

MAY 31, 2026. CALASANZ MOVEMENT DAY

PRAYER AND SESSION WITH CHILDREN

“Feast of Glicerio Landriani Vocation”. Milán, March 1, 1588 - Rome, February 15 1618

Let us celebrate together the day of the Calasanz Movement.

On May 31, 1612, Glicerio and five of his friends joined the Pious Schools. The work that Saint Joseph Calasanz had begun 15 years earlier with the poor children of Trastevere won Glicerio's heart. His youthful enthusiasm and his desire for the children to know Jesus, live the Gospel, and love the Church made him a catechist and an apostle among the little ones.

Objective:

Encourage children to stay connected to THEIR ROOTS, where God invites them to grow and bear fruit by embracing the beauty within each of them, inspired by the Venerable Glicerio Landriani, SchP, patron of the Calasanz Movement.



PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

GOING TO THE ROOT: A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

We entrust ourselves to God: “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Introductory song: Tu raíz (Your Root), this song is in Spanish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQAaBAAT-6Tc>

No encuentras el sentido, te cuesta respirar.

La vida te zarandea, estás perdido, no sabes dónde vas.

Pero no desesperes, la luz está al llegar.

Todo lo llevas dentro. Escúchate, no te dejes llevar.

Tu historia viene cargada de su voluntad. Descubre tu identidad.

SI NO QUIERES SER LA MARIONETA,
BUSCA TU BELLEZA, VIVE DESDE TU RAÍZ.
NO ESTÁS SOLO. MIRA EN LO PROFUNDO,
ÉL TE ESPERA. Y SI LE ABRES LA PUERTA,
CONFÍA, ÉL ES TU RAÍZ.

Estás en tu familia, en tu comunidad.

Echamos las raíces en nuestro padre, José de Calasanz.

Y en este loco mundo de tanta oscuridad,
seremos esperanza desde su Amor, que no se apagará.

Y a cada niño que encuentres le repetirás
para que aprenda a volar:

SI NO QUIERES...

... que te sostiene y te nutre, que te invita a servir.
Que quiere hacerte feliz.

Y en medio de la tormenta, cuando cueste seguir,
Jesús será tu raíz.

From Saint Joseph Calasanz:

“For however small and weak a plant may be, if an experienced gardener takes care of it and tends to it, in a short time it will be seen to have grown, blossomed, and borne fruit. Your Excellency, see how

small and weak the nascent plant of this Work of God is; I beg you to deign never to neglect its care, for perhaps one day you will enjoy its ripe and sweet fruit.”

Del libro de Jeremías (17, 8)

Blessed the child who trust in the Lord...

“They are like a tree planted besides the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It does not fear heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it shows no distress, but still produces fruit” The word of the Lord.

REFLECT ON THE WORD THAT HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED.

Reflection: What stands out to you in the words of Saint Joseph Calasanz and the prophet Jeremiah? How does this relate to our lives?

Sign - Action: Show a real plant and point out how the roots are hidden underground, but are the most important part because they provide water and strength to the little plant. Today we are going to talk about our Piarist motto: “Your Root.”

On a wall or board, stick a large silhouette of a tree without roots.

Group leader: Saint Joseph Calasanz wanted all children to have very strong roots. For him, our roots grow when we learn good things at school (Letters) and when we are friends with Jesus and have a good heart (Piety). If our roots are love, friendship, forgiveness, and Jesus... we will bear beautiful fruit!

Activity: “Making Our Tree Grow”

- Give each child a paper “root” and a pencil.
- Ask the children to draw or write on their root what makes them strong, what nourishes their lives from within, and what makes them happy. They can include values, gifts, and meaningful relationships such as family, friends, Jesus, etc.
- One by one (or in small groups), they come to the front to stick their root under the large paper tree on the wall.

SHARED PRAYER:

Leader: Now that our tree has beautiful, strong roots, let's pray together. I'll say a phrase, and you respond loudly: "Jesus, be my root."

Leader: To grow up healthy and full of joy...

Children: Jesus, be my root!

Leader: When I feel sad or afraid...

Children: Jesus, be my root!

Leader: To bear fruits of love, help at home, and be a good friend...

Children: Jesus, be my root!

Leader: To follow the example of Saint Joseph Calasanz...

Children: Jesus, be my root!

All: Jesus, living root of our vocation, awaken in us the first love, strengthen what is weak, nourish what is thirsty, and make our lives bear abundant fruit for all. Amen.

FINAL SONG

Hymn of the Calasanz Movement - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI201yCWm-M&t=5s>

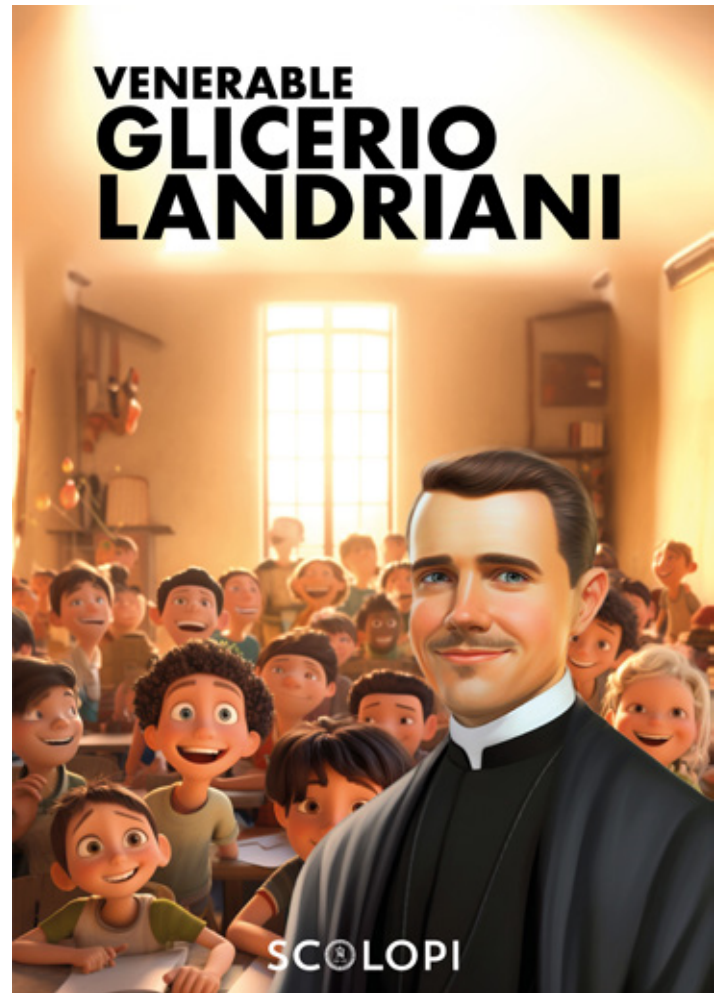
Compartir ilusión,
vivir intensamente cada momento.
Tengo en mi corazón
cientos de nombres y una canción.

Busco mi vocación
Quiero vivir amando, vivir sin miedo.
Grupo lleno de amor,
lleno de Dios.

**ME PONGO EN MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ. (Bis)**

Caminar y crecer
con tantas experiencias que dan la vida.
Descubriendo la fe
como Jesús, lavando los pies.

Un encuentro especial,
Iluminar la vida con tu Palabra.



No nos vas a fallar.

¡Quiero cantar!

**Y PONTE EN MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

**PONTE EN MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

**SIENTE EL MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

**VEN AL MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

Sé que voy a encontrar
contigo los talentos que llevo dentro.
Esta comunidad es mi lugar.

**YO SOY DEL MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

**YO SOY DEL MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

**DESCUBRE EL MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

**DISFRUTA EL MOVIMIENTO, MOVIMIENTO,
MOVIMIENTO CALASANZ.**

SESSION OR GATHERING WITH THE CHILDREN

INVITED TO GROW FROM MY ROOTS.

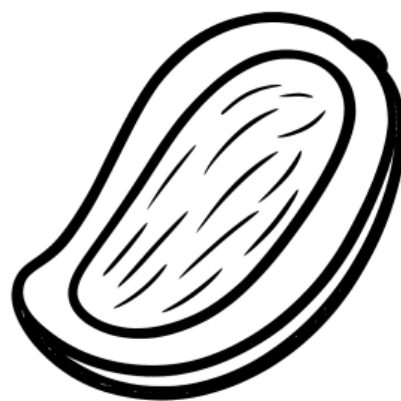
ACTIVITY 01 - THE POWER OF THE SEED:

In the following video, you'll find a simple and beautiful explanation of what a seed is, how it works, and how it's planted.

Seed video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSe_VUMymjo

Reflect on the power of the seed:

1. Draw here what the seeds in your heart would look like: their color, shape, and characteristics that say something about you.



2. Seed coat: Protects the seed from external damage and preserves its interior until it is ready to germinate.

What protects me in my life as I go through a period of growth?

3. Cotyledon: Contains the nutrients that nourish the seed during its early stages of growth.

What nourishes my life and helps me grow, and live a joyful and fulfilling life?



Enraizados en Cristo y en nuestro espíritu fundador, podemos crecer con sentido y dar fruto abundante. "Tu raíz", una invitación a vivir con sentido, arraigados en lo que da vida de verdad".



4. Embryo and radicle: It contains the complete blueprint for the future plant. The root and shoot are pres-

What invitations is God extending to me to help me become a better person and grow?

ent in their initial stages. The radicle is the part of the embryo that grows when the seed germinates; it will become the root and allow the plant to anchor itself to the soil and absorb water and nutrients.

5. Drought, pests, floods, dryness: The seed can also be affected by external factors that seek to destroy it, damage it, cause it to be lost, or prevent it from growing.

What affects my growth or disconnects me from my roots?

ACTIVITY 02 - TO LEARN: GOING TO THE ROOT-A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.

The root as a source of truth.

The root invites us to go deep, to rediscover meaning, purpose, priorities, and direction. Spiritual life functions like a tree. It grows upward only if it grows downward.

The Priority of the Invisible.

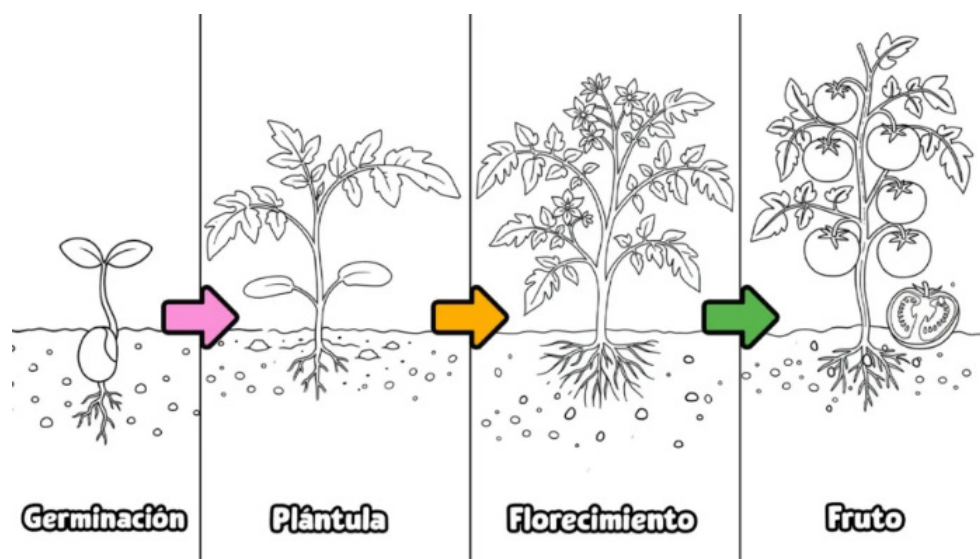
In a world fascinated by the visible, the fast, the efficient, and the spectacular, God always works in the invisible. Calasanz knew this, too. His work took root in obscurity, in the quiet diligence of a hard life, in silent prayer, and in a radical trust in God.

Fruits for others.

The root does not exist for its own sake; it exists to bear fruit, and the tree never eats the fruit—it nourishes others.

Intertwined roots.

It is not just a single root that sustains the tree, but a whole diverse network. That is what community means to us. Piarist life flourishes when we are together, when we share the same ground, when we face hardships and yet remain steadfast, when we accept the inevitable challenges of living together, when our work is unseen and goes unrecognized, but we continue to stand firm, supporting it.



The roots as origin: Calasanz.

If we return there, everything is renewed. That is also our common root today: faith, our educational vocation, a preference for the poor, community, pastoral ministry and spirituality, and evangelizing through education. From this humble yet firm root, a tree has grown that today embraces the world.

ACTIVITY 03: COLOR THE PICTURE THAT INVITES YOU TO CONNECT WITH YOUR INNER ROOTS AND TAKE CARE OF THEM

In the following image, you will see a child caring for his inner roots, tending to the inner plant that is growing within him—a gift from God. Many things nourish the roots: nutrients, water, good soil, space, air, and sunlight. What nourishes my life? Meaningful relationships, family, friends, peers, teachers, learning experiences, spiritual life, gifts, abilities, etc. Color the image and connect with yourself.



FINAL CHALLENGE

THE LITTLE GARDENER OF THE SOUL: GLICERIO LANDRIANI

Glicerio Landriani was born into a very prominent and wealthy family. At first, he loved the parties and the luxuries of the big city. However, one day he felt that his heart was empty, so he decided to change course and seek out what truly mattered.

To achieve this, Glicerio began to nurture his inner self. How did he do it? He devoted himself to nourishing his soul every day through prayer, silence, and love for God. As he nurtured that invisible plant within his heart, he discovered that his greatest joy lay not in possessing many things, but in sharing with others.

Soon he met Saint Joseph Calasanz, a priest who had founded the Pious Schools to educate the most needy children. Glicerio joined his vision and became one of the first young men to work side by side with him. Together they shared great moments, and Calasanz taught him to be a patient teacher and a true friend.



Glicerio served others, especially children, with enthusiasm. He would go out into the streets of poor neighborhoods to gather the children, teach them at the Pious Schools, play with them, and escort them safely back to their homes. Although he lived only a few years (he was born on March 1, 1588, in Milan and died on February 15, 1618, in Rome, shortly before turning 30), his inner roots grew so strong that they bore beautiful fruits of kindness, education, catechesis, and support for children in their formation, reminding us that we can all be gardeners of our own hearts.

GLICERIO LANDRIANI CHALLENGE:

One way to care for our roots is to perform acts of service in which I make my gifts, my abilities, and my inner life available to do good for others, just as Jesus, Calasanz, and Glicerio Landriani did.

As a group in the Calasanz Movement, you will choose an act of service to carry out together or separately over the next week and evaluate it. Good luck with your challenge!

