

PIARIST MONTH IN THE PRESENCE OF LOGROÑO

María Encarnación Ibáñez y Jon Calleja



This year we want to give a significant boost to the vocational and spiritual dimension of all who participate in the presence of Logroño. For most of our teachers, students, families, volunteers, women living at home, adult literacy students, PAS workers, canteen and cleaning workers, monitors and kids of the Calasanz Movement, coaches of the sports teams, families of the Brotherhood, boys and girls of the school reinforcement... the Piarist presence is the primary reference from which they feed their faith, and that is a responsibility to which we have to respond strongly in the

social context in which we live.

In this sense, the key is to work with more quality our Piarist identity, to remember our charismatic roots, and to nourish ourselves with more intensity of the believing experience of Calasanz. For this reason, we have defined this November as Piarist Month.

Until now, we did a Piarist week around 27 November and another vocational week in spring, but we believe that it was not enough to generate an essential impact as they were diluted a little in the rest of the course, being core themes that we want to transmit and offer as Piarists.



The actions and initiatives have been divided into four weeks of the month:

- The first week was dedicated to studying the figure of Saint Joseph Calasanz. We have adapted to each stage those aspects of the life and work of the Saint that could interest them more, giving a more anecdotal and straightforward sense in the early years, then with more profound personal reflections, and finally in Secondary dealing with the fundamental aspects of Calasanzian pedagogy.
- The priority objective of the month is the concrete visualization of the Piarist religious vocation; in the second week, the most impressive thing for our boys was to know firsthand the vocational experience of Piarist religious who have shared their personal experience with them.

- In the third week, we programmed the knowledge of the general presence of the Piarists worldwide. Making known the places where we deploy the educational and pastoral work is of help for the academic community to participate in the great work that the Pious Schools develop. In the celebrations, the religion classes, the groups of the Calasanz Movement, and the Fraternity, we have worked on these themes.
- The last week was dedicated to projecting the strength of the Piarist presence in Logroño. For the older ones, the shared mission teams, and the volunteers..., in addition to a brief historical-chronological reminder, we presented the work of the presence team, the Itaka-Escolapios headquarters, the origin and evolution of the Calasanz Club as the backbone of school sports and also the Brotherhood of the seven words and silence.

Incredibly endearing was the visit of the school's youngest students to meet the older religious Piarists of our presence.

At the same time as all this, in the two central weeks, we have had the CALASANZ EXPO, an educational resource of the Emmaus Province for the whole Piarist Christian community consisting of an interactive exhibition made with cardboard modules and prepared activities (information totems, giant puzzle, decorative wall, figures and characters, olive tree and rocket, photocall, maze...). It has been a source of resources and motivation to work in an obvious way throughout the school, the Piarist vocation.



In this Piarist Month, we are also carrying out other initiatives such as renewing the spaces of prayer and interiority with the young people themselves to make them more attractive and comfortable (some young people of the Calasanz Movement have seen it so vital that they are giving their pot as a group for this); the Brotherhood has prepared a procession for Calasanz; we are dedicating time and resources of the College and Itaka-Escolapios to train ourselves in new tools of evangelization and accompaniment for families and young people; we take more care of this dimension in our joint meetings, in our economic investments that we are thinking now and in our reflections in the teams and the Fraternity to make it visible and give it value as a priority theme.

May Calasanz help us to move in this direction.