

ALL TOGETHER, ONE

A reflection on the Catholic school IN NETWORK.



Surfers know very well the places and times where the waves are big and powerful enough to glide on their board. Athletes take advantage of the strength of the wave to reach the beach with speed.

Undoubtedly, the so-called "Francisco effect" is a powerful wave that can drive us to get education systems out of their stagnation and seek new horizons. The proposal to "rebuild the Educational Compact" is an opportunity for us to reflect together on the future of education and the contribution that the Church has.

Every year, the education commission of the USG and the UISG chaired by our Fr. General organizes a working seminar with members of religious congregations on a certain topic. In 2019 a very interesting work was carried out in Rome led by a team of the SM foundation on the profile of the student as a global citizen that was concretized in a very inspiring book. In the context of the pandemic and with the zoom platform we gathered more than 600 people to reflect on the Educational Pact with the methodology of Appreciative Inquiry whose conclusions are accessible.

And the pandemic erupted like yet another wave that has posed new challenges to the Catholic school. Faced with this new reality, we ask ourselves: How are we responding to this new challenge? How can we strengthen evangelizing education?

And again, the SM foundation convenes a reflection with a selection of religious and lay people on the challenges posed by the Educational Pact for the future of education.

In a first phase, a small team was convened with the task of defining the content and style of the different areas of reflection for the second phase. In this team we were Fr. Tarsizio Morais (Salesian), Juan Antonio Ojeda (Lasallist), Teresa Pinto (Daughters of Jesus), Nelson Otaya (Jesuit Education Network) Ana Victoria Ulate (Salesian) and Javier Alonso (Piarists) and the support of Adolfo Silloniz, Nuria Espasa, Augusto Ibáñez and Pablo Fernández de SM. After three very fruitful meetings, 6 areas of work were concretized with a question that generates reflection:

- **New society, new education.** How can we not lose the meaning of the Catholic School in the new contexts?
- **Right to quality education:** How to make visible the work of the Catholic School for the universal right to education?
- **Communication and positioning:** How to make visible to a secularized society the essential values of the Catholic school?
- **Integral ecology:** How to "laudatosificate" the Catholic school?

- **Economic sustainability:** How to combine the accompaniment of the poorest with the economic sustainability of Catholic schools (especially in the areas most economically affected by the pandemic)?
- **Educational community:** How to build the Global Educational Village? How to make the Christian reality contribute more to the educational community? How to carry out experiences of contacts or alliances of schools with their environment?

Each of these three areas was worked on in three sessions by intercongregational teams. In total, some 50 people linked to the Catholic school from 13 countries have participated in this collective reflection. Carmen Crespo, Karina Miliante (Venezuela), Jorge Campa and Juan Fernando Arroyave (Mexico) and Fr. Jean de Dieu (Austria) participated in the Pious Schools.

At the moment, all the work is being systematized to present it as a collective reflection.

What can this project bring to the Piarists?

1. It helps in the reflection on the Global Educational Compact, working in a network for the common good.
2. It creates links between those responsible for the education of religious congregations and a culture of cooperation.
3. It generates final documents that can be excellent working tools for subsequent actions of the institution.
4. It directly affects the renewal of Catholic schools according to the keys of the Global Educational Compact

The ALL TOGETHER, ONE project is a great opportunity. The great challenges posed by education today drive us to add the different pedagogical traditions for a more ambitious common project.

Fr. Javier Alonso. Sch.P.

Equipo desarrollador



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