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OIEC Newsletter



Hello from Ramallah
(Palestine)

Quote of the month

"Schools are thus able to evangelize because they get students to discover what the dream that God has for

Editorial

The Catholic school as a great prophecy for the world

The Congress of the CIEC was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 13th to 15th January. It brought together over 900 people from almost thirty countries of America. It was organized by the CIEC and by the ANEC (Brazil). This Congress was a real highlight. The Catholic schools of America are committed to a process of redefinition of their mission, linked with proposals and exhortations of Pope Francis to make efforts to recreate the educational Pact, all around the world.

Many innovative experiences were presented to us with the idea of bringing the education closer to the poorest populations: *Utopia* (Colombia), *Fe e Alegria* (Brazil), *Escuela de Fatima de Villa Soldati* (Argentina), *Portal Futurum* (Brazil), *Educacion indegina* (Venezuela), *scholas occurrentes* (Argentina).

Beyond these presentations, it is the spirit of this Congress that we must keep in mind. The American Catholic schools were questioned, and even shaken in their certainties. They were asked to take risks. "*If we do not take risks, we will not move. We must take the risk to change, to really transform the Catholic school. The school needs a courageous reform*". The Congregation for Catholic Education pushes us to do that. We should not spend our time repeating what our founders told us. We must now think as successors. This means setting collective work through horizontal work. We must think of our educational project with the elements that come from the gospel. How can we design an educational community in which everyone can experience participation and opinion sharing?

Catholic schools represent a multitude of evangelists working to rethink education in a courageous way, that can contribute to repair and save the world. We must recreate school itself. We can not resign ourselves. We need to meet, create more active participation and create more collaboration between our schools, without excluding public schools. School must be a school first. It is the way the educational community will educate. Thank you to all our friends of America for this so loud call that all the Catholic schools of the world should hear.



About the Congress of the CIEC in Sao Paulo, Brazil

Go to the CIEC website: <http://www.ciec.edu.co>

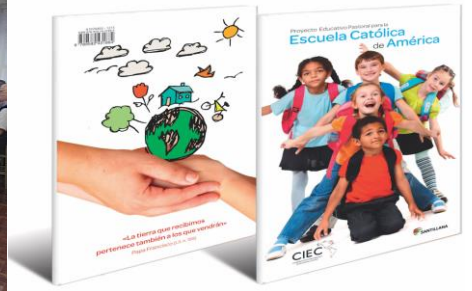
And take the time to watch this message of Pope Francis:

<https://youtu.be/-zOd028SnU>

(Pope Francis' interview conducted by Scholas Occurrentes. This video was presented during the 24th Congress of the ICCS in Sao Paulo from January 13 to 15, 2016).

53° General Assembly of the CIEC in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 16 January 2016

The CIEC is a regional secretariat of the OIEC for the Americas. It held its Annual General Meeting January 16, 2016 in Sao Paulo, attended by 19 of its members. On the agenda of this meeting, we particularly note the presentation of the 2015-2020 strategic plan. This plan represents a true call to start the CIEC. It will also retain the presentation of the outline of the pastoral educational thought of American Catholic schools.





Testimony

Oscar Armando Perez Sayago, Deputy Secretary of ICCS (Inter-American Confederation of Catholic Education)

"I'm a married layman committed to the Catholic school. From a young age I began to think about the role of Religious Education in Schools (ERE) in schools where I worked as a teacher, and on the role of education in theology. The outcome of this concern was that I began to train teachers of religion in all parts of Colombia, with the help of a great teacher, Father Fray Héctor Lugo, OFM. Maybe God drives me to form and increase my interest not only for ERE, but for the current role of the Catholic school and the place of children and youth culture in postmodernity.

I currently work as Deputy Secretary of the CIEC. Along with the head of the General Secretariat, we are thinking of how to promote new projects on the importance of the Catholic school in America and the role it plays in each country of our continent. It is not easy in this time of educative emergency we are facing, but these new challenges compel us to propose new ways with consistent and evangelical sense.

In my opinion, we live in a great historical moment that provides our tradition of history and Church with an inexhaustible source of pedagogical utopias. This is the dream of CIEC, that I also have as a person.

OIEC and FISEC together for Fraternity Games: Upcoming meeting in Paris from 8 to 14 July, 2016



OIEC and FISEC (international sports federation of Catholic education) are pleased to invite students from your school to participate in a major international sporting event to be held in Paris from 8 to 14 July, 2016.

For further information:

www.jeuxfraternitefisec2016.fr

1,000 young people aged from 14 to 17

20 countries (at the moment)

7 sports

News from Zimbabwe

« I have started the year well but Zimbabwe up to now has not received enough rains for the season. We are going to have many challenges in

schools because in some parts of the country they have just received very little rains and livestock is beginning to die due to lack of water. This is a big threat to peoples' lives too if it continues like this.

We are going to have many school dropouts and due to high rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe, parents are failing to raise fees for their children ». Sister Anna Theresa NYADOMBO.

Visit the site : www.zcbc.co.zw, page « Catholic education formation »

Agenda of General Secretary

- February 3.

11am. Rome. Working meeting with the Pontifical Council for Laicity.

17pm. Audience with Pope Francis to sign the act of cooperation OIEC / Scholas occurrentes

- From February 8 to 11, Bamako, Mali. Working meeting with all the leaders of West Africa Catholic schools.
- February 19, Paris. Meeting of the Financial Commission of the OIEC.
- From 22 to 23 February, Rome. Ad hoc Working Group Meeting
- February 25, Madrid. Meeting with SM.

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