



PIARISTS: today the 46th General Chapter is opening

From today's inauguration until 26th July the Order of the Piarists will be holding its 46th General Chapter, which opens in Peralta de la Sal in Spain. Founded in the 17th century by Saint Joseph Calasanz (1557-1648), the Order has been dedicated to the education of children and young people, especially the children of the poor, since it was created. The Chapter is being held during the 40th anniversary of the Special General Chapter which was held in Rome from 1967 to 1969 and whose aim was to apply the doctrines and guidelines of the 2nd Vatican Council to its life and mission. The general topic of this assembly is "Piarist Ministry" and under that umbrella various specific fields have been chosen; for example, educating poor children; a profile for the "Piarist School"; school as a pastoral mission; non-formal education; the religious Community and its mission; the Piarist ministry and expanding Order. Other topics which have long been matter for reflection will be examined and these are principally connected to a reorganisation of the Order, our Piarist pastoral vocation and developing relationships with the laity. The 74 members of Chapter will examine the life and work of their own institutes over the past six years and will elect the Father General and his assistants. The motto chosen for the 46th general Chapter, "Docere audeo" ("I dare to educate") reflects the central importance of the educational vocation of Piarists, which they experience as a fundamental service for individuals and for society, especially because of the current need for education for the human, spiritual and social upbringing and growth of new generations. The Order now has about 1,500 members who are spread out over 34 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa.