

# That our mission does not remain in words

## Reflection on the 48th General Chapter

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First, my feeling in reading and reflecting slowly on this document 11 of nucleus 3 of the 48th General Chapter is one of joy and a certain Piarist pride. It presents us with a very complete, current, and updated content at the same time as challenging in line with the title: "An irreplaceable ministry". It presents us with a beautiful Piarist Mission and largely put into practice already in many Piarist presences around the world.

No line, paragraph, reflection and motivation is wasted. And it covers practically all the fields that concern us: centrality of our ministry in the child and young person, references, perhaps more explicit than ever to:

- . the family as the subject and protagonist of education and evangelization,
- . attention to the association with all the teams of the Piarist presence and of the Order,
- . relationship of presence and collaboration with other educational subjects not exactly Piarists,
- . attention to comprehensive educational processes,
- . promotion of a collegial and non-individualistic innovation
- . importance of interculturality in our Mission
- . the various platforms from which to exercise our Ministry
- . importance of the Piarist Christian Community and of the positive and committed confluence of all the educational agents of the Piarist presence.
- . the reference to the many platforms where to exercise the ministry, not only the school, for example
- . "full-time school" as a place where all educational and evangelizing activities fit with Piarist style.
- . Piarist presence going forward

A whole Piarist program for our presences and in all the countries where we minister and in many others that await us. And a program for all the educational and pastoral agents of each Piarist presence.

**LINES OF ACTION OF THE SEXENNIUM:** The document also proposes clear, concrete and current lines of action for all the agents of the Piarist Ministry:

- . the child as the center of the entire educational process
- . enhance the evangelizing dimension of our project
- . effective presence of the Piarist Christian Community
- . offer concrete proposals that give effectiveness to our Piarist Ministry
- . integrate into the dynamics of the Global Educational Pact: relationship and collaboration with the family – education in integral ecology (solidarity, peace and development, dignity and human rights) – networking with other educational and social institutions – Intercultural education – aim to achieve a person and a more human and positive world following the idea and originality of Calasanz.
- . collaboration and synergy between the work teams in each Piarist presence in the province and in the Order.

### NOW WHAT...?

The Holy See has just published the instruction *"The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue"* in which the inspiration of the Catholic educational project in the Gospel is requested. Pedro Huerta, general secretary of Catholic Schools in Spain, notes that *"mutual support is increasingly needed in the face of difficulties, the accompaniment of staff, attention to students and families, care for all educational-pastoral processes"*. Upon the return of the General Chapter, in all our Piarist presences, many religious and lay people of our presences have asked themselves and ask themselves: What have you reflected, what have you concluded, what does this Chapter offer again to our Piarist Ministry...? I

think that now is the time of knowledge of what the Chapter offers us, of dialogue, of the internalization of the beautiful path that it proposes to us to travel together all the agents of the Piarist Ministry in terms of going forward and Piarist synodality. Well, I think that skepticism, ignorance, and the incorporation of the project that the General Chapter invites us to make a reality still abounds. Perhaps we still lack much in the attitude of abandoning areas of power, of seeking applause and individual and institutional recognition. And together we fall in love with our Ministry; in writing this I have in mind the students in the coexistence of yesterday, where they asked for an accompaniment of a Piarist, religious and / or lay in their lives, often lived in solitude, or the group of parents, who also demand an empathetic listening in their mission as educators and evangelizers, who sometimes very immersed in their problems ask vividly that our Ministry take root in their home, as if taking Calasanz to his home and to his neighborhood.

We still get lost many times in silly discussions, in past ideologies, in attitudes of power and having; and we need to convert ourselves to the person, to dialogue, to listening to our own interiority and that of the other, to unity to go out together to build the new world that Pope Francis so much indicates and urges us.

In our meetings of the different teams, we would have to read this document slowly, internalize it, dialogue it, share it and land on concrete proposals for action and continuous evaluation that will facilitate the realization of this precious document. If not, everything will remain in beautiful words.

