



PRAYER AND SERVICE CHALLENGES THAT CONFRONT HUMANITY AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH • 2023 •

For educators

JANUARY

“Let us pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the youngest and most vulnerable in particular.”



PRAYER INTENTION REFLECTION

ADDRESS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING
“RELIGIONS AND EDUCATION:
TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION”¹
Francis
5 October 2021

If we desire a more fraternal world, we need to educate young people “to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives” (Encyclical [Fratelli Tutti](#), 1). The fundamental principle “Know yourself” has always guided education. Yet we should not overlook other essential principles: “Know your brother or sister”, in order to educate in welcoming others (cf. Encyclical [Fratelli Tutti](#); [Document on Human Fraternity](#), Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019); “Know creation”, in order to educate in caring for our common home (cf. Encyclical [Laudato Si'](#)) and “Know the Transcendent”, in order to educate in the great mystery of life. We are concerned to ensure an integral formation

¹ See full message:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/october/documents/20211005-pattoeducativo-globale.html>

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that can be summed up in knowledge of ourselves, our brothers and sisters, creation and the Transcendent. We cannot fail to speak to young people about the truths that give meaning to life.

Religions have always had a close relationship with education, accompanying religious activities with educational, scholastic and academic ones. As in the past, so also in our day, with the wisdom and humanity of our religious traditions, we want to be a stimulus for a renewed educational activity that can advance universal fraternity in our world.

If in the past, our differences set us at odds, nowadays we see in them the richness of different ways of coming to God and of educating young people for peaceful coexistence in mutual respect. For this reason, education commits us never to use God's name to justify violence and hatred towards other religious traditions, to condemn all forms of fanaticism and fundamentalism, and to defend the right of each individual to choose and act in accordance with his or her conscience.

If in the past, also in the name of religion, discrimination was practiced against ethnic, cultural, political and other minorities, today we want to be defenders of the identity and dignity of every individual and to teach young people to accept everyone without discrimination. For this reason, education commits us to accept people as they are, not how we want them to be, without judging or condemning anyone.

If in the past, the rights of women, children and the most vulnerable were not always respected, today we are committed firmly to defend those rights and to teach young people to be a voice for the voiceless. For this reason, education impels us to reject and denounce every violation of the physical and moral integrity of each individual. Education must make us realize that men and women are equal in dignity; there is no room for discrimination.

Dicembre 2019

<https://thepopevideo.org/the-future-of-the-very-young/>

September 2018

<https://thepopevideo.org/young-people-in-africa/>