



**OBITUARIES**

**Monsignor Garmendia, the first Basque bishop of New York, passed away**

Monsignor Garmendia, the first Basque bishop of New York, passed away on November 16 after a long disease. Born in Lazkao, Guipuzkoa, 81 years ago, and after a stay in Argentina and Bolivia, he moved to New York in 1964, where he was appointed bishop in June 1977 by Pope Paul the 6th.

In 1986, Cardinal John O'Connor named him vicar of the South Bronx, a post he held until he retired in 2001, when he was replaced by the current assistant bishop, also Basque, Josu Iriondo.

From the Bronx, Monsignor Garmendia dedicated all his work to helping the Hispanic community. He funded la Línea de Esperanza del Vicariato of the South Bronx to serve the Honduran community and other Latin American immigrants.

Mario J. Paredes, director of investment for the Spanish market of Merrill Lynch, who knew Monsignor Garmendia well, said, in the pages of IBLNEWS, that "in all the activities he undertook, he always lived up to the gentlemanliness of the Basque people, and did so without the slightest trace of conceit or haughtiness, in total independence, never yielding or faltering, following only his conscience. It is difficult to find such authenticity and Christianity in our days".

Throughout his long stay in New York, Garmendia never forgot his roots and always kept in touch with the Basque community. The chairwoman of the euskal etxea in New York, Itziar Albisu, remembered him like this on Radio Euskadi: "For us he was Patxi;



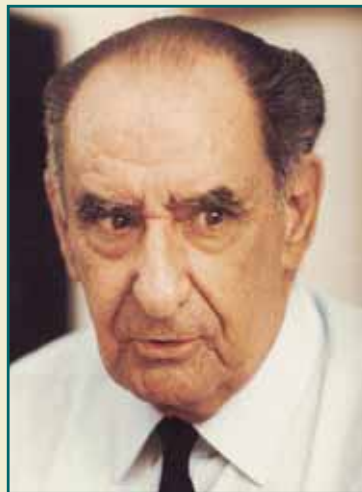
That was what many people called him in the Euskal Etxea where he was remembered as a very accessible man. Every year he said the Aberri Eguna mass and always liked to talk to everyone afterwards".

"In his later years", Albisu concludes, "he no longer came because he was ill, and the truth is



that we all deeply regret his death. He said a lot of masses for members of the Basque community who had passed away, and now we are now holding this mass in his memory", concluded Albisu.

The funeral for the soul of Francisco Garmendia in the cathedral of San Patricio was celebrated by the Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Edward Egan.



**Ricardo Maguregui**

The former delegate of the Basque Government in Venezuela, Ricardo Maguregui from 1951 to 1955, also passed away in the month of October. Maguregui was honoured in the acts celebrated during the Basque Week organised by the General Secretariat of Foreign Action.

BASQUE CENTRES