

World Catholic Education Day



At Pope Francis' proposal and as a further initiative for the development of a Global Education Pact, the various international Catholic educational organizations have agreed to mark the World Catholic Education Day, to be celebrated each year forty days after Easter, on the ancient feast of the Ascension of the Lord. The idea of celebrating this day was adopted in 2002 at the Congress of the International Organization of Catholic Education (OIEC) in Brasilia. It was relaunched by the OIEC and other organizations in 2021 on its 20th anniversary occasion.

The Global Education Pact calls us to a new evangelization, sustained by two essential pillars: our relationship with the natural environment and creation, and our commitment to a universal fraternity. It is an opportunity to communicate the value that, as a Catholic school, we bring to our environment and our commitment to collaborate in social and personal transformation.

The purpose of the day is to reflect, recognize and celebrate the Catholic education. They also join Pope Francis' call for a World Pact on Education, to renew "the passion for a more open and inclusive education, capable of patient listening, constructive dialogue and mutual understanding" (Pope Francis).

In the context of this date we collect some statistical data extracted from the Global Report on Catholic Education in 2021 that allow us to better understand the educational contribution of the Church to the world of education. The data corresponds to 2020:

- Global enrollment in Catholic education is 68.0 million students, including 34.6 million in elementary school.
- Top 5 countries by enrollment at preschool, primary and secondary levels are all low or lower-middle income: Congo, Kenya, Malawi, India, Uganda (World Bank income ranking).
- Contributions to education systems:

In sub-Saharan Africa, 11.0% of primary school students are in a Catholic school.

In low-income countries, 13.7% of primary school students are in a Catholic school.

Catholic education contributes to educational pluralism and the right to education.

Learning tends to be comparatively higher in many Catholic schools

- Contributions to communities

Catholic schools and universities emphasize values and integral human development

Catholic schools and universities enroll children of all backgrounds and religions

- Financial contributions

Budget savings to states of more than US\$ 100 billion (PPP) per year in 38 countries

Contribution to future incomes of current workers of at least US\$ 12 trillion

