

## United in one heart in the footsteps of Calasanz

### Training of educators. Emmaus Piarists

**Gloria Ruiz.** Provincial Secretary of Schools of the Province of Emmaus



For two weeks 40 educators from our Emmaus schools (teaching staff and administrative and service staff) have taken the Piarist Educators Course which forms part of our Identity Training Plan.

It is mainly aimed at the staff of our centres who want to deepen their identity as educators and their knowledge of the Pious Schools. It is held annually for two weeks to present in broad outline the core of the Piarist educator identity:

- Starting from our reality
- In the footsteps of Joseph Calasanz
- In the Emmaus Pious Schools. Aragon, Vasconia and Andalusia
- With the Mission to Evangelise by Educating

During this course, reflections are combined with visits to the different Piarist presences in our Province. The group of Vasconia-Logroño visited their area the first week, the group of Andalusia visited theirs and the group of Aragon-Soria visited Andalusia. During the second week we all together visited the Aragon area.

The usual plan is to start in the morning with a talk given by people from our Institution on Piarist topics related to our organisational model, lay participation, innovation at the service of the Mission and Itaka Escolapios as a mission platform. Afterwards we visited the corresponding presence: the most interesting pedagogical projects, social projects...

This year 5 Hungarian teachers from the Szeged school participated in part of the itinerary with an Erasmus + project. It was also a very enriching experience to share with them.

In the last session, after working in groups, we managed to link a definition with which we identified ourselves:

*We are educators committed to the Piarist mission, involved in education and evangelisation for the transformation of society, through vocation, dedication, enthusiasm and creativity, without forgetting that we are teachers of dreams.*



The fundamental objective, in addition to expanding knowledge about our Piarist identity, is to create a network, to feel part of something bigger than ourselves, than our school and our presence. United in a single heart in the footsteps of Calasanz.

We share some testimonies:

*For two weeks, a group of people belonging to all the schools of the province had the opportunity to live a unique experience. The training allowed us to know, first hand, the Piarist presence in the provinces and the projects that Itaka carries out in our cities. The tour of the schools allowed us to participate and enjoy the richness of the network. One of the great benefits of the training has been to establish links between the different centres and expand the Piarist family (Iranzu Cañas, Calasanz School of Pamplona).*

*For two weeks a group of teachers and staff of the different presences of the province of Emmaus have had the opportunity to visit a large number of our Piarist works. They have been fifteen intense days full of experiences, two weeks in which we have discovered with joy the great work that there is in each of the corners of the different presences while we rediscover, once again, the meaning of our work as Piarist educators.*

*We feel small and humble to see with pride projects such as the foster homes in Soria, the social and transforming work of our school in Cartuja or for having coherent and integrated schools in the neighbourhood as Calasancio. And at the same time we feel great and powerful for knowing that we are part of this great work that is the dream of Calasanz.*

*Many were the words we chose to define what we lived... illusion, enthusiasm, gratitude, humility, vision, purpose... but one word stood out among them all... meaning. Discovering and clarifying a horizon towards which we are moving forward and for which we are working from all our places, schools, Itaka Escolapios, the provincial office... was undoubtedly the best thing about this trip. To be clear about why and what we are here for? To educate, announce and transform (Isaac Pérez, Cristo Rey School, Zaragoza).*