

Itaka Escolapios Newsletter

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March 2018

The solidarity campaign for Senegal is underway

With the title “The treasure of Senegal”, the Itaka-Escolapios network is carrying out the common solidarity campaign of this course, directed to the Piarist mission in this country. In particular, we focus especially on supporting the Piarist boarding schools in several places in Senegal, which since the past course are shared projects in Itaka-Escolapios. But, in addition to this, the campaign is being a great opportunity to get closer to the Senegalese reality, as well as to know better and collaborate with the Pious Schools of West Africa. The current campaign follows the trail of the previous two years –directed to Indonesia and India–, and just as in both of them it will surely be successful both in solidarity collection, as well as in participation and awareness-raising action (53 educational centers involved last year).



Poster of the solidarity campaign of this course.



Members of the Board, along with Fr. General, during the meeting.

New meeting of the Board of Itaka-Escolapios

On February 23, once again, a regular meeting of the Itaka-Escolapios Board was held, which was attended by Fr. General, Pedro Aguado.

As a highlight, the Board approved the annual accounts for the previous fiscal year (2016-17). In addition, the meeting was used to share news and relevant information on the progress of Itaka-Escolapios. Likewise, progress was made in the approach and preparations of the III Advisory Council of the Itaka-Escolapios network, to be held in Madrid from May 7 to 9 of this year.

March 9, Volunteer Day in Itaka-Escolapios

Continuing this initiative that emerged last Jubilee Year, in Itaka-Escolapios we celebrate our Volunteer Day on March 9th. Approximately 1,600 people collaborate as volunteers in projects of Itaka-Escolapios throughout the world, where the objective of this day is to recognize and appreciate their commitment to the Piarist mission. Thanks to volunteering it is possible that our educational, evangelizing and transforming action of society continues and grows towards new needs.

In this year's celebration we wanted to highlight the great diversity of volunteering profiles that exist in the Itaka-Escolapios network. For this, we have had videos from different countries, with the testimonies of Atanasia, Rubens, Rocío, Evelin, Alejandra, Ilza, Amaya, Marina, Miguel and Arantxa, for whose contribution we are very grateful.



Atanasia, volunteer in Atambua, in her testimony for M-9.



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Activities for Peace

One more year, around January 30, School Day of Peace and Nonviolence, there have been many Itaka-Escolapios venues that have promoted activities for peace, nonviolence and in favor of human rights.

The initiatives have been very diverse, depending on the reality of each place and of the projects: public awareness and social mobilization events, activities in the classrooms, non-formal education projects, Calasanz Movement groups... With this, we want to continue contributing from Itaka-Escolapios to a fundamental value and an educational axis, such as building peace in our closest environment and in the world.



Week for Peace in Barquisimeto (Venezuela).



Partners campaign materials.

Partners campaign

The Itaka-Escolapios network has launched a special campaign to invite more people to join as collaborating partners and contribute to the sustainability of our projects. This campaign was launched at the headquarters of Spain in October and is available for adaptation and dissemination in other countries of the network, through different resources and graphic material.

The collaboration proposal is directed to our closest surroundings in the Piarist educational centers, the headquarters of Itaka-Escolapios and the Calasanz Movement, and for the moment it has been well received, giving its first fruits: more than 120 new collaborating partners, willing to give a regular economic contribution for our projects.

“Come out of your land”: a proposal for our young people

The Piarist International Volunteer Program for young people, formerly known as “Ulysses”, renews this course as a vocational itinerary to approach community life and the Piarist mission in the countries of the South.

After the convocation of this course, launched with the name “Come out of your land”, thirteen young people have started this two-year itinerary, which includes a one-month volunteer stay with the impoverished. This year there will be the Piarist presences of Anzaldo (Bolivia), Atambua (Indonesia), Campeche (Mexico) and Quito (Ecuador) that will welcome the young participants.



“Come out of your land” Meeting of Youth in February.



Bertrand, Alexis and Bienvenu, during their visit.

Visits and training meetings in the network

Throughout these months there have been several training visits of Itaka-Escolapios officials in some areas, to get to know other Itaka-Escolapios projects on site and to meet with those in charge of the network. These are very useful meetings for mutual knowledge and for the promotion of our teams and the projects we share.

We especially mention the visits to Spain from West Africa (Bertrand Dieme, Bienvenu Manga, Alexis Diatta) and from India (Jins Joseph, Justin Anthony), both performed last January.



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