

HEARING OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
To the Council of Major Superiors of the Order of the Pious
Schools

WORDS OF FR. GENERAL

Holy Father:

We introduce ourselves to your Holiness with profound joy and gratitude. As Father General of the Order of the Pious Schools, I thank you for your kindness to receive us in audience and to dedicate us a little of your time.

Holy Father, I want to introduce to you this simple Piarist group. With Your Holiness is the General Congregation of the Order, all the Major Superiors of the various provinces and Delegates of Fr. General. I.e. the religious who assume the service to accompany the Life and Mission of the Order, trying to make it in fidelity to the Church and to our Holy Founder, Saint Joseph Calasanz.

But we wanted to also introduce to you other people who are very important in the life of our Pious Schools. With Your Holiness are the members of the two General Houses of Rome, making diverse and varied services to the Order; the General Community of the Congregation of the Piarist Sisters, founded by Saint Paula Montal, with Mother General, Divina Garcia; the House of Formation of the Italian Province; the General Council of the Piarist Fraternity, which brings together more than a thousand people, lay and religious, who share the charism of Calasanz, and also people that with their daily work make it possible our life in our General House (cooking, cleaning, management, maintenance, secretariat, library, archives, porter...). All jobs are important, and all contribute to the Mission of Calasanz. So we wanted them to join us and also receive the blessing of Your Holiness. I fondly introduce you two young Piarist here. One of them, Italian, will soon make his solemn profession and will receive the diaconate (Tommaso), and the other shall be ordained priest in a few weeks (Abilash). I ask you for both a special blessing, Holy Father.

As Calasanctian Family, we wish to thank the teachings of your Holiness, who encourages, orients and demands to the whole of Consecrated Life. In particular, we wish to thank you for the gift of the Calasanctian Jubilee Year which was granted us by Your Holiness to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Foundation of the Order (in 1617) and the 250th anniversary of the canonization of St. Joseph Calasanz. And most especially, we thank you for all deeply Evangelical messages offering to all your concern for children and young people. Calasanz gave his life for them, and we are absolutely committed to do the same. Your Holiness' words send us to the mission.

We have been particularly blessed by the recent canonization of Saint Faustino Míguez, Piarist, and founder of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. It has been an extraordinary gift to our Calasanctian Family.

We want to tell you, Holy Father, that the invitation you made us in your message on the occasion of the Jubilee Year to live a "new Pentecost of the Piarists" has deeply permeated the Pious Schools and it is being the theme of the Council of Major Superiors we are

celebrating. We ask your prayer and blessing to live this Pentecost which, like the first, is asking from us communion, centrality of the Lord in our lives, welcome to the Spirit and courage in the mission.

We pray every day for Your Holiness, asking the Lord to hold and strengthen you in the mission that He has entrusted you. Thank you, Holy Father.