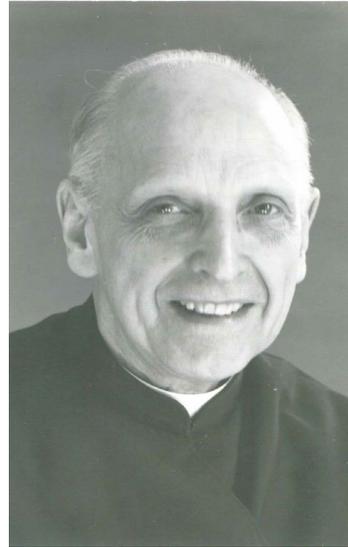


Chronology of Father Pedro Arrupe Gondra, S.J. (1907-1991)

1907: 14 November. Born in Bilbao, Vizcaya (Spain). His parents were Marcelino Arrupe (architect) and Dolores Gondra, both natives of Munguía (Vizcaya), a town near Bilbao. His father was also co-founder of the Bilbao newspaper, *La Gaceta del Norte*. Baptized in the basilica of Santiago the day after his birth.

1914: 1 October. Began secondary school studies with the Piarists in Bilbao.

1918: 29 March. Entered the Saint Stanislaus Kostka Marian Congregation (Bilbao), directed by Jesuits.



1922: Began medical studies in Valladolid and continued them from 1923 to 1927 in the Faculty of San Carlos in Madrid, where at the end of his second year he won the extraordinary prize for therapeutics. As a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society he visited the marginal districts of Madrid, where he assisted the poor, the sick, and other needy persons. This experience affected him deeply.

1926: Death of his father. Soon afterward, he traveled with his sisters to Lourdes (France), where he witnessed more than one miraculous healing. He took part, as a medical student, in the verification process of one such healing. He would later say, "I felt God so close in his miracles that he dragged me after him."

1927: 25 January. Entered the Society of Jesus at Loyola, Guipúzcoa (Spain), where he made his novitiate and studied humanities for two years.

1932: Expulsion of the Jesuits from Spain. Having begun his philosophy studies at Oña, Burgos (Spain) in 1931, he had to continue them, along with all his companions, in Marneffe (Belgium).

1933-1936: Studied theology with the German Jesuits at the Ignatiuskolleg in Valkenburg (Holland).

1936: 30 July. Ordained a priest in Marneffe (Belgium).

1936-1937: Completed theology studies at St. Mary's College, Kansas (United States).

1937-1938: Did his year of "tertianship" (the course of spiritual renewal that Jesuits take after finishing studies and before pronouncing final vows) in Cleveland, Ohio (United States). He worked in the prisons with Spanish and other Latino immigrants.

1938: 7 June. Received his assignment to Japan, after persistently requesting it of Father General for ten years.

1938: 15 October. Once assigned to the Japanese mission, he traveled to Yokohama and Tokyo. He spent two years in Nagatsuka, Hiroshima, studying Japanese language and culture.

1939-1940: Began his missionary activity in the “Jochi Catholic Settlement” in Tokyo. For several months he was acting pastor in Yamaguchi, a place first evangelized by Saint Francis Xavier.

1941: 8 November. Being a foreigner when Japan entered the Second World War, he was arrested and interrogated by the police on suspicion of espionage. He was set free on 12 January 1942.

1942: 9 March: Named master of novices and went to live in Nagatsuka, Hiroshima.

1942: 13 March. Named vice-rector of the novitiate and the house of theology studies in Nagatsuka.

1943: 2 February. Made solemn profession in the Society of Jesus.

1946: 6 August. At 8.45 in the morning he witnessed the explosion of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima; he could see it from the novitiate in Nagatsuka, on the city's edge. He helped organize an emergency hospital in the novitiate itself, and he assisted about 200 patients with the most basic medical techniques (most of which he had learned in medical school).

1954: 22 March. Named vice-provincial of Japan (1954-1958).

1958: 10 October. Japan made a new Province of the Society, but with an international character. Arrupe named the first Provincial Superior (1958-1965). By that time he had already traveled around the world several times recruiting Jesuits and collecting funds for the Japanese mission. He now redoubled his efforts, and during his term the Province reached a membership of 300 Jesuits coming from 30 nations.

1965: March to May. Named by Vicar General John L. Swain to form part of the preparatory commission for General Congregation 31 of the Society of Jesus.

1965: 7 May. Beginning of General Congregation 31.

1965: 22 May. Arrupe elected 28th General Superior of the Society of Jesus.

1965: 15 July. End of the first session of General Congregation 31.

1965: October to December. Took part in the fourth session of the Second Vatican Council. He spoke in the aula on atheism and the Church's missionary activity.

1965: December to January 1966. Made his first trip outside Italy as Superior General, traveling to the Near East and Africa. Many other trips would follow.

1966: 8 September. Beginning of the second session of General Congregation 31.

1966: 17 November. End of the second session of General Congregation 31.

1967: 27 June. Elected president of the Union of Superiors General. Re-elected successively in 1970, 1973, 1976, and 1979.

1967: 9 October. Participated in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, representing the Union of Superiors General (and again in 1969, 1971, 1974, 1977, and 1980).

1968: August. Participated in the 2nd General Assembly of the Bishops' Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Medellín (Colombia).

1968-1973: Named by the Pope as a member of the Congregation for Religious Congregations and Secular Institutes.

1973: 8 September. Convoked General Congregation 32.

1974: 1 December to 7 March 1975. Presided at General Congregation 32.

1975: Named by the Pope as a member of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and confirmed for second five-year term.

1979: January. Participated in the 3rd General Assembly of the Bishops' Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Puebla (Mexico).

1980: 14 November. Created the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).

1980: First trimester. With the approval of the General Assistants and almost all the provincials—as required by the law of the Society of Jesus—Arrupe decides to present his resignation as Superior General to the General Congregation, giving as his reason his advanced age. However, Pope John Paul II asked him to continue in office for a while longer.

1981: 7 August. Suffered a serious cerebral thrombosis upon returning to Rome from a trip to the Philippines and Thailand. As a result, he lost a good part of his ability to communicate, and his right side was paralyzed.

1981: 5 September. Transferred to the infirmary of the Society's curia in Rome, where he would pass the rest of his life incapacitated by ill health.

1981: 6 October. Received the visit of Cardinal Casaroli, who read to him, with only the brother infirmarian present, a letter written by the Pope. The letter advised him that Father Paolo Dezza, S.J. had been named Pontifical Delegate for the Society of Jesus, endowed with the powers of the Superior General until a General Congregation could be held.

1982: 8 December. Convocation of General Congregation 33.

1983: 3 September. The General Congregation accepted the resignation of the Superior General, who had served in the post for 18 years and 4 months, the first 16 years in good health, the last two in silence and prayer.

1983: 13 September. Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach elected as successor to Father Arrupe.

1985: November. His sickness became notably worse as he entered into a state of scant consciousness and communication.

1991: End of January. Entering into an agonal state, he received the visit of Pope John Paul II, who granted him his blessing.

1991: 5 February. Accompanied by Father General and some members of the community, he died at 7.45 PM. Many people visited his chapel as he lay in repose.

1991: 9 February. Funeral Mass in the Church of the Gesù in Rome, presided over, according to tradition, by the Master General of the Order of Preachers and concelebrated by some 300 priests. The burial then took place in the pantheon of the Society of Jesus in the Roman cemetery in the Campo Verano.

1997: 14 November. Transfer of his mortal remains to the Church of the Gesù in Rome, where they now lie.