

The Fraternity Today and the Six-Year Balance

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The General Council of the Fraternity's main functions are to foster the creation of new Fraternities and to accompany the existing ones, seeking to strengthen the *raison d'être* of the Fraternity: to become a new Piarist subject that shares the spiritual gift and mission with the religious persons, as well as the preparation of the Assembly of the Fraternity.

➤ The General Council of the Fraternity's Journey since its Appointment.

- The GCF was elected at the 1st General Fraternity Assembly held in Peralta in 2014.
- As part of its work dynamics, it has held face-to-face and virtual meetings throughout its terms, making the most of other meetings to which the Council was summoned in order to meet.
- The meetings held have been documented through the preparation of Board minutes, comprising a total of 56.
- The GCF participated in the various meetings as called by the Itaka-Escolapios Network Advisory Council:

Signing, together with the General Congregation, this Council's commitment to the Programmatic letter approved at the 2015 Itaka-Escolapios Advisory Council.

Participation in face-to-face and virtual meetings with the Advisory Council:

Attendance at the 2nd Advisory Council held in Madrid from 26 to 28 January, 2015.

Attendance at the 3rd Advisory Council held in Madrid from 7 to 9 January, 2018.

Attendance at the 4th Advisory Council held in Madrid from 8 to 11 January, 2020.

- Face-to-face and virtual meetings were held with the Extended Fraternity Council halfway through the six-year period.

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➤ Operating Dynamics

- Meetings held via videoconference: initially via Skype, and later on via Microsoft Teams
- Fortnightly meetings on the platform: 48 virtual meetings
- Commissions assigned within the Council:
 - a) Economy: Alberto Cantero Calvo
 - b) Secretary: María Teresa Martínez Guzmán
 - c) Communication: María Isabel de Jesús and Guillermo Gómez Megías
 - d) Training: Fr. Javier Aguirregabiria Aguirre
- Face-to-face meetings held: 8 meetings
 - a) Peralta de la Sal, 1st Fraternity Assembly, July 2014
 - b) Madrid, 2nd Itaka-Escolapios Advisory Council, January 2015
 - c) Meeting with the General Congregation and the Fraternity Council, February 2016
 - d) Esztegom, Hungary, 47th. General Chapter, 2016
 - e) Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Meeting with the Extended Council, May 2017.
 - f) Madrid, 3rd Itaka-Escolapios Advisory Council, May 2018

g) Rome, Meeting with the General Congregation and the Fraternity Council, March 2019

h) Madrid, 5th Itaka-Escolapios Advisory Council, May 2020

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➤ Dynamics for Accompanying Existing and Emerging Fraternities

- One person responsible for accompanying the Fraternities was assigned as part of the GCF's tasks.
- One non-religious person was identified in order to act as a contact within each Fraternity.
- At each meeting, a report was made on any new developments within the fraternities.
- In some cases, it was difficult to maintain smooth communication with the non-religious person.
- The Councils were asked to keep the Fraternities' data up to date.
- The Fraternities undertook elaboration, application, and evaluation tasks and obtained results from the self-assessment survey on the reality of the Fraternities, which took into account the characteristics of the Fraternity.
- Virtual meetings took place with the Councils, with the aim of getting to know the reality of each Fraternity in their demarcation.
- Face-to-face meetings took place (to the extent that has been possible) with the Fraternity Councils and their members.
- The following face-to-face visits took place:
 - Guillermo Gómez to the Fraternity of Hungary;
 - Alberto Cantero to the Fraternity of Slovak;
 - General Council interviews with the Fraternity of Mexico at the meeting held with the General Congregation in Puebla, Mexico; and
 - General Council meeting with the Extended Council in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, interview with the Fraternity.
- Statute approval
- Welcome letters were sent to newly integrated Fraternities as well as face-to-face visits.
- The following Fraternities emerged in the six-year period between 2014-2021:
 - a) Nazareth (2015),
 - b) Slovak (2016),
 - c) Hungary (2017).

To Empower the Fraternity within the Order, Province, and Works

- Sharing official documents and other documents of interest (Piarist, ecclesial, pastoral, educational, etc.) on www.escolapios21.org
- Sharing existing training materials on www.escolapios21.org
- Presence in Ephemerides as a Fraternity, as well as on websites, social networks, etc.
- Collaboration throughout the Calasancian Jubilee Year (2017)
- Regular communication with the General Assistants of the Order in order to keep up to date with the situation of the different Provinces, and to seek that they be the voice and presence of the Fraternity in its relationship with each Circumscription and Province
- Systematic sharing of what is being put forward and developed in each place to strengthen the identity as a local, provincial and general Fraternity
- Communication of the life within the Fraternities and other items of interest

- Openness to dialogue in the various meetings with Provincials
 - Face-to-face hearings where possible
- **Relationship of the General Council of the Fraternity with the Key Teams of the Order.**
- a) *General Congregation*
 - Regular communication with Fr. General and the Congregation: sending news, topics of interest, being familiar with the visit calendar in order to emphasize on specific aspects, such as joint writings (message on the occasion of the Jubilee Year celebrated in 2017)
 - On March 14 and 15, the annual Meeting of the General Congregation and the General Council of the Fraternity took place in the Church of Saint Pantaleon in Rome.
 - Sending of the meeting minutes of the General Council of the Fraternity
 - Addressing the underlying topics at each meeting with the General Congregation
 - b) *Itaka-Escolapios Network*
 - Participation in face-to-face and virtual meetings with the Advisory Council
 - Sending of the Itaka-Escolapios report to all Fraternities
 - Participation in raising awareness of the Network's solidarity campaigns
 - Taking co-responsibility for the functioning of Itaka-Escolapios
 - Encouraging the participation of the Fraternities in the network
 - Holding scheduled meetings with the Executive Committee
 - c) *General Secretariat for Participation*
 - Supporting the formation of new fraternities and accompanying them throughout
 - Face-to-face meetings
 - Attendance at and participation in the Participation Meeting held in Oaxaca, Mexico, from July 10-15, 2017
 - d) *The Calasanz Movement*
 - e) Participation as a Fraternity in the Calasanz Movement as the basis of vocational culture and collaboration in the Piarist Mission
- **Reflections of Interest for Councils and their Fraternities**
- Sending of an introduction letter to the Fraternities at the beginning of the Council's term
 - Elaboration and dissemination of a Dossier containing documents of interest for the fraternities: challenges faced by the fraternities, Itaka-Escolapios, the Fraternity of the Pious Schools, an open letter to those who make up the Pious Schools, strengthening the Piarists' identity, etc.
 - Elaboration of a book with clarifications and experiences relating to the Fraternity of the Pious Schools
 - Working on significant aspects of the Fraternity's Identity
 - a) Testimonies of their experiences as members of the Fraternity across different areas and projects: Sending to other presences and countries, definitive options, participation in the Presence Teams and elaboration of Presence Projects, shared Lay Ministries, relationships between the Provincial Congregation and the Fraternity Council, Lay-Piarist Vocation, joint communities, calls to fraternity, links with the Calasanz Movement, the promotion of the

Modalities of the Shared Mission and Cooperation, how their fraternity has come to life, life in the Fraternity, and participation in General Teams of the Order.

- b) Generation of spaces for reflection on the elements that unite the Order and the Fraternity: religious persons who participate in the Fraternity, non-religious Piarists who participate in the Order, the relationship between the religious community and the Fraternity, joint Piarist ministries, shared reflection and action between the congregation and the Fraternity Council, Piarists' presence in teams and projects, Itaka-Escolapios, shared information areas, joint participation initiatives, and joint communities.

➤ **Economy**

- Appointment of a person in charge of the Economy within the GCF responsible for the budget and the management of expenses borne from the General Fraternity's work
- Drawing up of the annual budget each September
- Sending *communiqués* to the Councils to inform them of the annual contribution
- Asking each Fraternity for its annual contribution, providing the corresponding rendering of accounts in January of each year.