

Itaka Escolapios Newsletter

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December 2018

First steps in Mozambique

Since recently there is a new country in the Itaka-Escolapios network: Mozambique. This is a new foundation of the Pious Schools, present there for just two years. The Piarist presence is in the area of Pemba, in the north of the country. At the moment the Piarist mission is focussed on the Parish of São Luiz Maria Grignon de Monfort, a very large Parish with up to 30 chapels (some of them very distant), as well as the “*escolinha*” Beata Maria da Paixão (nursery school), which attends children up to the age of 5. The commitment is to support these two works from Itaka-Escolapios and to contribute in the great development that the Piarist presence can have in Mozambique.



End of the year activity in November, with the children of the “*escolinha*” (nursery school).

Itaka-Escolapios continues to advance in Mexico

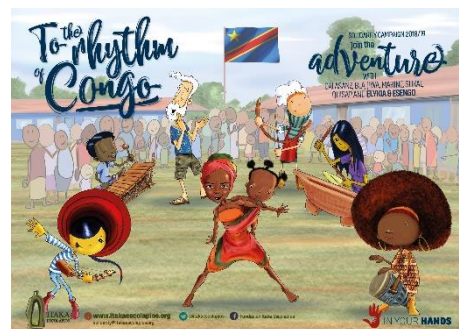


Act of adhesion of the Fraternity of Mexico to the network.

Itaka-Escolapios Mexico is living special moments of illusion and novelty in the last months. In September, the Piarist Fraternity of Mexico adhered to the programmatic letter of Itaka-Escolapios, thus officially joining the Network. On the other hand, also since this year, both the Calasanz Movement and the promotion and accompaniment of the Piarist Volunteering throughout the country have been integrated into Itaka-Escolapios. These are two very important areas of the Piarist mission in Mexico, in which significant steps are being taken and which are added to the commitment to grow and share in network.

To the rhythm of Congo

The solidarity campaign of 2019 has already been presented and is underway in some presences of the network. This time we turn our gaze and efforts to the Democratic Republic of Congo, to get closer to its reality and to give together a solidary boost to the Piarist mission in this country, with so many problems but also with so much richness and possibilities. On this occasion, moreover, coinciding with the recent formative trip that Jean Claude Nagtchuesi and Thomas Shala (coordinator and technician, respectively, of Itaka-Escolapios in the country) made from Congo, both were able to meet with those in charge of the network, explain the reality first hand and participate in the final preparation of the campaign.



Participantes en la jornada de Madrid

Working day in Madrid

On October 27, after the Non-Formal Education meeting in Salamanca, taking advantage of the presence in Spain of people from Itaka-Escolapios from several countries, we had a working day of our network in Madrid. People from 9 of the 10 demarcations participating in the network attended: Emmaus, Bethany, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, Central Africa, West Africa, Venezuela and Chile. The day served to share the moment in each place and to reflect together on the possibilities and challenges for the future that we have in the network.



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Final meeting in Manila with those responsible for Itaka-Escolapios in the Philippines

Visit and encounters in Philippines

Last October a ten-day visit to the Philippines was made from the network. The various Piarist presences in the country were visited (Manila, San Vicente, Davao, Kiblawan and Cebu), visiting the works and projects, as well as meeting the different Piarist realities in each place: religious communities, young Piarists in formation, teachers and students, lay groups, etc. In all these places we presented Itaka-Escolapios, learned about the challenges of the mission and discussed the possibilities of working together. Very intense and interesting days which will surely bear fruit in the near development of our mission and collaboration in the Philippines.

New challenges in 2019 for Brazil and Bolivia

The Pious Schools of Brazil and Bolivia are currently living a moment of growth of the mission in both countries, with new works and challenges of which Itaka-Escolapios participates: in Brazil we began our presence in Aracajú (Sergipe state, northeast of the country), in the district of Coquerão, a place with many deficiencies where the Parish and the social centre linked to it are assumed. And on the other hand, there are two steps to highlight: the new presence in Santa Cruz, a city that receives a Parish and a large school in the popular neighbourhood of La Cuchilla. Along with this, two new university residence spaces were set up in Cochabamba, in order to face up with new impetus the recurrent problem that the boys and girls of Anzaldo and Cocapata have to continue their university studies.



Children's activities in the social centre of Coquerão.



Food support by Itaka-Escolapios Venezuela

Reinforcing our commitment to Venezuela

As a consequence of the social emergency that Venezuela is currently experiencing, the Itaka-Escolapios network, at the initiative of the local teams, is promoting a plan to respond to the particularly urgent needs of the people living around our works and projects.

It is worth mentioning the food support program that is being carried out in the offices, offering three lunches a week. Also, the campaign of medicines by which vulnerable people and those with chronic illnesses are receiving pharmacological treatments to which there is no access today.

All this is being made possible thanks to various collaborations obtained from Itaka-Escolapios Venezuela and the solidarity contribution of the network, which has tripled its budget for this country this year.



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