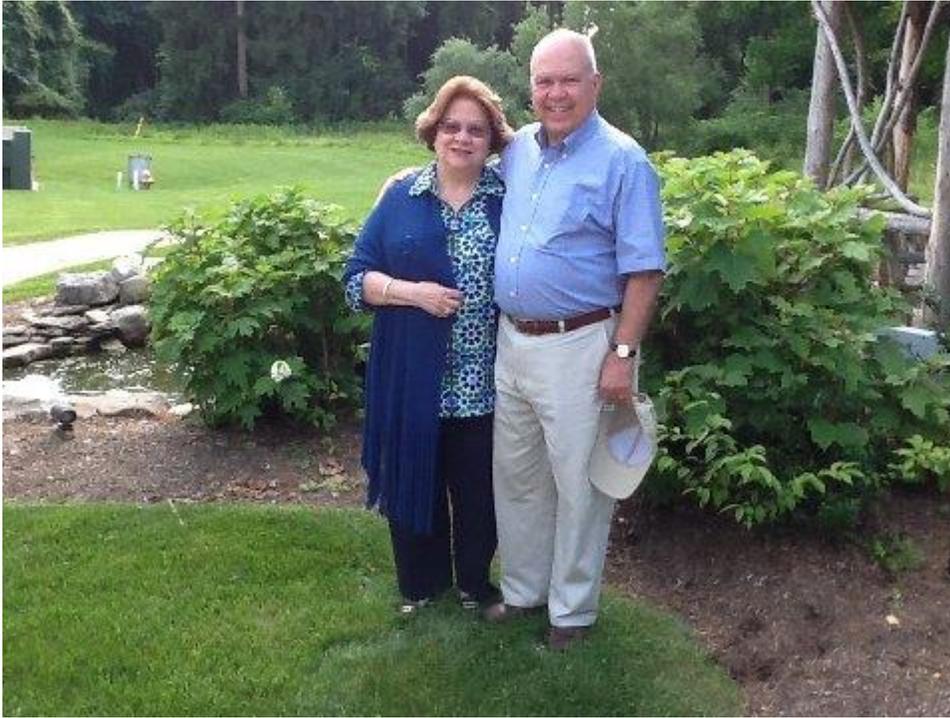


Gratitude for Following St. Joseph Calasanz



I am pretty sure that everyone knows the meaning of gratitude. Well, I would like to share with you my opinion of a very special person, who always made reference to his gratitude for the Piarist Fathers – yes, the group of priests and teachers, who made a remarkable difference in his life.

He is a man, who came from a humble family. Three members in his family were hearing-impaired. How many people have stopped to think about what his life was like while he was growing up? He always said that he had been blessed to have been able to attend the Piarist School in Havana for 13 years. He received an excellent formation there. Upon leaving Cuba, he lived with the Piarist Fathers in Sarriá (Barcelona) for two years. When he moved to Puerto Rico, he himself became an educator. Throughout his entire life, he was always associated in one way or another with the Piarist Fathers.

Ever since he began his college studies, he was determined to become a professor and to help the needy. He was a professor at the University of the Sacred Heart for many years. During that time, he also served as a counselor for those students, who were in need of proper guidance. After retiring, he served at SEPI in numerous projects and committees for more than 14 years. One of his proudest achievements was to serve as Director of the little school

(escuelita) where several volunteers helped to prepare the pre-novices to obtain their GED and to qualify for college studies.

Yes, in his simple way, he worked with the poor by helping them by following the example of St. Joseph Calasanz. He felt so grateful to be able to pay back, in a small way, for the great formation and for so many other blessings, which he had received from the Piarists. I always accompanied him, and I also had the privilege of teaching the pre-novices for almost 12 years. In addition, I have also enjoyed helping the fathers by providing written translations and simultaneous interpretation services at more than 15 conferences, retreats or meetings.

By now I am sure that you know that I am speaking about Humberto, my late husband. He passed away just 4 ½ months ago. His sense of gratitude toward the Piarist Fathers was such an important factor in his life. Even in his last few days, he made it so much easier for us to pull through by planning and arranging many details. He asked me to continue to stand up for him by helping the Piarists. He was eternally grateful for the proper seed, which he had received through his Piarist education.

Fathers, thank you for letting us serve you!

**Mrs. Emmy Prieto
Solemnity of Saint Joseph Calasanz
August 25, 2017
Fort Lauderdale, FL**

