



1. The person at the centre of the educational process

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Pope Francis wanted to launch a Global Pact on Education to turn around the mode of development that respects and protects the dignity of the human person, caring for our common home and protecting peace.

The Second Vatican Council worked on many issues including education. Due to the lack of time on the subject of education, it was not possible to go into detail, leaving a declaration "Gravissimum educationis". It mentions that education is a right of man, as a person, and tends to seek his maturity with the help of the gift of faith. In making this approach it is considered that the education of the person is not in his intellectual maturity but in his spiritual maturity, that is, through faith. Only in this way can we achieve an integral education.

In the beautiful encyclical that Paul VI wrote on the Development of Peoples, he speaks to us about the integral development of man: " In God's plan, every man is born to seek self-fulfillment, for every human life is called to some task by God. At birth a human being possesses certain aptitudes and abilities in germinal form, and these qualities are to be cultivated so that they may bear fruit. " (Populorum Progressio, 15).

John Paul II. The primary and essential task of culture in general and of all culture is education. Education consists, in fact, in making man more and more a man, in making him able to "be" more and more, and not only to "have" more, and therefore, through all that he "has," through all that he "possesses," to know how to "be" more and more a man and more fully. To do this, man must know how to "be more," not only "with others" but also "for others. Education has a fundamental importance for the formation of interpersonal and social relationships. (Speech to UNESCO, 2 June 1980)

Pope Francis, aware that education is the tool shared by societies to build the future, wanted to be there not in theory but in concrete practice, inviting us to agree on what we want to do with education, at the service of whom we want to put it, or how we can unite to make education the path that will allow us to build a future that is tailored to the human.

5 KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL PACT:

1.- UNITE THE EFFORTS OF ALL.

Uniting the efforts of all to build mature people, capable of overcoming fragmentation and opposition and rebuilding the tapestry of relationships for a more fraternal humanity.

2.- CREATE "THE EDUCATION VILLAGE"

We are living through a change of era (Laudato Sí 18): a metamorphosis not only cultural but also anthropological. In a context of speediness, identity itself loses consistency and the psychological structure disintegrates in the face of an incessant mutation that "contrasts the natural slowness of biological evolution".

However, every change needs an educational path that involves everyone, it is necessary to build an "education village".

3.- PUT THE PERSON AT THE CENTRE.

This requires the signing of a pact that encourages formal and informal educational processes, which cannot ignore the fact that everything in the world is intimately connected and that it is necessary to find - on the basis of a healthy anthropology - other ways of understanding the economy, politics, growth and progress.

4.- INVEST THE BEST ENERGIES.

Invest the best energies with creativity and responsibility. Propositive and committed action opens up education to long-term planning, which does not stop at the static conditions. In this way we will have open, responsible people available to find time for listening, dialogue and reflection.

5.- AT THE SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Service is a pillar of the culture of encounter: "It means leaning towards those in need and reaching out to them, without calculation, without fear, with tenderness and understanding, as Jesus leaned to wash the feet of the apostles. To serve means to work alongside the most needy, to establish with them first of all human relationships, bonds of closeness and solidarity.

The CA is called upon to embrace this educational style. Adults have a fundamental role to play, and we must be able to build a tapestry of relationships with families, among generations, and with the various expressions of civil society, so that a new humanism is formed. When we discern the appeals of the popes, very beautiful things emerge, as happened to us in the CA of Spain, after the appeal made by Pope Pius XII (1947) to assume the role of women in the world. The Women of Catholic Action in Spain took up the challenge and studied the women of the 1950s, noting the great shortcomings in the field of education in those years and especially the enormous inequality between women and men. They concluded that they had to respond to hunger: hunger for bread, hunger for God and hunger for culture. To satisfy the hunger for culture, they set up "People's Culture Centres" in 1959. Today, they still exist to serve older women with the same purpose: to serve the knowledge, the being and the doing of people.

Let us discern what the Pope is asking of us with this Global Educational Pact!