

WALKING WITH THE GLOBAL EDUCATION PACT



Dear Sisters,

This issue of INFO, which was left over from April, has as its central theme the Pact Global Education (GEP); a call made by Pope Francis, initially to those involved in education, and then extended to other groups of professionals, men and women of culture and science, communications and art, and to all those who feel challenged to make a covenant in favour of the new generations.

This invitation of Pope Francis resonates with us especially because of the place that education has had among us since the beginning of the Congregation. And, as we will see in the following pages, because of the great harmony that exists between our educational work of this time and the central lines of PEG.

The great concerns of Francis, which he has expressed in each of his addresses and messages, are all portrayed in the PEG: social fragmentation, the throwaway culture, the environmental and climate crisis, the need to build a future of justice, peace, and a dignified life for each person, are included in the project's guidelines. Because, as he himself said at the time: “the value of our educational practices will not be measured simply by having passed standardised tests, but by the ability to touch the heart of society and give birth to a new culture”. (Video message on the occasion of the meeting “Global compact on education. To look beyond together”, 15 October 2020). This is the aim of the PEG: to generate new, creative, and transformative processes.

No one would argue that the transformation of society, the development and growth of humanity begins with the education of new generations. The transformative power of education is too evident to be denied. What we can sometimes wonder is whether all people, and especially those with the most influence and power in the world, are sufficiently convinced of the need for radical transformations that benefit everyone. At a time when we are witnessing massive discontent expressed in protests, rebellions, violence, etc., it is crucial to commit to real changes that reach all those who have a hard time in life, and there are many of them. Transformations capable of making a better tomorrow for those who today suffer the shortcomings of a society whose wellbeing has denied them.

Education is a joint effort. Many factors come together so that children and young people can develop their talents and potential, growing and maturing as people and citizens. Hence the importance of everyone in the process: the family, the educational community, and as the African saying that the Pope mentions in his addresses goes, "to educate a child you need a whole village". The challenge, then, will be to build that village.

The educational intuitions left to us by the Good Mother have nourished our schools, educational centres and our relationship with children and young people for more than two centuries. In the section 'DEEPENING', we can recall this legacy and joyfully confirm that commitment to education opens us to the hope of a better tomorrow for the world.

Affectionately.