

Itaka Escolapios Newsletter

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September 2019

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Itaka-Escolapios

A new meeting of the Board of Trustees took place on 27 June to address diverse and relevant issues. Among them, the approval of the budget of the Itaka-Escolapios Foundation for the period 2019-20. These accounts include a forecast of around 5.4 million euros of incomes and expenses for the year, a figure that reflects the significant growth in the economic volume of shared projects promoted and supported by the entity.

In addition, the current situation in the Itaka-Escolapios network was reviewed and some decisions were taken to respond to the challenges and update the teams. There was also a moment to receive first-hand information about Mozambique, the most recent presence of Itaka-Escolapios, thanks to the testimony of Jean Bernard Dialomao Diatta, our responsible in Pemba.



The members of the Board of Trustees listen to Jean Bernard Dialomao's explanations about Mozambique.

New teams in the Itaka-Escolapios network



Emmanuel, Joseph and Alberto, new members of the Executive Committee

renewals in some responsibilities of the Network. Thus, it is noteworthy that Ander Mijangos assumes the coordination of the Management team (replacing Berna Arrabal), while Alberto Cantero assumes the coordination of Training (replacing Iratxe Meseguer). We encourage the new managers and thank the previous ones, Berna and Iratxe, who will continue to be very committed to Itaka-Escolapios from other functions.

Precisely by decision of the Board of Trustees of June, the Executive Committee of Itaka-Escolapios has been significantly strengthened with the incorporation of three new members: Fr. Emmanuel Suárez (from Mexico), Fr. Joseph Kunnel (from India) and Alberto Cantero (from Emmaus), which join the existing ones: Javier Aguirregabiria (President), Igor Irigoyen (General Coordinator), Constanza de las Marinas and Ander Mijangos. The presence of the three new members broadens and enriches the vision and work of this team, so it is a very positive step.

On the other hand, we are in a moment of change and

Itaka-Escolapios, at the Assembly of the Piarist Youth in Oaxaca

The Assembly of the Piarist Youth and the meeting of leaders of the Calasanz Movement were held in Oaxaca (Mexico) from July 15 to 20. Itaka-Escolapios has been present at this important meeting through people from the different demarcations participating in the Network. We also followed with great interest the topics discussed and the conclusions of the meeting, since the impulse of the Calasanz Movement and the work with youth is a priority element and the cornerstone of Itaka-Escolapios. In addition, during the Assembly there was an opportunity to present the proposal for the 2019-20 solidarity campaign, this time closely related to the theme of the Assembly, since it will support the Piarist mission with young people through the Itaka-Escolapios projects in America.



Juan Carlos de la Riva presenting the solidarity campaign of Itaka-Escolapios in Oaxaca.



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SAL volunteers in Bolivia

Throughout the month of August, young people who began this year the program “SAL de tu tierra” (come out of your land) have had their volunteer experience in Bolivia, an opportunity to know and share community life, spirituality and the Piarist mission with the poorest. On this occasion, there were five young people, three girls and two boys from Pamplona, Bilbao and Seville, members of the discernment groups of the Calasanz Movement in these cities. Although they spent most of their stay in Anzaldo, they were also able to get to know other Piarist presences in the country and to share their experiences with many people. Without a doubt, these unforgettable days will leave an imprint on the vocational process of these young people and will help them to deepen from now on.



The young people of SAL, very well accompanied in Anzaldo.

Expansion of the Secondary School of El Trompillo



View of the secondary school building, with the extension works in progress.

The office of Itaka-Escolapios in Barquisimeto (Venezuela) is currently undertaking a very important project: the expansion of the secondary school in the neighbourhood of El Trompillo. The objective is to have new spaces to accommodate new secondary school students, as well as previous students who are already in the fourth year, and who need the expansion of this centre in order to continue studying.

In an especially difficult current context in the country, we strengthen our mission in this Piarist presence so loved by our Network, which began in 1997 with a joint community of religious and laity, and in which Itaka-Escolapios has been promoting various projects to respond to the needs of the neighbourhood: premises, CECAL workshops and the initial construction of this secondary school.

Many places connected "To the rhythm of the Congo"

Over the last few months, in various places of the Itaka-Escolapios network, activities of the solidarity campaign “To the rhythm of Congo” have been carried out to raise awareness and support our projects in that country. Soon we will have an overall final balance of this campaign, but everything indicates that the assessment will be very positive: both for participating Piarist presences and works, as for the initiatives that have been carried out. A campaign that has motivated us to get to know the Democratic Republic of Congo, to get closer to the Piarist mission in the country and to share in solidarity so that it continues to grow.



Activities of the “To the rhythm of Congo” in Senegal.



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