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Esteemed sisters and brothers of the Piarist Fraternity:

Last May, 2018, the General Council of the Fraternity took part in two very important meetings held in Madrid (Spain), about which we wish to inform you:

In the first place, the III Itaka-Escolapios Advisory Council was held, which, as you know, is the shared mission platform that the Order and the Fraternity promote and in which several Demarcations and Fraternities Piarists are involved, in different ways. In the Advisory Council, the General Congregation, the General Council of the Fraternity, the Major Superiors of the demarcations where Itaka-Escolapios is developing a Piarist mission participate, together with those directly responsible for its direction and management.

This meeting served to make us aware of the volume of activity and the quality of the teams with which Itaka-Escolapios promotes the Piarist mission where it is required, and, above all, the enormous possibilities it offers for the growth of the Pious Schools and their Mission.

The words of Fr. General were especially relevant, in which he proposed the challenge of dreaming of a new way of being present in new foundations, the Order and the Fraternity in hand, with Itaka-Escolapios as a tool for shared work. A challenge for the Fraternity, which will undoubtedly also be a reason for growth.

The conclusions and documentation of this III Advisory Council can be consulted at: <http://www.itakaescolapios.org/documentos-iii-consejo-asesor/>

Next, the First Encounter between the General Congregation, the General Council and the Major Superiors where the Fraternity is present was celebrated. It was three days of sharing in depth the reality of the Piarist Fraternities, and of reflecting on the profound change that a Fraternity implies in a Demarcation, as well as the need to unfold all the potentialities that this presence allows.

The creation of a Piarist Fraternity implies the emergence of a new ecclesial subject that is recognized by the Order and by the Church as the bearer of the Piarist

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charisma. This allows generating together with the Order of the Pious Schools a space to share spirituality, life and mission. This space created between the Order and the Fraternity, it is necessary to inhabit it with experiences that allow to explore and symbolize what is intended to be promoted: the full experience of the gift of Calasanz, shared among people with different vocations and states of life, but united in the same passion for the Piarist mission.

The experiences of sharing prayer, or formation, between religious and members of the Fraternity, everything that supposes sharing the mission at different levels, the model of Piarist presence, the impulse of Itaka-Escolapios, the vocation of the lay Piarist, the shared ministries, joint communities, are experiences that allow, in addition to clarifying, to walk in the direction of building the Pious Schools, and ultimately, the Church, in which all of us feel called to contribute, from our life circumstances, more genuine of our own vocation.

All the documentation of this meeting can be found at:

<http://www.escolapios21.org/fraternidades/i-encuentro-de-ssmm-con-frater/>

We invite you to review it and if you see fit, work it together with the Demarcational Congregations, or to propose it as part of the formation plan of the communities.

For any other clarification or extension of what happened in these days of May, we are at your disposal.

June 7, 2018

Fr. Javier, Teresa, Izabel, Guillermo and Alberto.

General Council of the Piarist Fraternity