



Educating Today and Tomorrow: A renewing passion

World Congress on Catholic Education
Rome-Castel Gandolfo, 18-21 November 2015



Reflections and ideas for Le Chéile schools?



- By this World Congress, the Congregation for Catholic Education wishes to revive the commitment of the Church in the field of education, especially where this is an educational emergency clearly and frequently dramatic.
- This event will address several themes: **centrality and student diversity, training teachers, pluralism of educational institutions** and the **integral education** of the person in a society increasingly multicultural and multi-religious.

A selection of themes ...



- Connectedness – to other people and to moral and spiritual meanings
- Religiosity and spirituality significantly influence well-being
- A good encounter with a teacher will be remembered

Bosnia and Herzegovina



- Very mixed ethnic backgrounds
- Catholic schools – promote peace through living together and dialogue
- All students study the history of religion and the contribution of religion to humanity and society.
- Peace and reconciliation must be based on respect for human rights and “love others as we love ourselves”.
- We must recognise that religious identity is part of one’s identity...
- Jesus Christ taught us to conquer only through love
- Teachers bear witness to Christ and his church
- Our Catholic schools communicate the values that help young people to build respect for humanity
- The world is dependent upon people being tolerant of each other

Bosnia Herzegovina Summary



- Catholic schools are open to all
- Based on Catholic values, emphasising the human person
- Teach all to respect all – each with the right to have and practice their own religion

Budapest - summary

- **Co-operation with other educational organisations** (school ranking should be resisted)
- **Take responsibility for the whole – the student as a whole person** (this is more an outlook than something that is “done”)
- **Treat educators as whole persons – live and work more by example than by words** (a lot of organisational learning)
- **Be aware of our responsibility to create communities** – (educate students to be responsible citizens)

Implications for our schools?



Leadership: preparation and training

- Hiring teachers
- Building relationships and trust
- Living and learning by example
- Reflective practice



Bigger picture issues

- The future of Catholic schools in an increasingly secular society
- Accessible to whom?
Stated-funded Catholic schools may be under threat in a secular society. Non-state funded Catholics schools are too expensive for the poorer families to attend.
- Parental support – a plea from the Parents Association in Italy not to close any more Catholic schools (*over 300 have closed in Italy and also in the U.S. a significant number have closed in the last decade*)
- The Irish situation?



Key messages from Pope Francis



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**Many small people
Make many small steps
In many small places
....and suddenly the world changes**

(found on an Argentinian website)

