

August 25, 2022

Good Morning All,

~~For your information~~ We have had a great start to the new school year. We have 100 students (plus or minus as everyone gets settled in their new schools)! With this terrific enrollment, we have started a new policy for the Hall during the school day Monday -Friday from 7:30 to 5:00. Please check in at the front desk of the school for a volunteer/visitor pass so we are aware of who is on the campus. This is part of Safe Environment policies for the protection of the children. This policy applies to everyone. Thank you for helping us keep the smallest of our family safe! Please share with your groups and friends!

1. Today's Readings: [Thursday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Saint Joseph Calasanz was born at Aragon in 1557. Well educated, he became a priest and exercised his ministry in his homeland. Later he dedicated himself to the education of poor boys at Rome and founded a society pledged to that work. He endured many trials, especially the calumnies of those who were jealous of his success. (Liturgy of the Hours)
3. Quotes of the Day: St. Joseph Calasanz

~"For if from childhood, a child is diligently imbued with piety and literacy, a happy course of life can be foreseen."

~As Scripture says, "Those who instruct many in justice will shine as stars for all eternity." They will attain this more easily, if they make a covenant of perpetual obedience and strive to cling to Christ and please Him alone because, in His words, "What you did to one of the least of my brethren, you did to me."

~"All who undertake to teach must be endowed with deep love, the greatest of patience and, most of all, profound humility. They must perform their work with earnest zeal. Then, through their humble prayers, the Lord will find them worthy to become fellow workers with Him in the cause of truth."

St. Joseph Calasanz, Pray for Us!

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St. Joseph Calasanz

St Joseph Calasanz , Priest, Religious. A lawyer, theologian, and presbyter who gave away much of his family fortune and devoted himself to providing free education for poor children in Rome. Founded the Clerks Regular of the Christian Schools (Piarists) and suffered many trials in later life at the hands of jealous colleagues and Church authorities. Noted especially for his patience in the midst of suffering.



Joseph of Calasanz, (*Calasanctius*) was a Spanish priest, born in Aragon (Spain) in 1557; who went to Rome at the end of the sixteenth century and started schools for homeless children. He also started a congregation to service these schools which is today spread over the whole world. He died in Rome on this day in 1648.

Early Life

Joseph of Calasanz, was from Aragon, Spain. He was well educated in philosophy, law and theology. His father wanted him to marry and continue the family, but on recovery from an illness which brought him close to death, he decided to become a priest. For ten years after he was ordained he held various posts as a secretary, administrator and theologian in the diocese of Albarracín in Spain.

To Rome

In 1592 Joseph went to Rome, where he became a theologian in the service of Cardinal Marcoantonio Colonna and a tutor to his nephew. He worked alongside St. Camillus de Lellis during the plague that hit Rome at the time and helped carry the bodies of the dead on his own shoulders to burial.

The Congregation of the Pious Schools



Joseph worked with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and soon he opened a school for homeless children himself. Within ten years he had rented a house at Sant'Andrea della Valle and started a community for teaching poor children, which later were called the Piarists. Popes Clement VIII (Aldobrandini 1592-1605) and Paul V (Borghese 1605-21) both gave him financial help and soon he had a thousand children in his charge. In 1612, the school moved to San Pantaleo, near Piazza Navona, and this became the motherhouse of what came to be called the Pious Schools.

In September 1616 the first public and free school in Frascati was started up on his initiative. A year later, Pope Paul V approved the "Congregation of the Pious Schools," the first religious institute dedicated to teaching. During the following years Joseph was able to set up Pious Schools in various parts of Europe.

Great Moral Courage

Joseph was a man of great moral courage. He accepted Jewish children into his schools and made sure they were treated equally. Although Latin was the accepted language of the time, he defended and had textbooks in vernacular languages. He advanced the study of mathematics and science. He was a friend of the scientist Galileo Galilei, and sent some of his Piarists to study with him. He shared and defended Galileo's heliocentric view of the cosmos and even after Galileo was condemned and became blind, he stood by him. This caused opposition towards him and his congregation in influential quarters and he was removed from his post as superior general of the Piarists, but he remained patient and humble in the face of these trials.

Death and Influence

Joseph died in 1648, at the age of 90 and was buried in the church of San Pantaleo. Eight years after his death, Pope Alexander VII (Fabio Chigi 1655-67) cleared his name and that of the Pious Schools so the Piarist congregation continued to spread throughout Europe. It had considerable success in education of physically and mentally disabled persons.



'The Last Communion of St Joseph Calasanz'
as painted by the Spanish painter Goya.

Famous Pupils of the Piarist Schools

Among those taught in Piarist schools were:

Francisco Goya
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Franz Schubert
Gregor Mendel, and
Victor Hugo.

A beautiful painting of him by Francisco de Goya entitled *The Last Communion of Saint Jose de Calasanz* (1819) hangs in the Church of the Escuelas Pias de San Antón, Madrid, Spain.

The Congregation Today

Joseph was beatified in 1748 by Pope Benedict XIV and canonized by Pope Clement XIII in 1767. In 1948, Pope Pius XII declared Joseph the patron of Christian popular schools. Today the congregation has 1421 members in 32 countries on four continents (Europe, Asia, Africa and America).

St. Joseph Calasanz (1557-1648) patron of Catholic schools

Source: catholicireland.net