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Carlos Eduardo Vasco, one of the great educators in Colombia, has died

The death of the Colombian philosopher, doctor and specialist in physics and mathematics has aroused messages of regret in all sectors of the country.

Carlos Eduardo Vasco Uribe, philosopher, doctor and specialist in physics and mathematics, died on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. He was first coordinator of the Mission of Science, Education and Development, popularly called "The Commission of Wise Men", developed in Colombia between 1993. and 1994. He also served as advisor to the Ministry of National Education in the process of preparing the mathematics curriculum from 1978 to 1993 and the Basic Competency Standards in 2001.

Vasco was a teacher for 25 years in the Mathematics Department of the National University of Colombia in Bogotá, where he was Professor Emeritus and Honoris Causa. The rector of said institution, Dolly Montoya, lamented the academic's death: "His valuable contributions will be a great legacy in the #UNAL community. Heartfelt condolences to his family and colleagues." The professor was born in Medellin in 1937.

He studied primary school at the Colegio de la Presentation and secondary school at the Colegio de San Ignacio, where he received his Bachelor's degree on November 13, 1954. He then studied humanities and philosophy at the Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, from where he graduated on October 20. 1962. He began his graduate studies in physics and mathematics at Saint Louis University in the state of Missouri, USA, where he obtained a Master of Science (Physics) in 1967 and a Ph.D. (Mathematics) on February 4, 1968.

Later, he traveled to Germany to study theology at the Hoshschule Sankt-Georgen, Frankfurt am Main, where he finally received a Bachelor of Theology degree on July 14, 1971 and was ordained a priest of the Society of Jesus in that same city.

Upon his return to the Colombia, he dedicated himself to research in mathematics, to the teaching of mathematics and to the study of problems related to this area of knowledge, as well as to numerous social assistance works in the northeastern neighborhoods of Bogotá, as a Jesuit priest. Among many of his recognitions is the IX National Prize for Education in the category "Exaltation to a Life Dedicated to

Education", version 2007-2008 and the "Simón Bolívar" Decoration, in the category "Grand Master Order", from the Ministry of Education.

At the end of last June, when the Autonomous University of Manizales awarded him the title of Honoris Causa for love of science, his contributions to education, knowledge and science in Colombia, the professor stated: "In order to receive this recognition I must ask that all the words that I have affirmed or denied during these 50 years, do not take them as truth, but do not bother to deny them either. I only ask you to take it as an impulse to continue looking for what you want in life."