

Maintaining educational links

Educators' Day



Screens, video calls, virtual meetings, online classes. These are already words and concepts forcibly integrated into our lives due to coVID-19 restrictions. Words, however, that do not always have to be synonymous with less accompaniment and breakage of bond, on the contrary. The Pious Schools of Catalonia held this Saturday the XXXIII edition of its traditional Pious Schools day. And it has done so in online format, and with the theme of the link through the screen as the center axis.

"The theme of the link is a key issue, a very important issue," explains Antoni Burgaya, Secretary General of the Educational Institutions of the Pious Schools of Catalonia. And a topic, that of the bond, that is not new to the Institution. "Calasanz already said that the most important thing is that the student notices that the teacher wants his progress," Burgaya recalls. The founder of the piarists said that you have to wish so much to accompany the student well that he should notice it. "Deep down Calasanz talked about the importance of bonding, he talked that the most important thing is always that what is done is done in truth, estimating the other," Burgaya acknowledges. And this is the look that doesn't change, the professor thinks, "it's done through a screen, over the phone or in person."

What is also clear to the Institution is that this premise is valid for a school, "but also to welcome a person in any of the social foundations, in camps, or in the field of leisure". And in this bond that is created, Burgaya recognizes, "it is when you can give the act of educating, that it is always bidirectional".

More than 700 people enrolled in the Day of the Pious School which, due to the pandemic, has been held online, from the Higher School of Film and Audiovisuals of Catalonia (ESCAC). The Piarist Eduard Pini, Provincial of the Pious Schools of Catalonia, has encouraged participants "to continue to make a better world, through the bond we weed from the Pious Schools". Each from his place, he has explained, "from the free time, from the reception floors, or from the classrooms".

Anna Forés, Deputy Director of the Chair of Neuroeducation of the UB-EDU (University of Barcelona), has been in charge of getting into the matter by talking about the link through the screen. It emphasized the importance of looking at the opportunities that technology brings. "It's easy to fall for everything we can't do, but it's essential to focus on what we can do," She said.

In turn, Genís Roca, an expert in digital subjects, has put on the table the idea that all technological revolutions need social movements to review them. "We'll have to write a new social contract," he said. During his presentation he has given many optimistic messages regarding the link in the digital world. "What

is the bond? One person is where he participates. It can be disconnected in person or hyper-connected through the screen."

During the home confinement that caused school classes to be done virtually something has been demonstrated that in the Pious School of Catalonia for years they claimed and worked, the inner, emotional and social dimension of people. "This job is the foundation and it's from here that we can get ahead," explains Antoni Burgaya. Calasanz, the general secretary recalls, said "that the person who the student always goes first."

Under normal circumstances, Burgaya recognizes, with school families often spoken at the school gate. "As it is, how about, your son," this stuff costs him." During confinement, however, this resulted in phone calls, "one by one," and not only to talk about how children are doing in the subjects, but, Burgaya explains, "with direct questions about how they were, health, emotionally."

This way of accompanying all people is what maintains the bond, Burgaya says, "whatever it is, with screens or in person." Accompanying, for him, "is to spend a sincere time on the person, because the screen cannot be the excuse not to accompany". And he recognizes a maxim present at the Pious School: "You have to put the person and their development and not just the academic content at the center."

During the Day, there have also been the winners of the Saint Joseph Calasanz Awards, which each year recognizes the work and involvement of individuals and groups of the institution. The team of volunteers of Benallar, the team of monitors of the "Colonias Jordi Turull" and the pastoral team and green school of Igualada for the project "5 minutes for me" have been chosen by the jury in this edition.

Finally, singer Judit Neddermann, a former student at the Pious schools in Mataró, has dedicated to all participants one of her themes about the link, "I wish you were here".

(Gloria Barrete -CR)

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