



November 26 10 a.m.
CATHOLIC ACTION AND GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PACT
"In education is the seed of hope"

Introduction

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Dear sisters and dear brothers, welcome everyone and thank you for coming to share this moment!

It is a great joy to meet again in this space proposed by the International Forum of Catholic Action to reflect, pray and project our actions on the path of realizing a more Just and fraternal world.

Catholic Christians have just celebrated the feast of Jesus Christ King of the Universe, Jesus Christ who identified himself with the smallest of this world, the one who in the fullness of time will examine us in love. Christ whom we will contemplate throughout Advent and celebrate in a new Christmas proclaiming the joy of a God who became man so that men can live as children of God!

A God incarnate in human realities that today reveal the painful face of the effects of a pandemic that we have to overcome from a culture of care and unity, fraternity and social friendship, following the call of Pope Francis in the richness of his writings and their gestures.

The Holy Father alerts us in *Laudato Sí* about the cry of the Poor and the cry of the Earth, our common home and calls us to the realization of a new paradigm of integral human development that, from our own identity, reaches everything, that be with everyone and for everyone.

This challenge requires an integral ecological conversion that respects the dignity of each human life from its gestation to its death and has been reflected, among others, in two

profound initiatives of Pope Francis: "The Economy of Francis" - with reference to Saint Francis of Assisi and the Global Education Compact. The need for a new paradigm based according to his own words on "contributing, sharing and distributing", overcoming "possessing, excluding and accumulating". (Message to ECLAC. 11/19/2020)

Today we tackle the challenge ACCION CATOLICA AND PACTO EDUCATIVO GLOBAL convinced that "In education is the seed of hope."

Pope Francis told us in his message of October 15 "In this context, we see that simplistic recipes or vain optimisms are not enough. We know the transformative power of education: to educate is to bet and give the present hope that breaks the determinisms and fatalisms with which the egoism of the strong, the conformity of the weak and the ideology of the utopians want to impose themselves as many times as the only one possible way. "

The Educational Pact summons us all, school institutions, universities, social communicators, families, and the Church as Mother and Teacher of all, particularly to the associative and formative bodies of missionary disciples such as Catholic Action.

We will deepen with testimonies each one of the 7 commitments that the Pope asks of us, for which we have summoned Representatives of Children, Youth, Adults and Advisors from different Countries and Continents.

We will entrust this meeting to our Saints and Blessed educators to accompany us in each of the commitments assumed.

We are now preparing for the opening prayer with Mons. Eduardo Garcia, FIAC General Counsel.

- **Prayer**
- **Introductory Video**

First Commitment: Putting the person at the center of every educational process,... we entrust ourselves to Saint Alberto Hurtado, Jesuit priest educator among the young and the poor.

- We listened to María José, National Head of Adults of the ACG of Spain

Second and Third Commitments: Listen to the voice of children, adolescents and young people and encourage the full participation of girls and young women in education,... we entrust ourselves to the venerable Armida Barelli who with associative life makes women

protagonists, girls and young people, and the venerable Antonietta Meo (Nennolina), a girl who accepts the pain of illness for love of Jesus.

- We listen to two children from Argentina and two young people from Malta and Senegal with Jorge "Tuto" responsible for the Aspirants in Argentina and with Michele responsible with Luisa for the youth of ICA and for IFCA Youth Coordination..

Fourth Commitment: To have the family as the first and indispensable educator, ... we entrust ourselves to the Servants of God Adelina Abbo de Calvani and Aristide Calvani, a marriage of educators in the family and society.

- We listened to JOSEF DE BONO - National President AC. from MALTA

Fifth Commitment: Educate ourselves to welcome, opening ourselves to the most vulnerable and marginalized,... we entrust ourselves to the Servant of God Antonio (Tonino) Bello, a bishop who is a witness of welcome at the service of peace and the poor.

- We listened to Father FABRIZIO DE TONI - Central Ecclesiastical Advisor "Settore Adulti" AC. Italian.

Commitment Six: Commit ourselves to study to find other ways of understanding the economy, politics, growth and progress,... we entrust ourselves to Blessed Giuseppe Toniolo, God's economist at the service of the person who lives and works in society.

- We listen to Mons. SALVATOR NICITERETSE, Bishop of Bururi, FIAC AFRICA Coordinator.

Seventh Commitment: To safeguard and cultivate our common home following the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity and of the circular economy,... we entrust ourselves to the Servant of God Enrique Shaw, a businessman who is a witness to a Christian style in the world of work.

- We listened to Lorena Echagüe, Member of the Argentine Catholic Action Sectors Area and coordinator of the Sustainable Development Team of the National Commission for Justice and Peace.

- **Now** we will have the pleasure of greeting and listening to Mons. GIACINTO-BOULOS MARCUZZO, Patriarchal Vicar - Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. He will bring us the memory of Jacqueline Sfeir (1956-2014), a Bethlehem pedagogue with an enlightened personality.

- **Closing Prayer: Mons. Marcuzzo**