

Manifest

9th of March, Itaka-Escolapios Volunteer's Day

"We do the good that we can for the glory of the Lord and we are not worried if we are rewarded" (St. Joseph of Calasanz, 1618)

The Itaka-Escolapios network celebrates for the first time this 9th of March a very special day: the day of our volunteering. The date chosen is the anniversary of the creation in 2001 of Itaka-Escolapios Foundation, a moment that symbolizes the will to share the path and mission within the Pious Schools that is at the base of our network.

We want to insert this first Volunteer Day in Itaka-Escolapios within the Calasanzian Jubilee Year in which we are immersed, and in the special invitation that all the people who participate in the Pious Schools received, to live it with joy and intensity.

In this context, we hope that this day will be a humble contribution in this special year, with something that for Itaka-Escolapios is a fundamental key, as is the impulse of the Piarist mission to *educate, announce and transform*, from volunteering and with the contribution of so many volunteers.

For all of this, we want our message on this day to all those who are part of Itaka-Escolapios be of remembrance, recognition and convocation.

Firstly, we invite to REMEMBER the value and centrality of volunteering in all the works, programs and projects that make up our mission. And we want this act of remembering has its deepest sense of "going back through the heart" something that for us is very important.

From its beginnings with St. Joseph of Calasanz, the Pious Schools emerged and developed itself thanks to the free and voluntary contribution of many people committed to the integral education of children and young people, especially the most poor. Updating today the footsteps of our founder Calasanz, and with the light of the calls we receive from the world and today's society, in Itaka-Escolapios we consider volunteering as a fundamental value in everything we do and we express it in our Strategic Plan: *Itaka -Escolapios bases its action on volunteering, opens spaces to it and prioritizes and promotes it in all its projects, because of its educational value and as an expression of generous commitment in favor of other people.*

Secondly, we wish today to RECOGNIZE with appreciation the work and commitment of all the volunteers participating in Itaka-Escolapios: religious and laity, women and men; In the Calasanz Movement, in the school environment, in socio-educative programs of non-formal education, in teacher's formation, in sensitizing campaigns and actions, in international solidarity projects, in support of management, communication ... (fortunately, the enumeration here could be very long). To all of you we say THANK YOU and we want to convey a certainty: the Itaka-Escolapios network, its past, present and future, would be unthinkable if not because of people who, as is your case and each according to his possibilities, have given the step of getting involved in this mission from volunteering.

And finally, these words also serve to CALL and to advance in our volunteering. To people who already participate as volunteers in Itaka-Escolapios, to update their commitment and consider what new steps can be taken, as well as to those that are nearby and whom we invite to join.



With the challenges ahead in Itaka-Escolapios and the Pious Schools in general, we cannot be self-indulgent or content with what has already been done. Our projects, and above all the educational, social and pastoral needs that knock on our door, make it necessary to have more hands in the service of the mission. And let us think not only in a local key, but beyond: as Pope Francis told us in his message of the beginning of the Calasanzian Jubilee Year, *let us always have a missionary spirit and readiness to set out.*

We invite you to celebrate this day in communion with the entire Itaka-Escolapios network and the whole of the Pious Schools, with gratitude to our volunteers and with a hopeful and committed vision towards the future.

To the greater glory of God and the service of the neighbor.

General Volunteer's Team

Executive Committee