

PIARIST PARISHES NETWORK

A bet for the Mission

10 thesis for its construction

I present ten "thesis" on the proposal of **PIARIST PARISHES NETWORK**. There are *ten statements that prompted the General Congregation to launch this NETWORK. Therefore, I will not talk about issues which, being fundamental, are supposed in every parish. I am just going to allude to what our NETWORK should bring.*

*However, I do not want to stop saying something essential. A parish is an ecclesial space, the centre of which is **CHRIST the LORD**. And it is a community that celebrates faith in its one Lord, who shares it, forms it and transmits it. It is an evangelizing and missionary community. And it is, above all, a space of construction of the Kingdom of God.*

To that space, centered on Christ, we come the Piarists to offer it something to help him be better. This is the task. For this reason, I propose these TEN THESIS on the development of our NETWORK OF PIARIST PARISHES.

1. The **PIARIST PARISHES NETWORK** is an institutional bet of the Order, which not only seeks to value the "parish" platform as an authentic and valuable option for the development of our charismatic mission, but wants to ensure that our parishes truly offer a quality pastoral and mission proposal, worthy of the Order and its Charism.
2. It's a **NETWORK**. Therefore, it seeks our parishes to grow in communion, in real exchange, in mutual learning, in dynamics of Order. A Piarist parish naturally participates in the "network of the diocese" in which it is embedded, but is enriched by its participation in the "network of the Order". There are, and we do not want them, isolated Piarist parishes, disconnected from the real life of the Pious Schools.
3. The NETWORK is not just putting our parishes in relation. The relationship is undoubtedly a good contribution, because it always enriches. But it's not enough. The NETWORK must be an **instrument of change**, growth, development. Our network of parishes will boost our own dynamisms for our parishes to move forward. By way of example, we can cite some: pastoral courses; alternatives to catechist formation; dynamics in the preparation of the parish project; formation in Calasanctian spirituality; proposals for new mission initiatives that each parish can take on and carry forward; opportunities for mutual learning, from each other, etc..

4. When we Piarists assume a parish, we assume in it all its reality (local, diocesan, etc.). But **we bring it our treasure**, our charism, our identity. It is a "plus" that we add, and as such, we have to live and announce it. A parish that is assumed by the Pious Schools is a fortunate parish, because to the many riches it undoubtedly has, we add ours, the Calasanz' charism and the Piarist passion for the mission, with the accents that are our own.
5. Our network will help us **to place our parishes in the dynamics of the Order**. Among them: placing them well in the Piarist Presence of which they are part; strongly betting on missionary spirituality; really taking care of the priority for children and young people, etc.
6. The **Order has some treasures**. We can and must put them at the center of parish life, and make them grow. With them, the parish will grow.
 - a. The Calasanz Movement.
 - b. The passion for Education, which will translate, for example, into the promotion of Socio-Educational Centres.
 - c. The holy founder, who will translate into the impulse of Calasanzian devotion, in addition to devotion to the patron saint of the parish.
 - d. Attention to the poor
 - e. The formation of the members of the parish. Human, religious, Calasanzian, theological, social training, etc. We want parishes that offer training.
7. The Pious Schools believe in the **Participation of the Laity** in our charism, life and mission. We can and must promote processes of participation, according to the Order project. They can and should be born, within our parishes, Piarist Fraternities, Shared Mission teams, etc.
8. Our NETWORK is called to **build Church by building Pious Schools**. It is an exciting task. Collaborating with the Order in the development of the formation of future Piarists, sending missionary volunteers to needy presences, sponsoring parishes with possibilities to poorer ones who do not have resources, etc. We are invited to build Pious Schools, knowing that the Pious Schools are essentially an instrument of the Kingdom.
9. *"Pray to the owner of the field to send workers to his harvest."* We want a NETWORK that is characterized by constant and positive work in **Pastoral on Vocations**. The Pastoral on Vocations, and in particular the Piarist, must be at the centre of the life of the parish and, therefore, of the Network. Let us make our network directly connect



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with this profound need of our Church and our Order: new vocations, especially religious and priestly Piarists.

10. **Day by day.** Little by little. With determination and constancy. We are starting a road. Let us do it the way Calasanz would: with daring and patience. We can certainly transform our parishes and, with that, much of our ecclesial contribution. With project, teams, managers, clear leadership, spirit of Piarist co-responsibility. And with our eyes, always, on the Mission.

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