



CREATIVE FIDELITY

How can we remain faithful today to the charism that our founder received more than four centuries ago?

How can we innovate without losing the essential features of our founding charism?

The Second Vatican Council's Decree Perfectæ Caritatis guided religious orders and congregations to remain faithful to our origins while, at the same time, being creative in responding to today's challenges.

Today we present some concrete examples of this.

Let's look at some examples of creative fidelity.

A priestly ordination within the prophetic context of the Piarist mission in Cuba; a fruitful retreat for a community of the Fraternity called to grow; new members who decide to serve children in the Calasanz Movement; an exemplary educational experience during the hot Cuban summer; a six-year-old boy who sparks a profound reflection before Jesus Crucified; our brother Jafet shares his dreams and commitments with us following the Youth Forum, and a teacher from Colegio Ponceño shares a new perspective with us following a retreat centered on Continuous Prayer, The parish of St. Helena welcomes its new pastor.

In all of this, we can find enthusiasm, generous self-giving, dedication, passion for the mission, commitment, and many valuable qualities in those who lived the stories we are about to read.

But above all, there is one Spirit here that makes it all possible.

It is the same Spirit that moved through Calasanz's heart when he began to shape our Piarist family.

It is the same Spirit that makes it possible for us to be one.

We are one!

FR. FRANCISCO ANAYA WALKER, SCH. P.

ST. JOSEPH CALASANZ COMMUNITY, DEVON, P. A.

"Tradition does not consist in preserving a heritage unchanged, but in passing on life. Each generation receives the Gospel so that it may proclaim it anew. Each generation receives the charism of Saint Joseph Calasanz so that it may embody it anew. Each generation receives a story so that it may write a new chapter in it."

*P. Carles Gil i Sagner, Sch. P.
Salutatio July August 2026*



PRIESTLY ORDINATION IN CUBA IVÁN GUERRA ÁLVAREZ, SCH.P.



On August 1, the USA-PR Province was filled with joy at the priestly ordination of our brother Iván Guerra de San Juan Bautista, Sch.P. This same joy spread to the Piarist Community of Guanabacoa, to the Order, to the UFEC (Cuban Piarist Family Union), and to the entire Church, which joyfully celebrated a new son of Calasanz.

This event takes on special significance, as the last ordination of a Cuban Piarist in this country had taken place 48 years ago, when Brother José María Coviella, Sch.P., was ordained at the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Joining this celebration were Bishop Pedro Aguado Cuesta of Huesca and Jaca, who laid hands on the candidates and presided over the Mass; Cardinal Juan de la Caridad García, Archbishop of Havana; and the Apostolic Nuncio to Cuba, Bishop Antoine Camilleri. Also present were Fathers Fernando Negro, Sch.P., and Luis Alberto Sch.P., of the USA-PR Province; Odalys Suayero, of the Fraternity; Fr. Juan Ruiz, Sch.P., of the Emmaus Province; as well as family members, religious, and the faithful.

During the ceremony, a message sent from Mexico by the 90-year-old Cuban Piarist Rafael Fernández, Sch.P., was read aloud. This brother, who completed his novitiate in Cuba in 1957 and, while studying in Rome, had no opportunity to return to his homeland, said: "May the Pious Schools of Cuba be blessed with new vocations that can carry on the precious legacy of all those Piarists who came before us."

As the celebration drew to a close, the Marian hymn to Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Patroness of Cuba, titled "Virgen Mambisa," touched the very depths of the hearts of those gathered there. This hymn, born during the most difficult times for the Cuban people, has become a prayer for love, peace, and freedom: "Mother, who sowed flowers of peace and understanding in your fields, grant freedom to your people; lovingly sow unity. All your children cry out to you, Virgen Mambisa, that we may be brothers and sisters."

May this moment of joy mark the hopeful beginning of many Cuban vocations to the Order of the Pious Schools.



BR. ERNESTO CUBA MARTÍNEZ SCH.P.
GUANABACOA COMMUNITY, CUBA



FRATERNITY RETREAT RENEWAL OF PROMISES

I cannot speak of this experience without first expressing our deepest gratitude to Father Luis Alberto Cruz, Sch., P., who guided us in a profound and engaging way through the text of the promise we make upon entering the Fraternity and chose three key words for our meditations:

REMEMBER how our journey began, what we were seeking and what we have found, what remains alive after two years, and what we need to rediscover. To remember so that we may give thanks for the gift He has given us by calling us.

DISCERN, to examine which aspect of our lives the Lord is asking us to live with greater fidelity and perseverance, whether we are following Jesus and St. Joseph Calasanz, and whether we are truly living out the “yes” we once gave to God.

To *RENEW* our promise for the second year, committing ourselves—with God’s help—to continue being part of the Fraternity of the Pious Schools, to follow Jesus, and to live out our vocation in the spirit of Saint Joseph Calasanz.

We had a wonderful experience of fraternal and communal sharing, as well as a personal space of silence to listen to God and to ourselves. The parents opened their home and their hearts to us. We shared bread, shelter, and the Word. We returned home with the hope of fulfilling our promises in the small things of each day, putting our gifts at the service of the community and persevering when fatigue or problems try to make us give up.

FRANCIA STELLING

FR. MARIO VIZCAÍNO COMMUNITY, HIALEAH, F.L.



“To celebrate Calasanz means to continue along his path: to ask ourselves which children are waiting for someone to look upon them with the same attentiveness; which forms of educational poverty call for our presence; which simple tasks we can undertake; which securities we must leave behind; and which courageous decisions we are called to make”.

General Congregation / 25 de agosto de 2026



FIVE NEW YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE JOINED THE CALASANZ MOVEMENT WE ARE ONE!



The Solemnity of St. Joseph Calasanz provided the perfect setting and became a special moment for our community as we celebrated the installation of the new moderators of the Calasanz Movement.

With great excitement and an atmosphere filled with youthful energy, we welcomed five new young people who decided to join us this school year and take on the challenge of accompanying the youngest students at our school. Their arrival marks the beginning of a vibrant new phase, guided by the motto “We Are One”—an invitation to live out our faith in communion and to recognize that our true unity is born of Christ and strengthened by love. This motto reminds us that it is not about thinking alike, but about walking together, sharing the same mission, and allowing the Spirit to unite us as “one body and one Spirit” (Eph 4:4). It encourages us to move from “I” to “we,” building communities where each person contributes their gifts in service to others.

The ceremony combined music, interactive activities, and moments of reflection that inspired everyone. The new moderators embark on this adventure with enthusiasm, commitment, and the certainty that when we live as one, we make God’s love visible.

With this new generation of leaders, the Calasanz Movement is getting off to a strong start, full of enthusiasm and a strong desire to bring about change. The moderators begin their adventure with excitement, commitment, and the certainty that serving is also a way to shine.

NOEMARIE ORTIZ CORREA,
COLEGIO CALASANZ, SAN JUAN, P. R.





PIARIST PROVINCE OF UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO

ESPLAI GOD'S IMPRINT ON CREATION



Every summer, the Piarist Presence in Cuba launches the “ESPLAI” recreational educational program, an initiative that seeks to foster the personal and social growth of children and adolescents through recreational and educational activities.

This year’s theme was God’s Creation, with the dual purpose of introducing participants to the Holy Bible and helping them rediscover God’s presence in the flight of a butterfly, the warmth of a hug, or the wonder of a green leaf. We wanted them to know that they, too, are part of that immense gift and that, even though the world sometimes seems broken, it is worth taking care of.

Thanks to a benefactor from the United States, we were able to place a Bible in their hands. This project is a sign of joy and hope for many children and adolescents, in a reality that has clouded their simplest dreams: to play without fear, to study without interruptions, and to eat a hot meal.

Today, Cuba is facing a profound crisis that is affecting every aspect of society. Power outages last more than twenty hours, water is scarce, fuel is a luxury, inflation is eating away at people’s savings, and poverty is knocking on every household’s door.

Yet, where despair might reign, hope springs forth. Thanks to the charisma of Calasanz, which takes root on Cuban soil; to the drive of our Province; to the solidarity of Manos Unidas; to the fraternal embrace of the Itaka-Escolapios Network; and to so many friends of good will, we have managed to provide our children with a safe and welcoming space, equipped with the necessary lighting—thanks to the donation of a photovoltaic system—as well as food and education.

ESPLAI is not the result of an individual effort, but of a community: Piarists, counselors, catechists, collaborators, and volunteers who give of their time, patience, and affection. They teach, organize, laugh, listen, and, above all, believe. They believe that every child deserves to dream, laugh, and play again. The most valuable thing of all, without a doubt, is seeing the joyful faces of our children every day: that is the best reward and the most tangible proof that hope is still alive.

BR. ERNESTO CUBA MARTÍNEZ, SCH.P.
GUANABACOA COMMUNITY, CUBA





TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME REFLECTIONS FROM THE EARLIEST YEARS

Something happened on Friday that wasn't part of my plan. It was one of those intense Fridays—one of those days when even we teachers need to stop and catch our breath.

After talking with my students about some things we needed to improve, we decided to go for a walk.

Along the way, we came across a crucifix. No one told my students to stop. They just did. They stood there looking at him. They talked among themselves, asking each other questions, and then I heard: "Look, teacher, he's got an 'ay, ay, ay.'" That question made me think about how profoundly beautiful a child's gaze can be, and I reflected on how perhaps that is one of the first things we need to learn from Jesus—before explaining suffering, we need to learn to look at it. They weren't thinking about theology. They weren't trying to understand the mystery of the cross. They simply saw someone who was suffering.

Then one of them said: "Jesus died."

"Yes," I told him, "but He's alive again. And He's no longer on that cross. His 'oh, oh, oh' has already been healed."

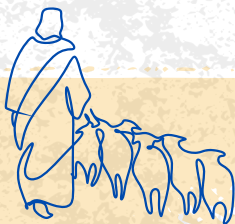
My own response made me realize that this day, too, would pass. That a moment of weariness and stress doesn't have the final say, nor does it define my calling.

We finished our walk in peace after encountering Him. I realized that we aren't called to carry every cross that appears along the way; only the one that arises from a mission that contributes something to His Kingdom. How beautiful it is when such a simple conversation among children can become a spontaneous and sincere prayer. What a gift to discover that last Sunday's Gospel spoke precisely of that. Without planning it, that Friday I had a living homily with my children and with Jesus Himself telling me, "Take up your cross and follow Me." For me, it was a beautiful Friday—what do you think?



WILMARY RODRÍGUEZ

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, HIALEAH, F. L.



**"May they all be one, just as you, Father,
are in me and I am in you." John 17:21a**



INTERNATIONAL PIARIST YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM LESSONS LEARNED, COMMITMENTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Personal Dimension

What personal commitments do I want to make after this forum?

- Learn more things that will help me in my Piarist leadership. For example, take courses offered by the RPJ (Youth Ministry Network), reread the life of Calasanz, etc.
- Connect more with the other provinces of the Order to learn and apply things that can help our province and to be available to help the other provinces. Make the most of the connections formed at the Forum.
- Place a strong emphasis on building and forming Piarist leaders through formation workshops.
- Be more creative with ideas to attract young people, without fear.
- Pray deeply for each of our Order's presences, especially for those of us participating in the Forum.
- Strengthen our relationship with the provinces in the Americas and explore the possibility of organizing an international youth gathering.

Provincial Level

What specific initiatives can you promote in your province to foster youth leadership?

- In-person and online youth training workshops for the province. Provide ongoing support and hold monthly or biweekly training workshops for leaders who are already in our groups and for new young people who join us. RPJ courses can be used as a supplement to this training.
- Promote the Calasanz Movement in all schools, without fear.
- Organize online meetings—and, if possible, in-person meetings—among young people from other provinces.
- Resolutely ensure that youth leaders have mission experiences as part of their training. These experiences change lives.
- Explore the possibility of collaborating with the chaplaincy at the Catholic University, as the position of University Pastoral Coordinator will become vacant.

BR. JAFET GUZMÁN, SCH. P.

NTRA. SRA. DE PILAR COMMUNITY, PONCE, P.R.

More about the Forum:

<https://scolopi.org/los-ultimos-pasos-del-forum-internacional-de-liderazgo-joven-escolapio-2026/>



EDUCATING TO SERVE, SHOWING EMPATHY TOWARD OTHERS FROM THE RETREAT WITH FR. JAVIER BRINES, SCH. P.

At the end of the retreat with the faculty, Fr. Javier invited us to write down a guiding principle—a phrase that summarizes our experiences, circumstances, and the essence of the message we had grasped during our reflection.

In my group, we chose the word “educate.” Aware of the distinction between educating and instructing, we took as our Calasanzian guiding principle the holistic education of students in our classrooms. The other key word was “serve,” following the legacy of the late Pope Francis, who affirmed: “Whoever does not live to serve is not fit to live.” The third word we used was: “empathetic.” Today, we see so much daily suffering in the world and reflect on how much a lack of empathy defines us as human beings. We must put ourselves in the shoes of our fellow human beings—immigrants, victims of war, human tragedies, environmental catastrophes, disease, poverty, injustice, violence, and substance abuse. That is why we turn our eyes to Jesus Christ, the Good Teacher, and recall the commandment he bequeathed to humanity: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Fr. Christian, the group’s secretary, wrote: “Educate to serve by showing empathy toward others.” Thus we conclude our reflection, guided by the educational philosophy of St. Joseph Calasanz, equipping ourselves with the necessary tools to carry out the work of mercy that is education.

DR. ÁNGEL NAVARRO ZAYAS
COLEGIO PONCEÑO, PONCE, P. R.



Prayer for Piarist Vocations

Lord Jesus, you said that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; we ask you to send laborers into your harvest, especially those who will devote themselves to the Christian education of children and young people in the Pious Schools, guided by the example of Saint Joseph Calasanz. May your divine fire be kindled in young hearts so that they may dedicate themselves to this work.

Amen.

*Our Mother of the Pious Schools,
pray for us*



Follow us:
[vivacalasanzipiaristusapr](https://www.instagram.com/vivacalasanzipiaristusapr)



PIARIST PROVINCE OF UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO

LEADERSHIP CHANGES, PIARIST MISSION CONTINUES



Since 2014, St. Helena Parish in the Bronx has been entrusted to the pastoral and spiritual care of the Piarist Fathers. Over these years, three Piarist pastors have served the parish. Each, with his own gifts and opportunities, has contributed to building a community called to grow in the love of God and neighbor, inspired by the charism and spirituality of St. Joseph Calasanz. On July 15, 2026, leadership passed into new hands as Fr. Evaristus Ndi Akem, Sch.P., began his ministry as the new Pastor of St. Helena. During the send-forth celebrations for Fr. Jorge Luiz Ramirez (outgoing pastor) and the welcoming of Fr. Evaristus Ndi, one message emerged clearly from the words and gestures: leadership changes hands, but the mission continues. That mission remains the same: to lead the Christian community closer to God while living the Piarist charism with a particular love for children and young people. At St. Helena, this commitment finds a special expression in the Calasanz Movement, which brings together many children and young people and seeks to make Christ's invitation a lived reality: "Let the little children come to me." (Mk 10: 14) The gratitude shown to the outgoing Pastor and the warm welcome extended to the new Pastor beautifully expressed the continuity of the Piarist mission. Pastors may change, circumstances may change, but Calasanz's dream continues: evangelizing by educating especially among children and young people.

FR. PAULINUS N. ABOSE, SCH.P.
PERALTA COMMUNITY, BRONX, N.Y.

