

Between NEWSLETTER

Let's build together the Education Village!



FEBRUARY 2023

MARSEILLE 2022

A congress to
**ENGAGE,
GATHER,
& CELEBRATE**



"Let's build together
the Education Village"



*"The Catholic school,
body of hope for changing the world."*

A new dicastery of Culture and Education

Nine years after taking office, Pope Francis promulgated the apostolic constitution reforming the Roman Curia, a project he had begun with the internationalization of the College of Cardinals shortly after taking office in 2013.



Praedicate Evangelium (Preach the Gospel), published on March 19 and effective June 5, merges the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture in the new Dicastery for Culture and Education. **Continued on page 4**

Benedict XVI

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OIEC Congress Marseille 2022



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OIEC

International office
of Catholic education



The message of the *Secretary general*

Dear friends

First, I would like to greet all the members of the OIEC General Assembly very warmly, and thank them for the trust they have placed in me as the new Secretary General.

I am very honoured and can assure you of my absolute commitment to the mission that was entrusted to me. Rest assured that I will put all my rigour, my energy and dynamism in service of the noble body that is the OIEC.

What a magnificent Congress we had in Marseille! 3 fantastic days that will give a new impetus to the OIEC and each of its members.

A Congress that will pave the way for a new era...

What is new indeed for the world of Catholic Teaching?

- The Global Educational Pact through which our Holy Father wishes us to revolutionise our educational approach,
- The new Dicastery of Culture AND Education, with the inclusive “and”,
- The new prefect for the Dicastery, Cardinal Mendonça,
- The new secretary for the Dicastery, Father Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi,
- The new president of the OIEC, Father Jawad Alamat
- The new secretary general
- The new OIEC Council approved at the General Assembly

We want to share with you, in all simplicity, our joy to be working together, at your side and at your service.

We are on the right path; indeed, the spirit of the Synod is amongst us.

Let us build together the Education Village.

Let us be,

- builders of Unity
- factors of new ways for development processes
- creators of practical but sustainable solutions
- role models to the younger generation

... Finally, let us allow Hope to Flourish.

The Holy Father showed us the way and wrote exceptional texts inviting us to take action. The OIEC follows through the great movement initiated by Pope Francis. Every OIEC member should feel supported and helped by the organisation in their daily work in favour of a Catholic Education whose mission is to initiate the change in the world and the coming of the Civilisation of Love, whereas at school level, diocese level or at national level. You can count on our strong determination in making sure we are with you every step of the way.

Dialogue, Respect, Fraternity and Peace must be the values present in each of our projects and interventions.

Let us work together so that our Catholic Schools may always try to blend their educational task with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel in order to make a valuable contribution to the evangelisation of culture, even in cities and countries where an unfavourable situation forces us to be more creative in finding the right path.

THANK YOU for the mission of Peace, Life and Love you entrusted me.

Hervé LECOMTE
Secretary General of the OIEC

Thanks Paul Barber !



Paul Barber is the Director for Catholic Education Service in England and Wales on behalf of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. He has a solid legal background. In 2019, he agreed to his election to the office of OIEC president for the 2019-2022 term.

Paul is a rigorous person and was entirely committed to the OIEC project. Throughout his term in office, he continuously supported the actions of the Secretary General, especially in the Europe region, but also in the English-speaking world in general, as well as in front of the Vatican supervisory authorities. His support was invaluable thanks to his indisputable mor-

al authority recognised by his peers. In particular, as chairman of the OIEC Legal Committee his service was immense.

Many versions of the new OIEC statutes were produced thanks to his precise and meticulous hard work, before the final text was voted and approved unanimously by the participants of the Extraordinary General Assembly. In order to fully comprehend the logic of the statutes, he did not hesitate to consult the OIEC archives on many occasions.

The OIEC owes much to Paul and cannot thank him enough for his presidency.



... Philippe Richard !



Philippe Richard Two terms for a new breath

Philippe Richard, International Law PhD, Human Rights specialist, was elected secretary general to the OIEC for the first time in November 2015, during its 19th General Assembly in Rome.

French Catholic Education body was really happy with his election but knew that his task would be far from being easy. The organisation was in dire need of a new lease of life.

Philippe Richard, who remained the director of the Catholic University of Burgundy, gave himself nine months to reorganise the OIEC. The headquarters were moved from Brussels to Rome, the permanent staff was reshuffled, budgetary stabilisation was achieved, a new project was defined... Thus, working with Kenyan President Augusta Muthigani and in connection with the Congregation for Catholic Schools, he gave new visibility to the Global Pact for Education, dear to Pope Francis.

He was re-elected in 2019 with the same goal, *"promoting in every country, the right to quality education for all"*.

Philippe Richard carried out so many great missions during his two terms as Secretary General of the OIEC.

The challenges were many in 2015 but Philippe Richard managed to face them all one by one so that our noble body persisted, survived and even began to develop. The messages of thanks that flew from all over the world show the person he was in his role as Secretary General, a man of Faith, of principles, concerned about others, willing to give let the Gospel guide him and cultivating fraternity...

Once again in Marseilles his incredible energy shone through.

The benevolent handover to his successor showed his commitment to the OIEC and his deep desire for a smooth transition.

THANK YOU for your mission in the service of Peace, Life and Love.

The OIEC will still be in need of his services in support of various missions. However, the notions of service and commitment are embedded in him.

We wish him all the best with his newfound free time. His wife Laure, his children and grandchildren also deserve to spend some quality time with him.



A new Dicastery for Culture and Education

The Dicastery for Culture and Education is an administrative body of the Roman Curia. His mission began on June 5, 2022, as established by the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate evangelium* promulgated on March 19, 2022. It was born from the merger of two previous bodies, the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The mission of the Dicastery for Culture and Education is to work «for the development of human values in the horizons of Christian anthropology, contributing to the full realization of the Christian disciple», according to the Constitution.

It also coordinates the activities of certain pontifical academies, such as the Pontifical Academy of Archaeology and the Pontifical Academy of Theology.

On September 26, Pope Francis appointed Cardinal José Tolentino Mendonça as Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education. It was until now

archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church. Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani will replace him in this position, as he was until now secretary of the former Congregation for Catholic Education.

The Dicastery for Culture and Education also has a new secretary in the person of Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, professor of ecclesiology and family community at the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute for the Sciences of Marriage and Family in Rome.

Cardinal Tolentino Mendonça

Until now, Portuguese Cardinal José Tolentino Mendonça was archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, where he was replaced by Monsignor Angelo Vincenzo Zani who was secretary of the former Congregation for Catholic Education. Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça was born in Funchal, on the Portuguese island of Madeira, on December 15, 1965. Ordained a priest for his native diocese on 28 July 1990, he enrolled in the same year at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, where he obtained a licentiate in Biblical Sciences in 1992.

In 2001, he was sent to Rome as rector for two years of the Pontifical Portuguese College and, after his doctorate, taught on the New Testament and Theological Aesthetics at the UCP Faculty of Theology in Lisbon (2004-2018). In the meantime, he has edited the journal of theological studies “Didaskalia” (2005-2012) and the Centre d’études des religions et des cultures (2012-2017) of the Athénée, and was rector of the chapel of Nossa Senhora da Bonança (2010-2018). Appointed consultant to the Pontifical Council for Culture in 2011, he became Vice-Rector of the UCP the following year.

In 2018, Pope Francis chose him to preach, from February 18 to 23, the spiritual exercises of the Roman Curia in Ariccia on the theme “Praise of thirst”; then, on June 26, he appointed him archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, elevating him at the same time to the titular see of Suava, with the dignity of archbishop. Having received episcopal ordination in Lisbon on July 28, the Pope then created him cardinal in the Consistory of October 5, 2019, of the diaconia of Saints Dominic and Sixtus.

Father Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi

Father Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, born in Crema in Lombardy on 8 June 1965, was ordained a priest on 23 June 1990 for the diocese of Lodi. After obtaining his licentiate and doctorate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome, he taught in various Italian faculties and ecclesiastical institutes. He is currently Professor at the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences in Rome and Deputy Director of the Institute of Religious Sciences “Sant’Agostino” in Lodi. Since October 2021, he has been a consultant to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. He collaborates with L’Osservatore Romano and is editor of the Rivista del Clero italiano.



FATHER JAWAD ALAMAT (TUNISIA)
President

It was at this meeting that the successors of Philippe Richard, Secretary General and Paul Barber, President of this body were elected.

Hervé Lecomte, director of the Lycée La Providence in Fécamp (76), also diocesan director of Le Havre and promoter of the international Planet Fraternity project, has been appointed secretary general of OIEC.

The *new* OIEC Council

On 29 November 2022, the OIEC General Assembly met in Marseille. Composed of all the constituent and associate members, it is the supreme body of the Office and meets every four years.

He will work in tandem with a new president: Father Jawad Alamat, general secretary of Catholic schools in Tunisia.

Composed of 30 deliberative members, representing all regions, a new Council was elected by the General Assembly.

A body of reflection and deliberation, it oversees the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and meets once a year. In order for OIEC to be active on the international scene, regional secretaries facilitate the Office's activities at the regional level.

The planet has been divided into five regions:

- Africa, with its headquarters in Yaoundé (Cameroon);
- America, with its headquarters in Bogota (Colombia);
- Asia and Oceania, with headquarters in New Delhi, India;
- Europe, with its headquarters in Brussels (Belgium)
- and the Middle East, with its headquarters in Beirut (Lebanon).



The 7 goals of the 2023-2027 mandate

On Saturday 3 December, in his closing address to the Congress, Hervé Lecomte highlighted the 7 goals which will pave the way for the OIEC during his mandate.

1. The transition of the Congregation for Education to a Dicastery for Culture and Education is a first orientation of the Holy Father that leads us to walk and adapt our practices.
2. Our 2023-2027 mandate will be a mandate for the Youth. It will remind us that our mission is centred on our young people, builders of the future. It could take the shape of more Youth Congresses in different parts of the world, like the one we witnessed. We could see the birth of a Youth Council for example.
3. This mandate will also focus on our attention to the most fragile amongst us. Let us make it our priority, the priority of each and everyone. Let us initiate TOGETHER new and concrete projects of International Aid.
4. Our goal will be to raise the voice of Catholic Education in the different international organisations such as the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the Human Rights Council, ... Let us reinforce and expand the OIEC representation in those world organisations.
5. We will also work hand in hand with the different organisations of the Church, the Bishops' Conferences, and with other international organisations of Catholic Education.
6. We will help the growth of a worldwide and fraternal community open to all (building bridges through dialogue).
7. We will cultivate the link between school, society and family (in co-responsibility).
8. We will lead the way for Education 2030, a project in the service of humankind.



Representation of OIEC *in international bodies*

As an expert on education issues, OIEC intervenes in various international institutions. Being present at these bodies allows us to better represent the voice of Catholic teaching in key bodies that can influence the course of laws and public policies.

Thus, OIEC can make the voice of the millions of families who have chosen Catholic Teaching heard, and thus bear witness to Catholic sensitivity where global educational thought is built. From this perspective, OIEC's representation in international fora allows OIEC members to become aware of their global responsibility.

This representation makes it possible to associate our members with the activities of human communion at work in international bodies.

OIEC is represented in international institutions in Paris, Geneva, Strasbourg and New York by its transversal representation team (ETR), coordinated by Michel Bertet.



Human Rights Council in Geneva

By convention, OIDEL, the twin sister of OIEC, currently represents OIEC in Geneva. Its main objective is to defend the legal right to education and to publish studies on the state of private education worldwide.

In particular, the representation team is following and preparing the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) programme, in connection with a platform of Christian NGOs, the CCIG. They also closely follow the work of the Human Rights Council and the Special Rapporteur for Education. They are the source of oral or written statements and associate the signature of the OIEC with manifests of other NGOs.

UNESCO in Paris

OIEC representatives participate in UNESCO programmes and the activities of the General Conference of NGOs. Roseline Moreau of ETR is a member of the CCIC Board of Directors, a platform of Christian-inspired NGOs.

NU in New York

OIEC is also closely monitoring the work of the UN in New York.

Council of Europe in Strasbourg

OIEC representatives contribute to the work of Council of Europe NGOs. They are in the CINGO platform, a platform of NGOs of Christian inspiration and have excellent relations with the observer of the Holy See.

In order to follow the activity of this representation team, and understand how the interests and needs of Catholic schools are represented, a newsletter is published regularly. The latest publication of its newsletter is available at:

<http://oiecinternational.com/bulletin-etr/>

G.R.A.C.E. Network

Since 2020, OIEC has had the honour of being integrated as the 4th member of the G.R.A.C.E. (Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education) network.

G.R.A.C.E. (Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education) is an international research-based partnership between Mary Immaculate College Limerick in Ireland, Boston College in the United States, the University of Notre Dame in Australia, Saint Mary's University Twickenham in the United Kingdom and OIEC in Rome.

G.R.A.C.E. offers researchers the opportunity to collaborate in the analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing Catholic schools, as well as in the dialogue between researchers and practitioners so that the practice is informed by research and vice versa. Activities include: research and publications, including by doctoral students; a series of conferences; various forms of exchange through a community of practice; and conferences, including participation in the upcoming GEEC World Congress. Website: <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/grace/>

GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION



GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION

Educating young people in brotherhood, learning to overcome divisions and conflicts, promoting hospitality, justice and peace: Pope Francis invites all those who care about the education of the young generation to sign a Global Compact, to create a global change of mentality through education.

The path has begun. Many schools are already deepening the anthropological, communicative, cultural, economic, generational, interreligious, pedagogical and social dimension of this Global Compact.

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For more information: <https://www.educationglobalcompact.org/>

UNESCO Resources *for (catholics) schools* and the need to invest in Africa



by **Quentin Wodon**

Two months ago, I joined UNESCO after 24 years at the World Bank. I am now based in Addis Ababa as Director of UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA). While I was at the World Bank, I often shared resources from that organization with Catholic school leaders. UNESCO, the agency that has the lead on education in the United Nations system, also has a wide range of resources available. Most UNESCO publications are available at <https://www.unesco.org/fr/publications>.

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One difference between the World Bank and UNESCO is that many publications at the World Bank tend to have an economic focus. At UNESCO, while some publications also have an economic focus, many do not – in particular, the agency publishes many training guides for teachers and school principals, which could be more directly useful for readers of this newsletter. Now, if you simply type “training” in the search box for the digital library (UNESDOC), you will get ... 63,897 results, so you need to refine this a bit more. If you restrict your search to guides, manuals, and handbooks, you will get 2,799 results. And so on. My guess is that if you are interested in a particular topic, the UNESCO digital library is worth checking out. UNESCO publications were not produced with Catholic schools in mind, but they are probably as relevant for Catholic schools as for public schools.

One aspect of UNESCO's work on education that I find interesting is that while there is a focus on the fundamentals (ensuring that children acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills, for example), there is also a focus on how education can contribute to more sustainable societies. Topics such as education for peace, global citizenship, and sustainable development are prominent, as are topics such as gender-responsive pedagogy or education to prevent violence. My Institute (IICBA) has done a lot of work in this area in recent years. For example, we just completed a project funded by the Government of Japan on the prevention of extremism and its resurgence through education in Africa. An independent evaluation suggests that the project worked very well, so we are planning a publication on lessons learned. But more generally, topics related to the role of education for sustainable societies and fraternal humanism are at the core of the vision of Pope Francis and his call for a new Global Compact on Education.

Many of you know that sub-Saharan Africa is the region of the world where Catholic schools are growing the most, even if that growth has slowed a bit in recent years, perhaps in part because of covid. In 2020, according to data from the statistical yearbook of the Church, 34.6 million children were enrolled in Catholic primary schools globally, with 19.3 million children enrolled in Catholic secondary schools and 7.5 million children enrolled at the preschool level. With 18.8 million children enrolled in Catholic schools in Africa alone that year, the continent accounts for more than half of all students in Catholic primary schools

globally. The share of students in Catholic schools who live in Africa is expected to increase further over time due to gains in educational attainment and population growth. Interestingly, in African countries where the Church manages large networks of schools, most Catholic schools are actually considered as public schools, and they do benefit from funding from the state. Yet as is the case for many private schools, many of these schools may not have access to the resources and the guidance they need, including for teacher professional development.

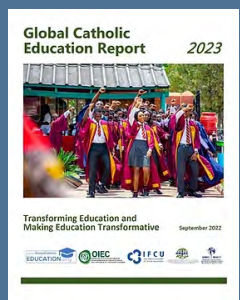
Africa is the continent where the quality of the education provided is the lowest. In sub-Saharan Africa, nine children out of ten today are not able to read and understand a simple text by age 10. They are said to be “learning poor”. International organizations such as the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education, Education in Emergencies, or UNESCO have an important role to play in supporting education systems in Africa. This requires going the extra mile to reach the schools that remain underserved. It would be great to put together an initiative to do so, with Catholic as well as public and other schools learning from each other.

If you are interested in thinking about this, let me know! (Please send an email to the editorial team for this newsletter, and they will put us in contact).

GLOBAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

OIEC, together with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), the World Organization of Former Students in Catholic Education (OMAEC) and the World Union of Catholic Teachers (UMEC), forms the global network of Catholic education.

Global Catholic Education informs and connects Catholic educators around the world. It provides them with data, analysis, learning opportunities and other resources to help them fulfill their mission by focusing particularly on the needs and aspirations of the poorest and most vulnerable.



2022 & 2023 Report
Transforming Education and Making Education Transformative

For more information:
<https://fr.globalcatholiceducation.org/>

Benedict XVI

OIEC Tribute to the Pope Emeritus

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, whose renunciation in 2013 took the whole world by surprise, died on Saturday 31 December 2022 at the age of 95 in the monastery of the Vatican Gardens where he had retired.

In the homily given on the occasion of the celebration of Vespers and the Te Deum on the same day, Pope Francis paid tribute to his predecessor. The Supreme Pontiff remembered with gratitude his “person so noble, so kind”.

After his death was announced, messages of condolence and affection poured in from around the world.

Pope Benedict XVI was born in Marktl am Inn, Germany, on Holy Saturday, April 16, 1927. He was baptized on the same day. The son of a policeman from a farming family and a former cook, he spent his childhood and adolescence in the small town of Traunstein, near the Austrian border. It is there that he will receive his Christian, human and cultural formation in a modest family setting. While the Second World War was in full swing in Europe, the 16-year-old Joseph Ratzinger was mobilized in an air defence unit. At the end of the war he entered the seminary of Freising to study theology and philosophy. He continued his studies at the University of Munich and was ordained a priest on 29 June 1951.

In 1953 he obtained his doctorate in theology and four years later a master’s degree in teaching. From then on, he began a brilliant teaching career.

From 1962 to 1965, he contributed to the Second Vatican Council as an expert (he assisted Cardinal Joseph Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, as theological advisor).

In 1977, he was appointed Archbishop of Munich and Freising. Paul VI created him cardinal on June 27, 1977.

He then became the strict guardian of the Church’s dogma for another quarter of a century in Rome at the head of the congregation for the doctrine of the faith, then pope for eight years, succeeding John Paul II.

The last pope to have participated in the Second Vatican



Council, he nevertheless defended a conservative line at the head of the Church.

His unexpected resignation reveals to the world a reasonable and humble pope, judging wise to pass the hand because of his declining forces. He leaves very incarnate encyclicals like «Deus caritas est», which evokes in magnificent terms the Eros and the Agape, what brings them together and what distinguishes them.

Benedict XVI was a gentle and reserved man. His legacy is that of a demanding and sober faith, avoiding any sectarian and noisy exaltation, any easy and demagogic solution.

His body was exhibited for three days at St Peter’s Basilica in Rome and was honoured by thousands of faithful. His funeral was celebrated on Thursday, January 5, 2023 in the Basilica Square by Pope Francis. This celebration is historic since never in the history of the Church has a pope buried his predecessor.

OIEC mourns the passing of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and honours his legacy.

On his return to the Father’s house, we pray that he may rest in peace.

OIEC WORLD CONGRESS 2022
MARSEILLE - FRANCE
FROM DECEMBER 1 TO 3, 2022



REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION
WWW.CONGRESDELOIEC2022.COM



OIEC Council Marseille 2022

Some 450 people from all continents took part in the OIEC congress, which took place in Marseille from 1 to 3 December 2022. Many others followed these days daily in streaming. Reflection, meetings and sharing of experience were on the program.

by Pope Francis.

The choice of Marseille, after New York, as the meeting place for the congress was a thoughtful choice. "This is a cosmopolitan city where the culture of dialogue is strong," recalls its diocesan director, Jacques Le Loup.

Marseille, the oldest city in France! Since its foundation by Greek sailors from Phocaea to today, the 26 centuries have made this Phocaeen city a crossroads of history, cultures and diversity. Philippe Delorme, Secretary General of French Catholic Education, based his speech on this peculiarity of the city, stressing the importance of "inclusive fraternity": The inter-self may seem reassuring, but it only further fractures society and harms the most fragile. It must be fought, and adults play a key role in this. "Young people are naturally open to otherness. Let us not extinguish the flame of brotherhood in them. We have so much to learn from each other..."

This is indeed one of the fundamental objectives of this international meeting, whose theme is none other than "**The Catholic School as an organ of hope for changing the world**".

We could see through the presentations of the various speakers, Catholic schools run by Muslims in Morocco, Catholic kindergartens with great success in Tunisia or Catholic institutions in an Orthodox environment in Greece. So many local realities experienced by the Church, one of whose key missions has always been education.

Beyond these reflections, very rich testimonies of school heads and national leaders of Catholic education in dozens of countries have succeeded each other, in video or on the scene of the congress. At the opening of the round table "**Educating in Universal Brotherhood in a Multi-religious Educational Context**", the teaching team of La Salle Daher College in Cairo testifies: "Whether teachers are Muslim or Christian, they are all part of the same ▶

The message of Pope Francis

For the opening of this congress, Cardinal Cristóbal López Romero, Archbishop of Rabat, gave voice to the Holy Father's letter addressed to the Secretary General of OIEC, Philippe Richard and all the participants of the congress.

In this letter, Pope Francis reminds us in line with his Global Education Pact unveiled on 15 October 2020 that "the school as a whole must be configured as a life lesson in which different elements are integrated, in close collaboration with other bodies, such as the family or society.

[...] Each of us and our activities are in communion with God who sends us, together with the universal and local Church, in a common project that transcends us and surpasses us, at the service of humanity. This lesson, even for those who are not Christians, will bring the certainty that we are not walking alone, because we live in a family, in a society, we are co-responsible, we work together for a common good, despite our differences."

He will conclude with his words of hope: "All this is a work of craftsmanship that we cannot do without the help of God and without the support of all, which is why we ask for the strength of the Spirit of the Risen One, the giver of all gifts. May He enlighten your work and grant you this science that rises from human realities to reach the sublime knowledge of God."



Download
THE LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS

Letter from the Holy Father Francis to the Secretary General of OIEC, Mr. Philippe Richard, and to the participants of the World Congress of Catholic Education in Marseille, France, from 1 to 3 December 2022.



Let's keep our indignation power

In Marseilles, the second largest city in France, Bishop Aveline recalled the vocation of the Catholic school, called to preserve its capacity for indignation “with realism and humility; that indifference does not stifle indignation”.

The cardinal encouraged everyone to “*learn to read history from our vulnerabilities*” and the Catholic school, too, “*must be careful how it presents itself... she too has her vulnerabilities, she too has her things to fix.*”

Reminding the locals to “*take the challenges of the Mediterranean seriously*” and to open up more generously on the 5 shores that surround this sea, the Archbishop of Marseilles broadened his message and expressed some wishes for Catholic teaching: “*to take care of everyone, in their religion too*”, “*to teach young people to grow up free to say yes to certain things and to say no to others, to resist*”, to cultivate “*the capacity for indignation*”, and then “*to seize the challenges...and multiply the bonds*”.

Citing Saint Charles de Foucauld, Cardinal Aveline finally evoked the catholicity which is “*for the Church a vocation like holiness*”. He will conclude with these words: “*Catholic school is a school with a vocation of catholicity. It welcomes everything, to develop it*”.

► *educational community.*” As for the former Muslim students interviewed, they feel they have learned tolerance towards other religions. In Niger, in Catholic schools, no distinction is made between Christian and Muslim students, especially since catechesis is taught outside schools. In this country, the Islamo-Christian dialogue, much discussed during these days, never ceases for good reason: “*There are no Christian and Muslim neighborhoods. We all live together. Christians rejoice in Muslim festivals and the reverse is true. Baptisms, marriages, we live them together*, explains Assane Alamine, responsible for the country’s Catholic education. *In India, only 2% of the population is Catholic (80% of the population is Hindu), but Catholic schools are very popular. Many officials, politicians and others have studied it. We are not trying to convert anyone. We are very lay in our teaching*”, notes Father Maria Charles. Indian Catholic education also focuses on migrants from neighbouring countries for whom it creates specific programmes.

Cardinal Cristóbal López Romero, Archbishop of Rabat, testifies, for his part, to the questions that some might have about the presence of the Catholic School in Muslim countries like Morocco, when the children in school, Are the teachers, the principals of Catholic schools Muslim? “*For me, Morocco was an opportunity to convert. I converted, not to Islam, but to catholicity.*” He added by adding an anecdote: “*I was asked in the halls of the congress if there were conversions in Morocco. There are many conversions. I have personally met selfish children who have become generous, liars who have become sincere, enemies who have reconciled. And all this thanks and because of the education received in our schools.*”

Father Jawad Amat, General Secretary of Catholic Schools in Tunisia and parish priest of Carthage, also stressed in his testimony the importance of the Church’s place in Tunisia, a country in which the Catholic community is not an indigenous community, but a transient population. “*The Church’s educational mission in Tunisia is the strongest, deepest, most inter-*

esting way to embody the presence of the Church in the country, because there is a recognition of the Tunisian people, a love, a heritage from which we benefit. But to hold on, we must have a sense of gratuitousness.” “*Let us sow!*” he added,

According to the 2021 World Catholic Education Report, GEEC now has 210,000 schools and 68 million students from preschool to tertiary education. “*Our mission is to participate in universal communion through education*,” says Philippe Richard, Secretary-General of this organization, represented both at UNESCO, at the United Nations in Geneva and New York and in Strasbourg at the Council of Europe. This helps to bring the Catholic voice to these forums, “*for example on the subject of education and gender*,” notes Philippe Richard. Or to bring to life the interreligious and intercultural dialogue between students from all over the world, through the Planet Fraternity project led by Hervé Lecomte, where students exchange and build together through online partnerships every two months. This congress also made it possible to discover the geopolitical reality and educational specificities of schools in sub-Saharan Africa, such as those in Chad, Benin or Djibouti. In Chad, public and private institutions have agreed to develop a citizenship training programme for young people, families and teachers, and to train young people to become peace ambassadors in their classrooms. In Benin, a Catholic agroecological school called *Laudato si’* has been established, which teaches not only useful and responsible agriculture, but also a happy sobriety... In Djibouti, Catholic schools focus on the poorest. Literacy centres for young migrants, abandoned children from Ethiopia and Somalia have been established

All these testimonies show the groundwork done on the ground in a spirit of great generosity. This congress has kept its promises and has enabled everyone to recharge the batteries to move forward in the solidarity construction of the «**Global Education Pact**», as desired in his opening speech, Paul Barber, President of OIEC until December 2022.

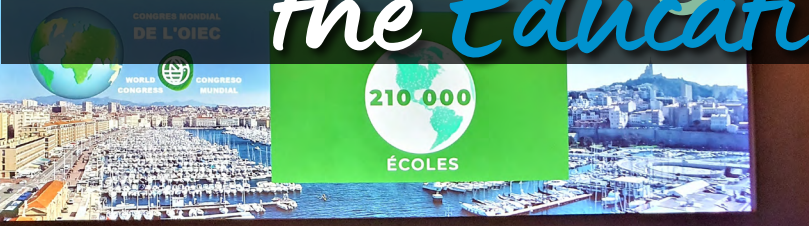


Replay

Find all the interventions of the 2022 OIEC Congress on its YouTube channel



Let's build together the Education Village




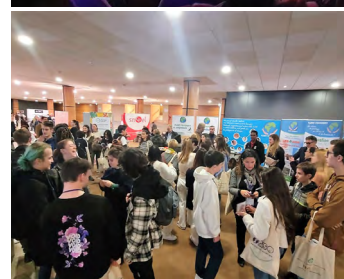
The youth at the centre of the debat


Philippe Richard mentioned it: it was at the New York Congress that a small team, in a friendly moment, decided to give a greater place to youth in the actions of OIEC.

Around a drink, they imagined a project, a platform, that would connect all the young people of the Catholic Teaching of the planet. Originally called Planet OIEC, this project developed around a central dynamic, that of being able to respond to the Pope's call in the encyclicals *Laudato si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. Building together a more inclusive, responsible and sustainable world by safeguarding the common home, a goal that quickly took shape under Hervé's coordination Lecomte, in charge of this mission for OIEC. Together with Alejandra Beigbeder's team, they built the bridges necessary for the relationship between young people, their countries and their cultures. They have put in place the framework, the tools, the technical means allowing each young person to be able

to exchange, dialogue, build joint projects with other students on the other side of the world. While early enrollment was modest, with room for experimentation, the new project, entitled Planet Fraternity, now brings together more than 20 countries with nearly 4,000 students. *"And it's not that the beginning of the adventure"* launches Hervé Lecomte on the stage of the Pharo Palace on Friday, December 2. This congress opened its doors for the first time to 60 young people from all over the world and their companions this time to meet in person and live a beautiful moment of brotherhood. Together, they sang hope and showed in a retrospective video the various actions carried out over the past year in all the schools of the world partners of the project.

 **View images of the youth intervention at Congress.**



 **Replay Watch the retrospective video of 2021-2022**

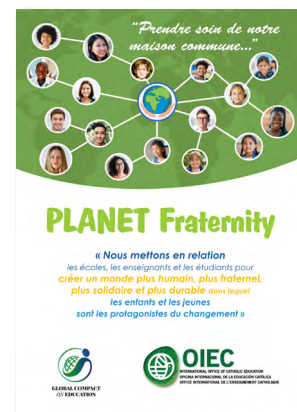


To know all about Planet Fraternity project

Go to the site app.planetfraternity.com

Tools to download

The presentation booklet



The Newsletter (sept. 22 - dec. 22)



The Video Contest of Planet Fraternity

During the conference, Mary Angelina Kirsten Dulalia of St Mary's College of Meycauayan was awarded the Planet Fraternity video contest prize. The trophy made in wood by the students of the Institut Lemonnier de Caen (FRANCE) was awarded by Hervé Lecomte and Alejandra Beigbeder to reward the high quality of the film made by the young Filipinos on the theme "Building together the Village of Education".





Congress

What they think about it...

We gave the floor to a few participants in the OIEC Congress. These testimonies are not insignificant since they are those of the members of the OIEC cross-functional representation team. What did they think of this congress? What did they take away from it? As many questions as Michel Bertet, ETR coordinator, asked them.

Find all of these testimonies in the « [bulletin de liaison n°19 - décembre 2022 de l'ETR](#) ».



Pierre DUSSÈRE
Member of the ETR

If I had to summarize with one word the OIEC Congress in Marseille, I would choose «catholicity», in the double sense that it appeared during these four days:

- Joy of encounters that make us experience by living our global membership: from one step to the next, a coffee in hand, discovery of a Breton, a Senegalese team, a Ukrainian, a Portuguese before an improbable dialogue with a priest from Zimbabwe with whom we understood each other in English...
- Especially to see differently the Catholic mission of the Church, as Cardinal Cristobal Lopez testified so well: many believe that the Church accomplishes its mission when it manages to increase the number of Christians in a certain territory, and the number of settlements, churches and communities.

It is a “self-referential” vision, whereas we Christians are asked to convert.

Now the Gospel offers (conversion) clues that are not the number of religious changes, but: when peace and justice, freedom and life, truth and love reign in such environments. It is indeed a question of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The Church therefore fulfils her mission when she helps to create a humanity and a world in which these values reign. This is the catholicity of the mission of the Church ... and of ours!

It is happy and fruitful to add to this the words of Bishop Aveline on Hope, which in faith is based on the end of history, unlike the hope that is built by projects conceived from oneself and the situation of the moment.



Béatrice LINN
Assistant

The congress was a wonderful experience for me. It was beautiful to see exchanges between people from all over the world that it

certainly allowed participants to learn from each other, to open up to other contexts and realities, to take a different view and to develop together ideas on how education can be lived concretely in today's world and independently of religious and cultural differences. And this not only thanks to the participants from all over the world, but also thanks to the young people of Marseille who made the congress even more lively!



Bernard SENELLE
Member of the ETR

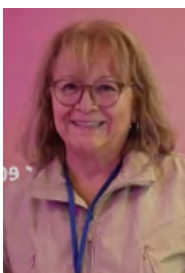
For me, what has marked me is the impact of the Catholic School in non-Christian and more specifically Muslim countries. Cardinal Cristobal Lopez Romero saw this. The School allowed the Kingdom of God to land in our world. This situation can inspire us in our de-Christianized, multireligious and multicultural societies. This is one of the essential messages of this congress imbued with Mediterranean reality.



Roselyne MOREAU
Member of the ETR

I was particularly impressed by the international networks that have developed to implement the “Planet Fraternity” project, created in 2019 following the OIEC Congress in New York. This project, which is rooted in the Global Education Pact initiated by Pope Francis, aims to link educational institutions, students and teachers in order to “enable young people to build a more human society by being the protagonists of change.” The aim is to help young people aged 9 to 18 to understand the problems of the world from their own point of view. Based on a very precise methodology, proposed by Planet Fraternity, inter-institutional projects have been implemented within the framework of partnerships with countries of different cultures, on the basis of the guidelines indicated in «Fratelli Tutti», «Laudato Si» and the 17 SDGs (UN Sustainable Development Goals (climate, health, poverty reduction, quality of education)).

Listening to the testimonies of the participants from the five continents, I realized that this project has effectively developed a wide network of institutions that all seek to “take care of the common home.” And this network, coordinated by Mr Hervé Lecomte, will continue to expand. In this way, the global pact is gradually generating, in various parts of the world, a dynamism that can “become a model” for the whole world and contribute to creating “a more human, fraternal, supportive and sustainable world”.



Gloria PARA
Member of the ETR

In this kind of encounter and in life I give priority above all to the human being and the message(s) that he can transmit through his witness, his attitude of acceptance of his commitments in the face of adversity...

Two religious (not surprising in this context), touched me greatly, moved me. To respect parity, chance does things well, it is Piotr or Peter the Ukrainian Salesian and Sister Mirna the Lebanese nun. Piotr for the courage he shows in the face of the war country without complaining he does what he thinks he should do in these circumstances and sister Mirna, so charismatic, who also had her share of trials in the events that practically destroyed her country. I see there two experienced religious who knew how to keep smiling, laughing for Sister Mirna, one believes that they are happy to follow the path they have chosen. For me they are exemplary. And I will cherish their memory.

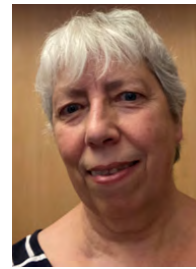


Michel BERTET
Coordinator
of the ETR

Two masses for frame the OIEC congress, the first in the cathedral, a vast Byzantine neo-Roman building, a neo-everything, a large body without a great soul. And yet, what a Mass! Solemn, joyful, pontifical, simple, beautiful to see (all these reds), beautiful to hear (the Agnus Dei), good to hear (the homily, what teaching!).

The second, under the vaults of Saint-Victor, where our breaths mingled with the centuries of the Church, what a story! But is it the distance from the altar on its platform? Is it the clerical black dress and white lace of the ceremonial? Is it simply the merciless rain? Something in this sending mass left us a little on the spot.

Perhaps this: in spite of all the efforts of these men, whether here or there, dressed in robes and colours, half of humanity is missing in the choirs of all these churches, and it is perhaps this that I did not realize at the cathedral, which struck me in Saint-Joseph-Victor, and who’s charting a course for the new OIEC staff: where are the women? But at the ETR of course!



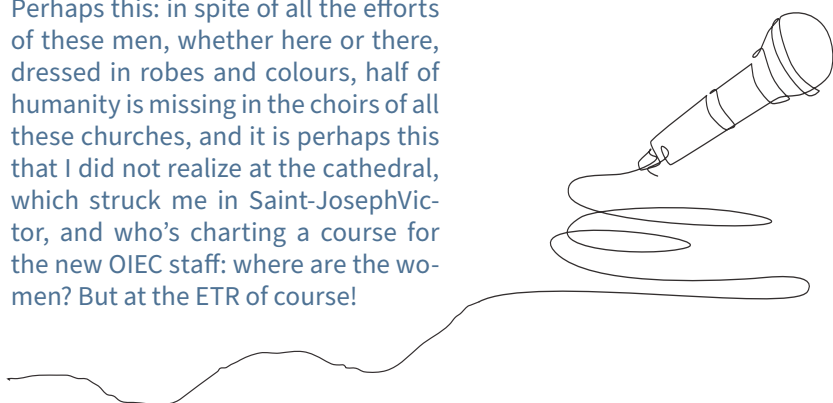
Marianne ROULOT
Member of the ETR

Participating for the first time in a world congress is already an event in itself, but when it comes to Catholic Education, it takes yet another dimension! Still a novice in terms of representativeness at the Council of Europe, I listened with interest to the various interventions at the GA of 29 November and was able to appreciate the importance of bringing the voice of the Catholic School to the level of all international institutions.

During the Congress, I particularly appreciated the interventions of the Archbishops of Marseilles and Rabat and selected a few points that will also help me in my mission as a trusteeship delegate:

Archbishop Aveline concluded his speech by saying that “Catholics must convert to the catholicity of the Church and the Catholic school is a school with a catholicity vocation... and of hope...” , a vocation that Charles de Foucauld understood and expressed in his prayer “My God, let all humans go to Heaven”

Archbishop Cristobal, on what the Catholic school can and must do to be an instrument at the service of the Kingdom: “to become a school of solidarity”, “to be an experience of justice and respect for others”, educate the entire educational community and its territory of influence in a thought ecological integrity, respect for the environment, the common home, people and cultures” to name but a few.



The young... for their first congress

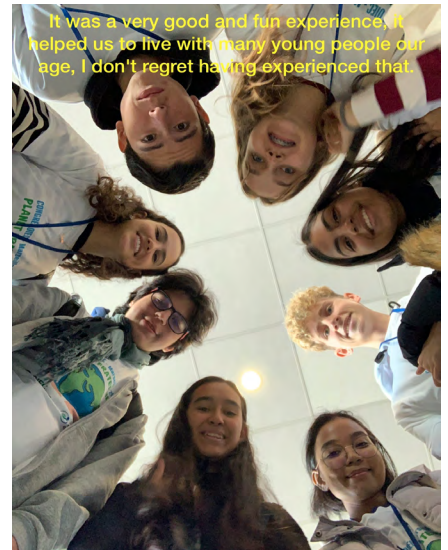
Coming from 4 continents, they were able to benefit from the interventions of adults during the congress, but also from the times of meeting and sharing among young people.



**Camille
GUILLEMARD**
FRANCE



**Juli
TORP**
NORWAY



It was a very good and fun experience, it helped us to live with many young people our age, I don't regret having experienced that.

Daniela CORNEJO
MEXICO

Participating in the congress in Marseille in December 2022 was a great moment. Indeed that was an incredible experience, my friends and I met other young people from different parts of the world ; we shared so much. Of course, we also attended conferences and heard testimonies.

Such an enriching experience ! I will never forget it !!

“

I am happy that I agreed to go to Marseille with Planet Fraternity. We were so many young students from different parts of the world and everyone was outgoing, kind and excited. In the few days we were there we experienced so much, we attended conferences and listened to testimonies. We made friends ... and memories that I will not forget that soon.

”

**Pissinee
CHIANGIN**
THAILAND



“

I was very happy and honored to join this Congress. It allowed me to meet new friends from many countries, make a connect with friends from other countries. And I will apply what I got from the Congress in everyday life. It was great fun, I really enjoyed it !

”

**Camille
LECOQ**
FRANCE



“

I loved this congress in Marseille which was very enriching and we learnt so much. For example, the film on Pope Francis was really interesting, telling us about his life before becoming the pope. We also had time to visit Marseille a little : Notre Dame de la Garde, the old harbour ...

But our time together is just unforgettable : we were a group of young people from different parts of the world, we didn't know each other and we got along so well ... incredible !

”



**Hector
CASTRO RIOS**
MEXICO

A JOURNEY FULL OF KNOWLEDGE, ADVENTURE,
FRIENDSHIPS AND ABOVE ALL WORK AND
COMMITMENT TO THE WORLD.

THANK YOU PLANET FRATENITY FOR THIS UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY THAT HAS HELPED ME GROW AS A
HUMAN BEING.



EVGENY AFINEEVKSY
Director / Producer

FRANCESCO, the film

On the second day of the congress, the participants had the chance to discover the documentary film about Pope Francis «FRANCESCO» directed by Evgeny Afineevksy, American-Israeli director nominated for the Oscars.

This groundbreaking film presents unprecedented access to His Holiness Pope Francis, offering an intimate look at a world leader who approaches difficult and complex issues with tremendous humility, wisdom and generosity to all. Everyone has been shaken up, touched by this important documentary that highlights the need for all humanity to critically rethink our relationship with our environment and the planet, and to seek deeper cooperation between religions to serve the common good.

But to better understand the importance of this medium, we left the floor to the director Evgeny Afineevksy:

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically pulled back the curtain on the 21st century to reveal the most pressing, existential problems of our time: the failure of local, national, and global health systems to protect citizens, including the most vulnerable amongst us; wide-scale economic, race, and gender inequality; the climate crisis and rejection of facts and science by demagogic leaders; religious intolerance and xenophobia; the immigration crisis; profound human rights violations; the failure of leaders in the richest and most sophisticated countries in the world to anticipate what the outcomes would be if our aging and failing health, infrastructure, and educational systems—meant to keep people safe, prosperous, and healthy—were tested beyond anything known before.

Without question, we are at a critical intersection in our human history that cries out for new voices to be heard voices of hope, connection, optimism, innovative ideas, imaginative solutions, and bold action. We

are at a moment in time that requires inspired leadership to guide us out of the wilderness as a global community and into a more purposeful, generous, compassionate, equitable future. Is there a key voice - one that resonates widely with courage, wisdom, experience, and the command of world-wide respect—to issue a clarion call to the world, inspiring leaders and citizens alike to address the most pressing problems of our time by acting together for a better, shared, and stronger future?

Perhaps that person is Pope Francis—an inspired and revered man of faith, science, and action. The Pope demonstrated that all of these issues are inextricably linked together, and thus must be dealt with holistically if we are to have a future that will be safe, equitable, and healthy for all. With compassion and insight, he challenged the world community to address these crises with our inherent sense of hope, resilience, optimism, and indefatigable can-do human spirit. His daily activity and his wisdom on these

issues provide direction for all of us and can ultimately serve as a guide for future generations. Through these lessons, we can build great future leaders and a healthier and more equitable and diverse society—one that can be enjoyed for generations to come.

The Francesco movie and these six lessons are not a biographical project about Pope Francis in the traditional sense. Rather, the film and this curriculum show us the world as it is today and give us a path to create a better future through education. Through Pope Francis’ remarkable work in the areas of climate change, migration, refugees, peace and religious tolerance, gender and identity justice, health and economic equality, he demonstrates the meaning of inspired leadership.

I hope this project will inspire you all, as it inspired me and changed my life.

Sincerely,

Film and educational guide

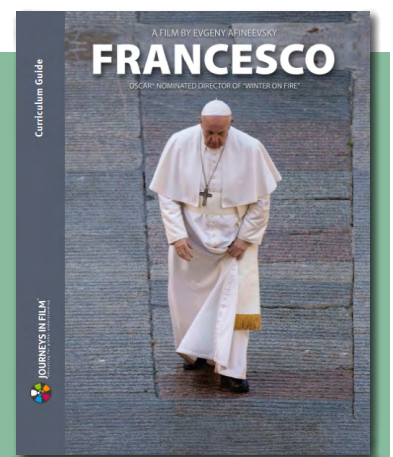
If you want to watch this film in your classes, a specific site has been created, on which you can find the educational files in several languages, the question and answer session with the director during the congress.

The film’s website : <https://www.francescofilm.com>

The film’s website for Education : <https://www.francescofilm.com/education>

Download [the teaching guide in english](#)

Download [the teaching guide in spanish](#)





AGENDA 2023 of the OIEC

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JANUARY

- **January 25, 2023:**
Meeting with ETR in Paris
- **January 27, 2023:**
Meeting with the GRACE network in Rome

FEBRUARY

- **February 2-3, 2023**
Working meetings of the Secretary-General and the President in Tunis (TUNISIA)
- **February 9, 2023 4pm (PARIS)**
FIUC Webinar on the Synodal Process - with Gilles Routhier
Registration: <https://urlz.fr/ksNk>

- **February 9, 2023**
Meeting of the OIEC Legal Committee
- **February 14, 2023**
Meeting with the FIUC in Paris
- **February 12-19, 2023**
ARNECAO meeting (West Africa) in Guinea Conakry

MARCH

- **March 24-26, 2023:**
Ordinary General Meeting of the CIEC (AGO) in Bogota, Colombia

APRIL

- **April 20-22, 2023:**
General Meeting of the CEEC (AG) in Vilnius, Lithuania



The OIEC *Marseille 2022* Congress

Thanks !

From the entire OIEC team to all our sponsors and partners for helping us make the Marseille congress a success.

We hope we can count on your support for our next congress in 2026!



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