Celebrating World Catholic Education Day 2021
May 13, 2021 (Ascension, 40 days after Easter)

Towards a Global Compact on Education
“To educate is always an act of hope, one that calls for cooperation in turning a barren and paralyzing indifference into another way of thinking that recognizes our interdependence... We consider education to be one of the most effective ways of making our world and history more human. Education is above all a matter of love and responsibility handed down from one generation to another.”

“Education is a natural antidote to the individualistic culture that at times degenerates into a true cult of the self and the primacy of indifference. Our future cannot be one of division, impoverishment of thought, imagination, attentiveness, dialogue and mutual understanding. That cannot be our future.”

Source: Remarks from Pope Francis delivered on October 15, 2020 through a video message for the event organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Pontifical Lateran University on a Global Compact for Education.
“We commit ourselves personally and in common:

• First, to make human persons in their value and dignity the centre of every educational programme, both formal and informal, in order to foster their distinctiveness, beauty and uniqueness, and their capacity for relationship with others and with the world around them, while at the same time teaching them to reject lifestyles that encourage the spread of the throwaway culture.

• Second, to listen to the voices of children and young people to whom we pass on values and knowledge, in order to build together a future of justice, peace and a dignified life for every person.

• Third, to encourage the full participation of girls and young women in education.

• Fourth, to see in the family the first and essential place of education.

• Fifth, to educate and be educated on the need for acceptance and in particular openness to the most vulnerable and marginalized.

• Sixth, to be committed to finding new ways of understanding the economy, politics, growth and progress that can truly stand at the service of the human person and the entire human family, within the context of an integral ecology.

• Seventh, to safeguard and cultivate our common home, protecting it from the exploitation of its resources, and to adopt a more sober lifestyle marked by the use of renewable energy sources and respect for the natural and human environment, in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and a circular economy.

• Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we want to commit ourselves courageously to developing an educational plan within our respective countries, investing our best energies and introducing creative and transformative processes in cooperation with civil society. In this, our point of reference should be the social doctrine that, inspired by the revealed word of God and Christian humanism, provides a solid basis and a vital resource for discerning the paths to follow in the present emergency.”

Source: Remarks from Pope Francis delivered on October 15, 2020 through a video message for the event organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Pontifical Lateran University on a Global Compact for Education.
Statistics about Catholic Education

Global enrollment in Catholic education

68.2 million students, including 35.0 million in primary school

The 5 top countries by enrolment at the pre-school, primary, and secondary levels are all low or lower-middle income: DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, India, Uganda (income classification from the World Bank)

Selected contributions of Catholic schools and universities

Contributions to education systems
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 11.0% of all primary school students are in a Catholic school
- In low income countries, 13.7% of all primary school students are in a Catholic school
- Catholic education contributes to education pluralism and the right to education
- In many Catholic schools, student learning tends to be comparatively higher

Contributions to communities
- Catholic schools and universities emphasize values and integral human development
- Catholic schools and universities enroll children from all backgrounds and faiths

Economic contributions
- Budget savings for states of more than US$ 100 billion (PPP) per year in 38 countries
- Contribution to the future earnings of today's workers of at least US$12 trillion

Educating Children and Youth

Illustrative quotes from two dozen interviews

Fr. Alexandre Bingo, Burkina Faso
"The school of faith wants to combat ignorance of the religion of the other and promote ... respect for the other in their religious practice."

Kathy Mears, United States
"[During the pandemic] I have seen our teachers and school leaders go above and beyond the call of duty."

Sr. Martha Séide, Italy
“The aim of the education of Don Bosco and Mary Dominic Mazzarello is to accompany young people to become honest citizens and good Christians."

Sr. Patricia Parraguez Núñez, Chile
“Catholic education's purpose is the humanization of the person in the image of Christ. The integral formation that Catholic education seeks is its great strength."

Br. Peter Tabichi, Kenya
“It is all about having confidence in the student. Every child has potential, a gift or a talent. I try to engage students in various activities and mentor them.”

Leonardo Franchi, United Kingdom
"Few academics will make earth-shattering discoveries. Academic life is about preserving, curating and, when possible, enhancing the intellectual inheritance of humanity."

Fr. Alain Manalo, Philippines
"Catholic schools belong to the minority in Asia, including the predominantly Catholic Philippines. But they are known to offer excellent quality education and Christian values formation, ... for holistic human development."

Louis-Marie Piron, France
"The teacher is not solely a knowledge expert. The school must awake the potential of each young person ... [and] boost young people's talent for solidarity."

Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, Canada
"Our teachers and students are learning about First Nations people, about native spirituality and incorporating some practices into religious education. They are developing ways to overcome racism."

Source: World Catholic Education Day 2021: Celebrating Educators and Working Together for the Global Compact on Education.
Useful Resources

Selected reports available for (free) download

To download reports, click on the visuals below.

World Catholic Education Day 2021
Celebrating Educators and Working Together for the Global Compact on Education
May 2021

Global Catholic Education Report 2021
Education Pluralism, Learning Poverty, and the Right to Education
Quentin Monier
March 2021

Educatio Si Bulletin
Issue 8, Spring 2021

Ensuring a Bright Future for All Children
Interviews at the frontline of working with children at risk globally
April 2021

For a short (9’) video on key findings from the Global Catholic Education Report 2021, click on the visual on the right.

Other resources are available on OIEC’S website (http://oiecinternational.com/) and at Global Catholic Education (https://www.globalcatholiceducation.org/).
Committing to the Global Compact

For more information, visit our websites

Click on the logos to access the websites.

This brochure was designed by the Global Catholic Education project
Celebrating World Catholic Education Day 2021: Towards a Global Compact on Education