

Fr. Luis María Landa Unanue (Zumárraga, 1940 – Barcelona, 2026)



The Spanish Province of the Camillians commends to the Father's mercy the life of Fr. Luis María Landa Unanue, a Camillian religious and priest, who passed away on the morning of July 1, 2026, in the community of Sant Pere de Ribes (Barcelona) at the age of 86.

News of his passing brings sadness to those who shared the journey of faith and mission with him. Yet, Christian hope illuminates this moment with the certainty that he, who dedicated his life to serving Christ in the sick, now shares in the definitive embrace of the Risen Lord. As Saint Paul writes: "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:7-9).

Born in Zumárraga (Guipúzcoa, Spain) on June 21, 1940, Fr. Luis María discovered his call to the priesthood at an early age. After completing his studies at the Diocesan Seminary of Bilbao and obtaining a licentiate in Theology from the University of Deusto, he was ordained a priest on July 4, 1973. His early years of ministry were spent in the Diocese of San Sebastián, where he generously carried out pastoral service as a parish priest and hospital chaplain, discovering that the face of Christ becomes especially visible in the frailty of those who suffer.

That pastoral experience was shaping a profoundly marked vocation for seeking the sick. On his way to Ghana as hospital chaplain, together with Brothers of St. John of God, he continued to strengthen his desire to dedicate his whole life to the ministry of mercy. Convinced that the caregiver requires both preparation and competence, he completed his training with studies in nursing, clinical assistant technician and specialization in geriatrics, integrating professional knowledge with a profound evangelical sensitivity.

This path met in full when, moved by the charism of San Camillo de Lellis, he entered the Order of the Ministers of the Enfermes in 1990. A year later he entered into his temporal profession and, in 1994, he achieved his solemn profession in Vagues (Argentina), definitively entering in the service of Christ present in the sick.

Argentina lived for many years in the main scenario of its mission. From the community of Vagues he collaborated in the pastoral care of healthcare and in the training of pre-novices, while later, as head of the «Ángel H. Roffo» Oncology Hospital of Buenos Aires, he accompanied with extraordinary delicacy to innumerable patients and families in some of the most important moments difficulties in your lives. There, he also served as teacher of temporal vows teachers, promoted vocational pastoral care, accompanied the Camilian lay family and formed part of the team of pastoral care, making visible the merciful heart of Christ where the last prayer seemed to be held.

Between 2013 and 2017 he abandoned the service of Superior of the Vagues community and advisor of the Argentine Delegation. Those who shared with those years gathered in a religious search, serene and profoundly fraternal, always willing to educate, encourage and support their brothers with discretion and simplicity.

In October 2019 he returned to the Spanish Province and was destined for the community of Sant Pere de Ribes, where, due to the progressive deterioration of his health, he received the care and kindness of the community. Also in this last stage of his life, he continued evangelizing from the silence of the illness, accepted with peace, trust and abandonment in the hands of God. On the way to live fragility was, for those who were around him, an eloquent testimony of faith and hope.

Today the Spanish Province thanks the Lord for the gift of his life and for the fruitful ministry that he developed during decades in the service of the Church and the Order. In this way, St. Camillo's ideal of "putting more heart in our hands" was realized, making care a concrete expression of the love of Christ for the sick, the elderly and those who experience pain.

With the contemplation of the Resurrected Christ, we speak the words of the Gospel: «I am the resurrection and the life; he who creates in me, even if he is dead, will live" (Jn 11,25).

May the Lord, who served him faithfully throughout his life in the beak of the sick, receives him now in the fullness of his King and grants him eternal forgiveness. Rest in the peace of the Lord.