Prayer for Piarist Vocations
I’m in the Pious Schools, where about eight hundred children and young concur… Now I hope that the Lord wants to use me for this work of his, which is so important that it surprises me, because these children of the poor, who used to walk through the streets without any fear of God, giving themselves to each dishonesty of horrendous words and acts, now withdraw from leisure and evil and deal with the divine help in exercises and in the spirit of knowledge of Christian doctrine.

Glicerio Landriani, 1612
Letter to his relative Card. Federico Borromeo
The venerable Glicerio Landriani was one of the closest collaborators to our Holy Founder. He was like a shooting star, the historian Severino Giner says, for his brevity and his splendor. Indeed, for 6 years the Pious Schools enjoyed the presence of one of the most faithful Piarists that have existed.

Glicerio was committed with dedication to the education of children and to guide them in Continuous Prayer, this original practice that takes place in Piarist works until today. He used to give as an example of life holy children and the image of the child Jesus to the little ones. With the older students he used to work literature as a means to open cultural horizons and to invite them to the new Church movements.

During the week he worked in school. Sundays and holidays he was engaged in teaching catechesis at parishes. Both in the school and in the parishes he became an excellent Catechist who, far from making sessions boring or superficial, incorporated singing, movements, Psalms and prayers so that the children were interested in the learning of the doctrine, mainly the word of God. And, as a good Piarist, he was not limited to the themes of the doctrine, but his work extended to the acquisition of cultural notions, written language and calculation.

In parishes he worked not only with the children. Aware of the great need to prepare catechists, he spent time and effort in the formation of the laity who generously were involved in this service. For this he performed an itinerant work in order to attend different sites of Rome. Only in San Adriano, for example, he accompanied 30 catechists and 400 children.

The first school Calasanz opened outside of Rome was Frascati, where the image of the Virgin of the Pious Schools is preserved. For this foundation he brought Glicerio but, shortly after, he got great fame and people were often looking for him for attending their sick. He was so much sought-after, and so good in these services, that the founder had to send him back to Rome so that they would not distract him in his mission at school.

A typical practice of the Pious Schools, in the early stages, was accompanying the children back to their homes. The main reason for this “primitive school bus” was
the protection of children from the dangers that they could find on the streets.

On more than one occasion, the founder of the Pious Schools urged the Piarists to undertake this humble and generous work of accompanying children as their guardian angels. Surely when he wrote it he was thinking of Glicerio, the inventor of this practice.

At 30 years, weakened by illness, he died leaving a testimony of holiness to such an extent that our founder began the process of beatification.

Glicerio arrived to the Pious Schools in May 31, the year 1612. Just when we were arriving at the 319th anniversary of his coming, on May 31, 1931, Pope Pius XI declared the heroism of his virtues conferring to Glicerio Landriani the title of Venerable.
Today, remembering the vocation of this young Piarist of the first years, we stop to pray for all the Piarist vocations:

*Good Father, you gave us the gift of the Piarist vocation to love children and the poor with the same love your Son Jesus loved.*

*Send your Holy Spirit upon us so that we can respond with intensity, passion and constancy to the mission you have entrusted us.*

*May our witness inspire young people to consider the question of the turning point: “Lord, what do you want of me?”*  

*May your Holy Mother help and protect those who listen to your call.*

*May brotherly love, respect, joy, and the capacity of welcoming in our communities motivate others to give themselves generously.*

*Free us from the materialistic fetters so that we follow you luggage light and trust only in you, as did the Venerable Glicerio Landriani.*

*Infuse in us apostolic zeal, passion for the mission, as well as a prayerful and thoughtful spirit that will keep us always attentive to your Word.*

*May all Piarist works be authentic Christian communities, ferment of the justice and peace of your Kingdom, enabling environments to hear your call and respond with total surrender.*

*Send laborers into your harvest and to us, who have already decided to follow you, make us instruments of your own to call others on your behalf.*

*May the Pious Schools, religious communities, its fraternities and its works, extend where children and young people need to receive your Good News.*

*Amen.*
SOURCES:
