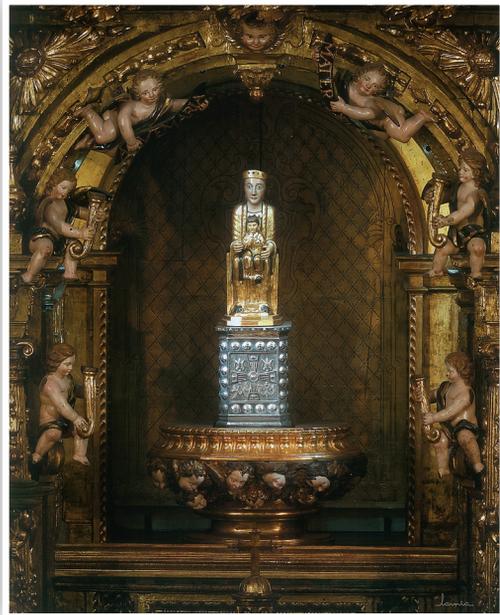
Altarpiece of the Church of St. María del Juncal, 16th Century

Under a worthy outward appearance, noble bearing and even elegant, it hides, firstly the ascetic, after the ascetic and the mystic. He is a multifaceted figure, which exactly matches with the model Priest brought to the forefront by the Vatican II in its "Presbyterorum Ordinis" decree.

God wanted to make from Sir José Pío Guruchaga a priest through and through. A man shot through the priesthood, viscerally doomed to transcendence.

He is an iceberg. Everything we appreciate from him in the outside, and all the tremendous work that he develops over sixty-two years of priesthood lived in fullness, are just a small part of his being and his intense inner life. He carries in his heart a love which inspires and impels him to action, which burns him and oxidizes his miseries and transforms him into Jesus. These are his constantly repeated words: "Jesus, i want to be You"... It is difficult, very difficult to know Sr. José Pío, to describe him, because the booming life of God beats in his intimate fiber... And God is Mystery.

Enemy of dreams, he strives in the daily struggle to overcome his energetic character; he makes penance, fasts and nails into his knees for hours before the tabernacle before dawn ... His alarm clock goes off, invariably, at 4 am.



Niche of the Virgin, St. María del Juncal, recently restored



Sir José with a niece at a family party



Group of girls of First Communion with Sir José Pío as responsible for their education

He goes to confession very very often. He also keeps contact by letter with his spiritual director. And when the need is pressing, he even goes to Vitoria to consult him, or the Father Asunción himself will come to Irún...

More than fifty years later, his altar boy at that time remembers the mass of Sr. José Pío... "No priest celebrated it as he did"... The Eucharist was the center of his life. His spiritual diary, written tenaciously every day, says that in statements that can only come out from an identified heart with the one of Priest Christ.

Priest and apostle, he reaches the highest levels in the pastoral from then, with his ten to twelve hours daily in the confessional booth.

With ... the organization and direction of a living and beating catechesis including the education and cultivation of the model catechesis. "Those kids of yesterday" still remember him today...

With... the erection in the parish church, and the encouragement and personal guidance of all known Eucharistic Works: " Eucharistic Thursday, Marys of the Tabernacles, Tarcisios, and above all as enthusiastic Director of the Night Worship for which he had a singular appreciation, participating in its vigils and praising it both orally and in writing. He went with his men on a pilgrimage to Rome.

He also creates the Daytime Worship of the Eucharist, with women and youth groups, men and women, and so he has Christ accompanied twenty-four hours a day.

He is a pleasant pious and servant of Our Lady St. Mary.

...THAT WITH PROVIDENT AUDACITY IT ALSO REFLECTS HIMSELF IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

*H*is eagle eyes - what a gaze he had! – still found other fields of action: sick people, whom he visited regularly, even though they lived in farmhouses far from the city centre, workers ... Sir José perceived with great clarity the then pressing social

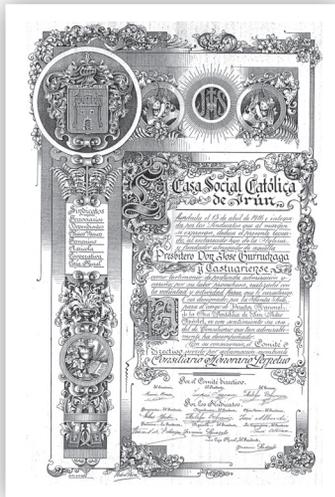
problems. His enormous common sense, his love for the neighbor, impel him to help them. We are in 1913. The social injustices, evidents, severes, did not get any official solution. Only in 1919 it will be created the Social Welfare Institute...

but without obligation... and meanwhile, day after day, risks of death in the mines, disease and unemployment without subsidy; working days up to sixteen and eighteen hours, with ridiculous wages... How many extreme problems felt the Priest in his daily contact with the souls!

Sir José Pío, the poor curate of the *Juncal*, can only provide for the benefit of the working class his intelligence and priestly heart. He knows from first hand the farming problems of Guipúzcoa, he hears the complaints of the farmers against the intransigence of the owners or the municipality... They are fair: the Basque landlord loses his bread... Sr. José encourages and gives his support to them: he turns himself into their defender. And he even has to be in the dock for his frank and open support for the interests of the oppressed. He even supports a necessary



Appointment of Honorary President for which he had been the founder of the Women's Union



Appointment of Honorary Chaplain of the various trade unions which he established during the years he was curate in the parish church of St. Maria del Juncal



A retreat day with the Men of Catholic Action from which he was

and just strike, though enacted by the Socialists. Today they would say that he is a "progressive" priest...

His fellow priests leave him alone; with a retrograde and myopic perspective they considered the social action as inappropriate of a clergyman... despite the "Rerum Novarum".

But Sir José continues. From 1913 until 1919 he will found and lead up as many as eleven Unions for men and women: Railroad Union, Various Trades Union, Women Union of Nazareth, Dependents Union, Mother Union, the Agricultural Union with its own savings bank and a Consumptions Cooperative, the "Safety Area", an embryonic unemployment insurance, etc... He also thinks about an old age insurance plan, but because of a lack of time, he did not get to perform it.

Delegate of the Catholic Agrarian National Confederation, 1921.

President and Inspector of the *Caja Rural* (Savings bank) in Irún.

Sir José Pío was the brain of those groups of workers, and their soul.

To sum up, a constellation of Unions turning around a priest. Even better: centering around the basic ideas of the Catholic social doctrine, sieved by his strong and fine spirituality. He writes for himself and for the priest who will advise them in the future: "When the supreme pastors, when the Pastor of pastors have spoken, we - priests - must not disagree." "Just to cry the absence of the people in our churches... this is not for apostles. It is necessary to go out!"



The Virgin of Fátima, Pilgrim, is received with great enthusiasm in the city of Irún on her way to Russia. 1947

“Souls, souls! Christianizing souls!... Making Jesus reign in the individual and in the family and society. For that we must go, and just for that, to the Trade Unions.

The day you marry to politics, you will have lost your divine fruitfulness.

Politics? Get away, get away, “Ad maiora natus sum” ...

An intense ministry in Irún. And it is not enough for him.

PRIESTLY IDEAL WHICH TRASCENDS THE MISSIONARY WORLD WITH THE “PRO NATIVE CLERGY” DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG CHURCHES



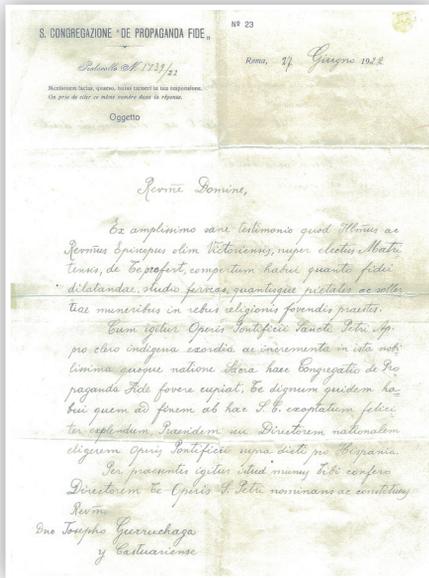
A day of “rest” in his apostolic journeys

Sir José Pío is universalist, ecumenic. He looks with great affection to the Church activism: the missions.

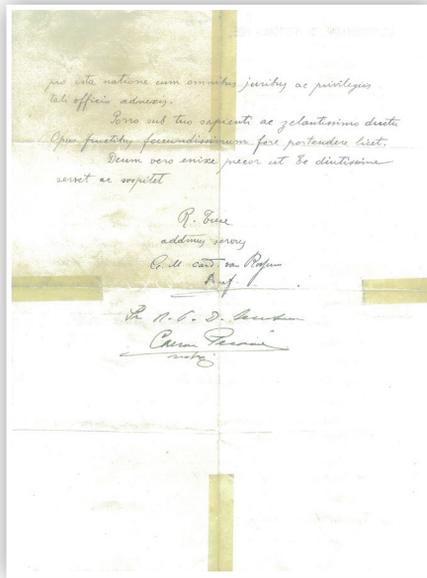
Just arrived, he introduced in the Parish the tasks for the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood, which then began to timidly germinate in Spain. As all priestly themes were by him welcomed, he was the first one to introduce into our country the missionary Society of St. Peter Apostle for the Native Clergy... four years after it was elevated by the Holy See to the Pontifical level. His priestly instinct guessed, on the initiative of Estefanía Cottin and her daughter Juana de Bigard, the enormous importance of a task facing the missionary problem at its deepest root: the education of the native clergy.

Firstly in Irún, then throughout all the diocesan field, he was a tireless propagandist with countless trips, conferences and contacts with the clergy of the three Basque provinces.

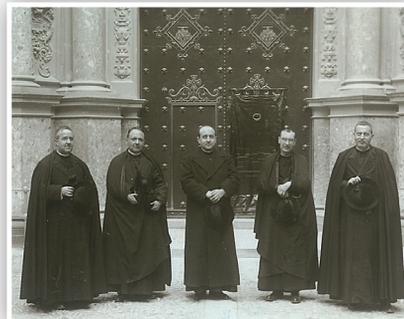
Like a stone which breaks the waters of the lake, his concentric circles will widen and will cover the whole Spain... Because, when they had to introduce of-



Appointment of National Director of the Society of St. Peter for the Native Clergy



Consecration of the Bishop of Nagasaki, Monsignor Hayasaka, who reached to perform his priestly vocation thanks to the efforts of the Servant of God who joyfully attended the celebration



In Montserrat, where he took refuge to soak up the true spirit of the liturgy

officially in Spain the Society of St. Peter Apostle in 1922, the Holy See appointed Sr. José Gurruchaga as its first National Director, shortly after, in Italy, Blessed Giuseppe Angelo Roncalli, the future Pope John XIII, was chosen as the future Pope John XXIII, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Therefore Sr. José Pío had to move to Madrid... It must be said, as that good priest: "No one can understand God...". Because Sr. José Pío had so many charity works to do!... and the most important one, his Daughters of the Apostolic Union, still in secrecy. It had sprung from the depths of his priestly heart: it is his own projection.

... AND WITH THE FOUNDATION OF THE AUXILIARY PARISH SISTERS OF CHRIST PRIEST

Sir José feels that the parish needs feminine souls consecrated for ever to serve and love Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest. In absolute dedication. To accompany the diocesan priest and to be his support in all moral and material needs of the parish. Praying for him, "*sine intermissione*" ... in the complete liturgical life. Teaching catechism, visiting sick people, doing charity works, etc. And all this based on a firm substrate for austerity: hermits at home and missionaries out of it... It's a very broad and bold project which three girls, collaborating with him and leaded by him began to perform in 1918.



Sir José, a young priest, in the house garden. He dreamed ... "wherever there is a parish, there must be a Daughters Community of the Apostolic Union."



Group of young people in Irún who went to the confessional of priest Sir José Pío. Among them the first Daughters of the Apostolic Union came out

Sir José Pío is criticized, even they slander him... They do not understand that work of him, so ecclesial and evangelical. They prophesy its close extinction when the Founder leaves. But Sir José Pío trusts in God. He knows that since it is his business, he will protect it. And thus it was. Today it is the religious Congregation of Pontifical Law under the title of Auxiliary Parish Sisters of Christ Priest, serving in Europe and America in more than twenty parishes and cathedrals. But then the Founder had to live by faith. He had to overcome many difficulties and crosses just until seeing it finished.

Obedient to Rome's voice, he left his small Institute in Irún and he began his missionary concerns around all Spain as a National Director of the Society of St. Peter Apostle, introducing it in fifty-two dioceses. Aware of the significance of the Society for the expansion of the Church, he was a tireless traveller going to seminars and Parishes in order to hear the voice of Christendoms from distant countries calling for native priests.



Altarpiece of the first Chapel of the Daughters of the Apostolic Union, which was installed at number 14, floor 3rd, of the Avda de Francia, in Irún, when they started the Community life on February 6th, 1927

His vast experience in the ecclesial life of the Parish, microorganism and living cell of the Mother Church, lead him to the conclusion that if Church had to expand itself, it must be hierarchically, establishing indigenous Bishops in the new dioceses, with their native clergy.

"MANY AND HOLY PRIESTS", this was the strong desire of this man in love with the Church.

"MANY": Here were his action and his priesthood at the service of the missionary cause.

"SAINTS": Here was his life of personal prayer, "pro eis", and the one of the Institute he was developing.



First Daughters of the Apostolic Union, already with their habit



In 1968, being erected as Religious Congregation of Diocesan Law, they change their name. From now on they will be called: Auxiliary Parish Sisters of Christ Priest

Amid his missionary tasks he felt in his soul the need to deal only with the training of his Daughters, and so he asked to the Lord... And God heard him and changed his course.

On June 24th, 1929, H.H. Pius XI coordinated by the *Motu Proprio "Decessor Noster"* the Misionary Pontifical Societies, working as Director of the "pro native clergy" Sir. Ángel Sagarmínaga, who was already Director of the Propagation of Faith.

Sir José Pío deeply obeyed this regulation of Rome and left to his dear friend Mr. Ángel that work, his creation, full of life and studded with promises: three hundred scholarships and pensions paid with a million *pesetas* show the superficial balance of the management of Sir José Pío. The most efficient and valuable thing of the life of this priest was not his material achievements, which are many, but his intense inner life and his dedication to God in the priesthood. In complete and absolute availability.

His incipient Institute was not dead, but full of life and it began to be established in different parishes: Valencia, Aya, Orio, Biarritz. Then Bilbao, Las Arenas, Madrid, Haro, etc.. would shortly follow.



PIONEER OF THE LITURGICAL REFORM

Priesthood and Liturgy: here is a combination which somehow expresses the life and work of Sir José Pío.



Liturgical day. San Sebastián, 12/09/1941

His love for the Church led him to deepen in its Liturgy, expression and vehicle of faith.

When it was nearly unknown, even in Church spheres... Sir José studies and LIVES it, touching on its deepest roots: the Priesthood of Jesus the Eternal High Priest from whom the priests take part, and in a considerably lower level, the laypeople.

Already in the 1920's he is in contact with the Abbeys of St. Peter of Solesmes (France) and St. Andrés (Belgium), foci of liturgical renewal. He soon begins his ministry with talks, liturgical weeks, etc... ending in the Sacred Art Exhibition of Vitoria.

He preaches Spiritual Exercises to laypeople and priests. Hearing him speaking about the Liturgy, one of the priests said: "Until today I have not known what the Mass is ! I'm looking forward tomorrow's day to celebrate it again!...". Seminarians of Vitoria gave him the most honorable nickname: Sir José Gurruchaga "the divine liturgist"... So many were the times he named Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest. Sir José Pío ("divine liturgist"... by his own unction and outstanding priestly and cultural performance) had something special... He was the transparency of Christ when celebrating the Eucharist, administering the sacraments, with delicate unction, which transcended



Presbytery of the Oratory of the Mother House in Irún, after the liturgical reform of the Vatican Council II



Painful Virgin of the Chapel of the Auxiliary Parish Sisters of Christ Priest in Irún. Gracious carving made under the inspiration and indications of Sir José Pío, by sculptor J. Fernández Andés

his whole person.

From 1931 he had a brief homily daily in the Holy Mass. He imported, from France, the first bilingual missals for the faithful and he wanted them to receive communion during the Mass, with consecrated hosts in it.

For Sir José Pío “Christian life” meant “liturgical life,” and so he put a big effort to stamp this character on his Institute, in total harmony with the peculiarities of the liturgical times, living in constant union with the spirit of the Church.

To dignify the worship, to unravel the sublime mystery which lies beneath the rigidity of the signatures, sending to the faithful the wellspring of living waters, clearing the way of obstacles and corruption accumulated over the centuries: such was the sublime effort of this simple priest and the campaign

he promoted against the sentimentality in lectures, images, songs, etc... Therefore, the Gregorian chant, best part of the sacred music, was the object of his predilection. He studied it thoroughly. He took his Daughters to the Abbey of Solesmes, finding for them there an exceptional Master in Dom Gajard. The Motherhouse of his Institute in Irún was a practical school of liturgical life, in the worship, in the creation of sacred vestments of the Church and art resources. And these are the criteria which lead the performance of his sisters, extension of his spirit.

Auxiliary Parish Sister leading the singing in a liturgical celebration

Here is a brief summary about this Apostle of the Liturgy given by Sir José María Cirarda: “His love to the Priesthood and the Church inspired Sir José Pío a really admirable respect to the Sacred Liturgy, so astonishing that he went ahead in years to what would later be the renewed initiatives of the Vatican Council II. Facts like this turned him

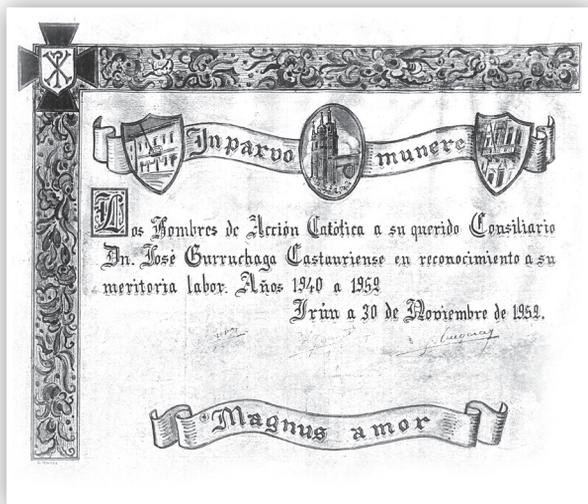


into a true prophet in Spain: his spirit guessed what should be and was not yet, but always loyal to the Magisterium, he never broke any regulations of the liturgical norms, though he was always in the forefront of pastoral and apostolic creativity. God had given him an exquisite soul, who loved beauty, but he never got carried by an sterile archaist aestheticism, but to turn the liturgical beauty into a mean of apostolic penetration in order to achieve the renewal of liturgical celebrations and the participation of the faithful in them, especially in the Eucharist... ”



FROM IRÚN TO BILBAO, AS FIRST DEAN OF HIS CATHEDRAL'S CHAPTER

Sir José, Priest and Victim with Christ Priest, penitent as a hermit, prayer man, with a delicate and pure conscience; of inexhaustible goodness, incapable of harming anyone or bearing a grudge.... Sir José. Prudent, magnanimous. Sir José, the priest who reserving all himself for God, gives himself inexhaustibly to the sons of God. And especially to the priests.



Recognition of the Men of Catholic Action of Irún for his meritorious work



Cathedral of Santiago, Bilbao

During the war he personally goes or sends two of his daughters to the *Puente Internacional* (International bridge) many times, just in case an undocumented and without resources priest comes back to the nation. So many like this!... The wardrobe of Sir José was completely empty.

He collects all money he can to help his brother priests persecuted in the Republican zone. He takes in his house for over a year a blind and sick old man who found in the International bridge, inconsolable because he was not given the visa for his son. He is his guest of honour: he serves and assists him... and even he will sit at the piano in order to distract him in his loneliness. And so many others receive his charity.

Sir José... holds the chair of philosophy at the Institute of Irún... free of charge.

Chaplain of the Men of Catholic Action... of the Farmers... and he will find time even to do odd jobs of carpentry, to imitate better the Carpenter of Nazareth.

In addition, he preaches series of spiritual retreats to priests, seminarians and sisters.

Until his death he will give three series every year to her Daughters and will visit their eighteen houses. Sir José... Sir José... His yearnings for holiness are the constant feature which underlies each minute of his life. His diary noted it with great simplicity.

...And he knows it. "I wish for me the obscurity of the world and to live alone with my God who loves me so much". So this profoundly humble man had written it. Even more: he does not want at his death an honorable burial



Sir José Pío Gurruchaga takes a taxi to his final departure to Bilbao.



Sir José Pío, first Dean of the Cathedral's Chapter of Bilbao

for his mortal remains, but to be thrown in a dunghill. But... these are not the plans of God. Like Abraham, the Lord breaks in his simple life again and says him again: "Leave your country..."

Sir Casimiro Morcillo, first Bishop of Bilbao, wants Sir José Pío Gurruchaga to be the first Dean of his Cathedral in St. Santiago and to organize there the worship and liturgical life. And despite being seventy-two years old, the kind Sir José Pío leaves his home and his tasks in Irún and moves to the newly created Diocese and settles in the small flat of La Ribera.



Sir José Pío accompanies the H.H. Bishop Sir Casimiro Morcillo, first Bishop of Bilbao, in his pastoral visits

*In Las Arenas (Vizcaya),
Retreat House of the
Auxiliary Parish Sisters.
Sir José Pío with a group
of men who have done a
retreat under his direction*



Organising the cathedral's life in symbiosis with the secular Parish of Santiago; adapting it to the new requirements of the first Temple of the Diocese of Bizkaia, reforming the church, the organ. Establishing the liturgical life, enhancing the celebrations, creating the infants choir school, chairing a newly created Chapter, etc., So much activity, prudence and tact were required! But the Dean has them in abundance. He is the man to praise God. Loyal to the choir as much as he could. A man of prayer. "I am a man who prays"... So defines himself. One of the canons writes about the Dean: "I never found him extroverted"... Sir José Pío already reached the peaks, I lived the maturity of his priesthood and it distilled the sweetness of the Holy Spirit fruits. And this was immediately detected by the souls lovers of the truth.

A man of prayer and action:...

He chairs the Administrative Committee of the Seminar.

He manages the Migration Secretariat.

He is General Visitor of Religious.

Diocesan President of the Apostolic Union of Priests.

He writes letters and letters...

He still organizes some spiritual retreats for men, he meets them weekly at his house: he preaches them retreats.

“HE IS A COMPLETE PRIEST” AND “A HUNDRED PERCENT PRIEST”, ON THE WAY TO THE ALTARS

Until the last autumn of his life, he visited every single house of the Institute. This year he received extraordinarily joyful the Diocesan Approval of his institute. It is the “*Nunc dimittis*”... He wants to leave the deanery but he is not allowed. But his life is declining, rather, it enters into the final straight. That great Priest, “hundred percent Priest”: “A complete Priest”, goes up the steps of the

Altar of Sacrifice to celebrate his last and very personal Mass. If he has always lived under the shadow of the cross, now this becomes more dense: the loneliness surrounds him, the isolation, the illness: his weary heart refuses to keep beating. He has suffered so much! But he loved much more. He will not be able to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice in a long season. Arriving in March, he seems to be recovering and to be able to celebrate stand up! on Easter Sunday –despite his enormous weakness- he could celebrate, the Holy Sacrifice, as suited to the “divine liturgist,” but aided by his terrific nurse, Father Manuel Martínez, Camillo Priest... “It was the Mass of the sacrifice of his life.”



F. Manuel Martinez, Camillo Religious who attended him with all charity during his last illness



Room where the St. of God gave his soul to God at noon on May 22th, 1967

Finally, conscious, full of peace, he asked and received the Holy Sacraments. On May 22th, while the bell played the “Angelus”, he gently gave up his soul to God. His mortal remains were interred in the cemetery of Irún.

The Congregation of his Daughters, the Auxiliary Parish Sisters of Christ Priest, becoming spokesman for the feelings of many prelates, priests and people; estimating the heroic virtues of its founding Father, while driven by the own con-



Opening of the process of canonization of the Servant of God in Bilbao, being Bishop of the Diocese, the H.H Sir Luis María Larrea. 19/10/1990

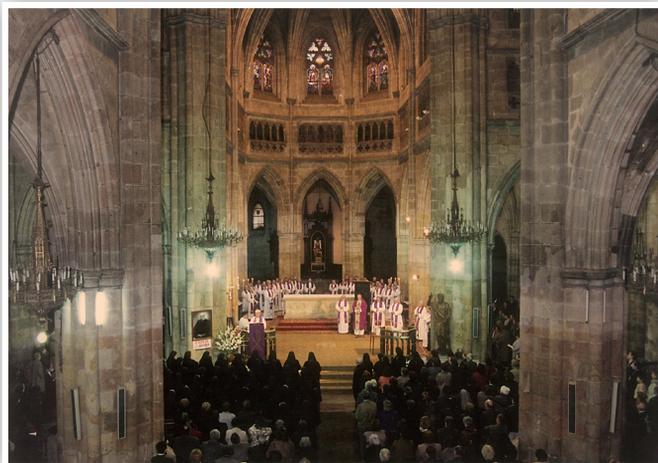
viction, asked Sir Bishop of Bilbao the introduction of the Cause of Canonization of the Servant of God.

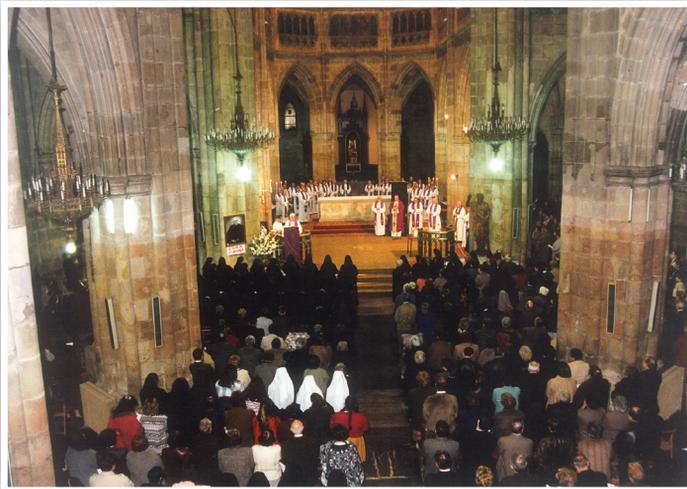
On October 19th, 1990, the Diocesan process was opened in Bilbao, chaired by H.H. Sir Luis María Larrea, Bishop of the Diocese, and it was happily closed on March 13th, 1993, chaired by the same Bishop.

Finally, on March 26th of that year, the documentation of the Process was delivered in the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints and the march of the Apostolic Process was opened.

In this last phase Mrs. Silvia Mónica Correale was appointed as Postulator of the Process due to the serious illness of Father Benito Gangoiti, O.P. until then Postulator of the Cause.

Holy Mass in the closing ceremony of the Canonization Process, chaired by Bishop Sir Luis María Larrea and concelebrated by priests coming from the Cathedrals and Parishes where the Auxiliary Parish Sisters serve





Closing ceremony of the Diocesan Process of Canonization. In the Cathedral of Santiago in Bilbao. 13/03/1993

From February 7th, 2007, the mortal remains of the Servant of God rest at the back of the Oratory of the Auxiliary Parish Sisters Community in Irún, in a place ready for it. From that day this site will be a place of prayer and favours petition.

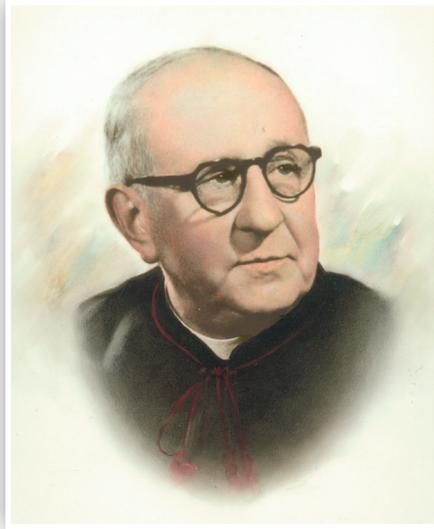
The Servant of God was a living and breathing model of priestly holiness who questions us today from his absolute fidelity to Christ and to his Church, and he can therefore be a model who inspires and encourages the Priests of the third millennium.



The Mother House, remodeled and new, changes its address: Calle Francisco de Gainza, 3. IRÚN



Inside the Oratory; place, where in a sarcophagus, the venerable mortal remains of the Servant of God José Pío Gurruchaga, rest.



PRAYER

*G*od our Father, we thank you because you made your servant JOSÉ PÍO a faithful priest, with an extraordinary love for Christ Priest and the Virgin Mary, promoter of the liturgical and missionary life in your Church, tireless seeker of your glory and the good of his brothers; Give us his early glorification, to grow in faith, and the grace which we now ask you through his intercession.

For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

Amen

-Our Father...

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AUXILIARY PARISH SISTERS OF CHRIST PRIEST

Allende el Río s/n
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