

MARCH 6. CENTRAL DAY OF THE JUBILEE YEAR.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE PAULINE CONGREGATION

400 YEARS OF THE BRIEF
"AD EA PER QUAE" OF HH. PAUL V



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

ON THE IV CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE PIOUS SCHOOLS

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION, ABOUT THE FOUNDATION BRIEF.

The Pious Schools in the Church.

Paul V signed on March 6, 1617 the brief “Ad ea quae per” by which he established in the Church the Congregation of the Pious Schools.

The Pope acknowledged with this gesture the Calasanctian work as an ecclesial reality, granting citizenship to his educational commitment. The small seed of the school of Trastevere, which Joseph Calasanz transformed into the first institution of free education in Europe, had sprouted into a religious family linked by the love of the Lord and of the little ones: *the Religious Congregation of the Pious Schools was born in the Church.*

Calasanz thought of it a few years later like this:

“The Institute of the Pious Schools was founded in Trastevere, in the church of Saint Dorothy, nearby the Septimiana Door, by some secular members of the Christian Doctrine, of whom still alive is Joseph of the Mother of God, native of Peralta de la Sal, Diocese of Urgell and Kingdom of Aragon; and, since at first, both the rich and the poor were taught together, the aforesaid Joseph got to do school only to the poor, who do not find anybody to teach them the basics.

(...) H. Holiness Pope Paul V, of happy memory, erected a new Congregation of the Poor of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools, with simple vows of obedience, poverty and chastity, naming its Superior Father Joseph of the Mother of God, with the Apostolic brief of March 6, 1617, and prescribing two years of novitiate with other conditions contained.

On March 25 of the same year, the cardinal Giustiniani payed the habit they use today, for 15 people, and wanted to be he himself who, in the chapel of his palace, dressed with it Father Joseph, who in turn in the Oratory of the schools dressed it to the remaining 14”.

(Saint Joseph Calasanz. *Report on the Pious Schools*. 1623)

This is the recognition by the Church of a new charism. We are recognized as ***religious to educate poor children, and so is the Congregation of the Pious Schools erected as the first religious Institute in the Church, dedicated exclusively to education, 400 years ago.***

The first point of the Brief is about the three simple vows and describes in detail the nature and contents of the poverty of the new Congregation.

The second point requires free education; the Brief indicates only that the Pious Schools must be open primarily to poor children.

The third point prohibits the creation of new homes without schools except for the novitiates.

The fourth point of the Brief gives to the Prefect of the Pious Schools and his Curia the right and the faculty to develop new Constitutions.

The beginning of the Pauline Congregation marks the beginning of the expansion of the Pious Schools. 400 years ago, the Church welcomed the Calasanzian School as a gift of the Spirit of Jesus, and at the same time She sent it to live according to the vocation it received:

- In total surrender to God, beloved beyond measure.
- At the service of children, in a school which is new, open, and available to all.
- Together with the poor, the needy, and the little ones, privileged addressees of the Gospel of Jesus.
- In a successful synthesis of piety and letters, promoting the integral development of the person.
- With a life lived in poverty, simplicity, humility and generous love, at the image of Mary, the Mother of God.
- United in community, convened by the same Calasanzian vocation.

Six traits:

- . *new school,*
- . *preferential attention to the poor and small,*
- . *piety and letters,*
- . *consecration to God in following Christ,*
- . *Marian identity and*
- . *fraternal life* according to the evangelical counsels, present in the founding brief that delineated the primal Piarist identity;

traits in which, after four centuries, we recognize the root of who we are and what we do, to continue in the Church the fortunate boldness, patience, and tenacity of saint Joseph Calasanz.

The desire of Calasanz to serve and to give his life *in the Church of God* embeds all his work in the mystery of the Church, Mother and educator, at the image of Mary, and transforms the educational task into a song of gratitude to the Lord, that comes from the mouth of the little ones.

Four centuries later we thank the Lord for the gift of the Calasanctian life and vocation in the Church, and we do it united to religious and lay Piarists, present in 38 countries in four continents, all Calasanctian educators that share the legacy of Joseph Calasanz, and above all, to the thousands of students who today as in the past, celebrate the good idea of the Calasanctian school.

Now we share our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist in which we will renew our Piarist commitments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

I will give you a new hearth

Reading of the Book of Ezekiel (36,24.26-28)

The Lord says:

For I will take you away from among the nations,
gather you from all the foreign lands,
and bring you back to your own land.

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts.

I will put my spirit within you
and make you live by my statutes,
careful to observe my decrees.

You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;
you shall be my people,
and I will be your God.

The Word of God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ **Give us, O Lord, a new hearth**

O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor my eyes haughty;
Nor do I involve myself in great matters,
Or in things too difficult for me.

R/ I have composed and quieted my soul;
Like a weaned child rests against his mother.
O Israel, hope in the Lord
From this time forth and forever.

SECOND READING

You are a nice gift to God

Reading from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans (12, 1-2)

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

The Word of God

Aclamation before the Gospel (Mt 11,25)

I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have revealed yourself to the childlike.

GOSPEL

Who receives the Kingdom of God like a child will enter it.

+ Reading of the Gospel according to Mark (10,13-16)

At that time, people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this, he became indignant and said to them,

“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

The Word of the Lord

RENEWAL OF VOWS

The one who presides over encourages his brothers to renew with joy the promises offered to God, with these words or other similar ones:

Brothers, united to our Father Joseph Calasanz and to all the Piarists of all times and places, especially with the nearest ones, let us renew our cheerful

consecration to God:

All at once, slowly, recite the traditional formula:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, because you have called us in your Son to be cooperators of the Truth, with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Here we are, Lord. Confirm what you have done in us and direct our actions so that, being poor, chaste and obedient in Christ, we may proclaim the Gospel to all children.

I,... offer and consecrate myself fully to Almighty God, together with Mary, the Mother of God, and the ... vows that one day I made, today, with all my heart, I renew and confirm them.

In ..., on March 6, 2017.

The religious that are part of the Fraternity, add:

And prompted by my religious consecration, I renew my commitment to the Piarist Fraternity.

The Piarist Fraternity brothers and sisters who are present in the celebration also make their personal renewal of the promise:

“I... give you thanks, Father, for the gift of have given me when You called me to be a member of the Fraternity of the Pious Schools. Help me with your grace to persevere in my purpose. Mary, Mother of the Pious schools, Saint Joseph Calasanz, accompany our Fraternity”.

In... on March 6, 2017

PREFACE PROPER:

Saint Joseph Calasanz,
faithful cooperater of truth

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you called Saint Joseph Calasanz,
faithful cooperater of the truth,
to follow the path of Christ, your Son,
which manifested his love for little children
and proclaimed that theirs was the Kingdom of Heaven.

Moved by the Holy Spirit,
he founded a religious family in the Church,
to raise up the great value
of those who dedicate their lives
to the education of children and young people,
above all those who are poor,
in order to conform them to Christ, the perfect man.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,
We praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord ...

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Four hundred years of life are condensed in a single word: thanks!

Four centuries of Piarist life that we want to put in the heart of God, good Father, beloved Son, Spirit of Holiness.

Thank you, good Father, for the life and the work of Saint Joseph Calasanz, in whom we recognize a reflected light of your Fatherly heart.

Calasanz wanted to be “*Father of the small and protector of the poor*”, making his the pain and the abandonment of those who were deprived of educational opportunities. He welcomed the sweetness and innocence of children, thus discovering the way of the Kingdom.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, our Teacher and Brother, for the Pious Schools.

They are the “*most fertile harvest*”, the “*fruitful vineyard*”, the good earth that has sprouted the good news of the Gospel of Jesus, taking a surprising educational appearance.

Thank you, because in the school and among children, we have discovered the hidden treasure that Saint Joseph Calasanz wanted it to be our best legacy.

Thank you Holy Spirit, Breeze of Truth and Breath of life,

You who make new all things, grant to the Calasanctian Family a “New Pentecost” of abundant fruits of holiness and of generous service to the Church and to the society.

Send us to be with those who still do not have anyone to give them the bread of the piety and of the letters.

Bless us with new vocations who want to offer their life generously among the young and the poor, like Saint Joseph Calasanz.

BLESSING

The one who presides over recites some formula of blessing, for example:

May the Lord enlighten us and save us, let his face shine upon us and grant us peace.

Amen

May the Lord, who has made us to be born again for a living hope, grow in us the work begun.

Amen.

May God who loves us, bless us, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

FINAL SONG

We can finish the celebration with a song of greeting to Mary, for example:

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus,
sancta Dei genitrix,
Nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus;
sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper,
Virgo gloriosa et benedicta.

---On a small table close to the altar where the Eucharist is celebrated are placed an icon or a small image of Calasanz, the text “Ad ea per quae” (to be found in the book of the Foundational Documents), and a burning candle that reminds us that the flame keeps on burning four hundred years later.

ANNUS
IUBILÆI
SCHOLARUM
PIARUM

400 ANNI
1617-2017