All the people and institutions interested in education, and in a special way the Pious Schools, have welcomed with interest and commitment Pope Francis’ call to “rebuild the global educational pact”. It is a strong and clear call, which calls us not only to renew our commitment to education, but to a shared dynamic of work by education as an instrument of social change, the bearer of a different world that can and must be built among all.

From the moment the Pope summoned us to this formidable challenge I am collaborating in some teams, especially from the coordination of the answers that the various religious congregations dedicated to education can give. I would like to offer you a summary of what is at stake in this topic of the GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PACT.

As a starting point, the Pope thinks that the educational covenant must be “reconstructed”, because there are important fractures that we must recognize and face, especially three: between the person and God; of human relationships in their diversity (the relationship with who is different from me) and of the person with nature. These three fractures can only be overcome from education. That is why a global pact is needed to address them and allow us to fight for a different world.

The itinerary from which this work of reconstruction of the GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PACT is addressed provides for various meetings and forums for reflection, the definition of some central nuclei from which to articulate the Pact process, and preferential options from which to move forward.

1. Meetings and forums. COVID-19 has made some face-to-face encounters difficult, but much of the work is being done online. I draw attention to two particularly significant online events.

   a) Firstly, the global meeting on the GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PACT, open to those who are interested, will take place on 15 October 2020. The Holy See will provide timely and public information in order to connect and participate.

   b) The “Seminar on the Global Compact”, also online, organized by the Education Commission of the Unions of Superiors and Superiors General, which will take place on 12, 13 and 14 November 2020, in four-hour sessions, from 14’00 to 18’00 a.m. in Rome.

2. The four central cores from which we want to work have become clear: human dignity and rights; integral ecology from the perspective of Laudato Si’; peace and citizenship; solidarity and development...

3. And the three options from which to push the whole process into these cores have also been clear. There are three: put the person at the center; drive all the processes that help the person grow; educate in service to the common...
good of all human beings.

I conclude this short synthesis with two underlines which I consider fundamental:

- First of all, I would like to stress that we are not facing a series of more or less interesting events, but in the face of a formidable process of rethinking education and placing it in place, as the key to a better world, of a more just and fraternal society. For us, piarists, sons and daughters of the founder of the Christian folk school, it is easy to understand this process, because we have been working on it for four centuries, because we know from the beginning of our School history that “if since childhood the child is diligently imbued in piety and in the letters, a happy course of his life can be foreseen, with foundation, and that of the careful education of children depends on the reform of society”. That is why our ministry is “irreplaceable”.

- Secondly, I would like to invite you all to be part of this challenge proposed to the world by Pope Francis. Let us be attentive to the process and look for our best ways to participate in this universal task of rebuilding the global education pact. We are facing a challenge that has already been initiated - prophetically - by Calasanz, and in which today we can and must continue to do our best.

A lot of encouragement and work.

Fr. Pedro Aguado Sch. P.
Father General

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