

EduFOCUS



November 2023 issue | For Private Circulation Only

*Educating is an
act of hope.
(Francisco)*



**GLOBAL
COMPACT
ON EDUCATION**

Contents

03 Editorial



10 Global Compact on Education

15 What's World Science Day for Peace and Development?



16 EduFOCUS Appreciated by Vatican Curia

18 His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias Inaugurates International Conference



22 Cerebration X

24 ABE Schools' Pilgrimage to the Mount



26 CACHE commemorates World Teachers' Day

30 Chandra-gyaan



EduFOCUS is the property of the Archdiocesan Board of Education, Archdiocese of Bombay.

President: His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias

Secretary: Fr. Dennis Gonsalves

Editor: Fr. Magi Murzello

Published and printed by Fr. Magi Murzello for the Archdiocesan Board of Education, Ground floor, Holy Name High School, 5, Convent Street, Mumbai – 400001.

Printed at Print Hub, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400063.

Editorial Team: Anjali Heredia Gracias, Nalini Sorensen, Dr. Omkar Bhatkar, Suzie D'Silva and Vanessa D'Cruz.



Fr. Magi Murzello

“It takes a whole village to educate a child.”

Drawing inspiration from African wisdom, Pope Francis scripted the Global Compact on Education (GCE) to humanise education. The black marketeers of education wanted to flip the GCE script by protesting... Why a village? Global village? How does one raise a global village?

Pope Francis, in his video message on the occasion of the meeting organised by the Congregation for Catholic Education “Global Compact on Education: Together to Look Beyond”, reminded them and us that “to educate is always an act of hope, one that calls for cooperation in turning a barren and paralysing indifference into another way of thinking that recognises our interdependence... We consider education to be one of the most effective ways of making our world and history more human. Education is above all a matter of love and responsibility handed down from one generation to another.”

GCE ushers in a seismic change; a paradigm shift from competition to collaboration. Educating is everyone's concern; no one is excused. Community and school are not separate entities. The school is not an isolated ivory tower but a lighthouse for the community. GCE invites each of us to renew our passion for education and go beyond the boundaries of the school creating new synergies and networks for a more humane, fraternal, supportive and sustainable ecosystem. Transcending our differences and boundaries to script GCE locally is very challenging but there is a pressing urgency to address the learning poverty on a war footing. Two groups can guide us by example as we accept Pope Francis' invitation: Brothers of the Christian Schools (<https://www.lasalle.org/en/>) and International Association of Educating Cities (<https://www.edcities.org/en/>). Incidentally, 30 November is observed as International Day of Educating Cities.

Team **EduFOCUS** and like-minded people established the Centre for Advanced studies in Culture, Happiness and Ethics (CACHE) to promote and reproduce Pope Francis' dream project GCE locally. CACHE was inaugurated by Knight Commander with Plaque of the order of St. Gregory the Great, Sr. Adv. Joaquim Reis, on 05 October 2023 (World Teachers' Day) during the international symposium on 'Teachers Without Borders'. The purpose of the symposium was to connect the classroom with the community.

The 7 goals of CACHE are:

1. Foster cultural intelligence
2. Counter mental health crises
3. Guide ethical decision-making
4. Redefine success
5. Promote community bonding
6. Prepare ethical leaders
7. Address the identity crisis



GLOBAL COMPACT
ON EDUCATION

CACHE plans to collaborate with ABE to make the objectives of GCE more widely known. The first step is to display the GCE logo in our schools and use it on our letterheads and correspondence. Other steps would be: interacting with non-Catholic schools on joint projects that support the mission of GCE, organising seminars, workshops and conferences to understand the vision and mission of GCE, and networking with other educational communities at local, national and international levels.

In the next issue of **EduFOCUS**, we plan to feature your testimonies, reflections, experiences and challenges of this 'shared journey' at the invitation of Pope Francis.

Ti auguro il successo!

What is the Global Compact on Education?

On 12 September 2019, Pope Francis launched an «invitation to dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet and the need to employ the talents of all, since all change requires an educational process aimed at developing a new universal solidarity and a more welcoming society».

To this end, he endorsed a Global Compact on Education «to rekindle our dedication for and with young people, renewing our passion for a more open and inclusive education, including patient listening, constructive dialogue and better mutual understanding».

We must «unite our efforts in a broad educational alliance, to form mature individuals capable of overcoming division and antagonism, and to restore the fabric of relationships for the sake of a more fraternal humanity».

A logo for the Compact



Colours: green recalls nature, growth, renewal but also hope, the possibility of “sowing” prophetic dreams. Blue recalls our spiritual dimension and what we would like to help achieve: peace. Gold represents light, the sacred, because every pact, every alliance for the common good, for the good of humanity, has something sacred in it.

Shapes: The world embraced with care by a human figure who wants to protect and guard it. The circle line symbolises the macrocosm that is God, the beginning and the end of everything.

Welcome address

of His Eminence Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi

PREFECT OF THE CONGREGATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Dear educators,

There is an urgent need to humanise education, focusing on the centrality of the person and creating the necessary conditions for an integral development. Giving children and young people a proper autonomy and the necessary leadership will make it possible for each one to grow inwardly, as part of a living, interdependent, and fraternal community. In sharing a common destiny, the complexity of reality will be interpreted through a new pact on education, leading us to rediscover the beauty of humanism inspired by the Gospel.

In a context of difficulty and polarisation, we as adults need to take a step back, talk less and listen more to the needs of young people in order to allow their individual talents to manifest themselves and flourish freely. Herein lies the true meaning of inclusion, which “is an integral part of the Christian salvific message” (Pope Francis, Address to Participants in the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for Catholic Education, 20 February 2020). Educating is much more than teaching.

In a process that is as delicate as it is articulated, shared projects for change can be developed to concretely transform real contexts. Let’s trust them, with no fear... They will surprise us!

+ *Giuseppe Versaldi*

7 Commitments for the Global Compact on Education

In his video message of 15-10-2020, Pope Francis calls for a new era of educational commitment involving all members of society. For this reason, he invites families, communities, schools, universities, institutions, religions, rulers, men and women of culture, science, sport, artists, media professionals, i.e. the whole of humanity to sign a compact on education by committing themselves personally to take up the following seven commitments:



1 To make human persons the centre

To make human persons the centre of every educational programme, in order to foster their distinctiveness and their capacity for relationship with others against the spread of the throwaway culture.



2 To listen to the voices of children and young people

To listen to the voices of children and young people in order to build together a future of justice, peace and a dignified life for every person.



3 To advance the women

To encourage the full participation of girls and young women in education.



4 To empower the family

To consider the family as the first and essential place of education.



5 To welcome

To educate and be educated on the need for acceptance and in particular, openness to the most vulnerable and marginalized.



6 To find new ways of understanding economy and politics

To be committed to finding new ways of understanding the economy, politics, growth, and progress that can truly stand at the service of the human person and the entire human family, within the context of an integral ecology.



7 To safeguard our common home

To safeguard and cultivate our common home, protecting it from the exploitation of its resources and to adopt a more sober lifestyle marked by the use of renewable energy sources and respect for the natural and human environment.



To make human persons the centre

To make human persons the centre of every educational programme, in order to foster their distinctiveness and their capacity for relationship with others against the spread of the throwaway culture

Ideas for reflection

The first commitment highlights the need to base every educational action on a solid anthropological foundation, a sound and precise vision of the person. Pope Francis says that every change needs an educational journey, to rebuild the fabric of relationships, bring to maturity a new universal solidarity, and give life to a more welcoming society. To this end, it is necessary to form a new humanism to overcome the cultural and anthropological metamorphosis of today's society. This makes it possible to give substance to each person's identity, taking care of all its dimensions, consolidating its psychological structure, thus preventing it from fragmenting and disintegrating in the face of incessant and rapid change.



Values

1. Respect for and enhancement of each person's identity, without discrimination of gender, age, race, religion, ideology, social status, and others.
2. Education for an integral formation that values all human dimensions.
3. Protection of the universal and inalienable rights of every person.

Suggestions for Educators

- Create the conditions so that all members of institutions/organisations have access to and knowledge of the Charter of Universal Human Rights.
- Guarantee equal opportunities for the members of your institution/organisation, without discrimination of gender, age, race, religion, ideology, and social status.
- To take care of each member of your institution/organisation, with special attention to the most fragile, offering an integral formation that values all the dimensions of the human person, including the spiritual one.

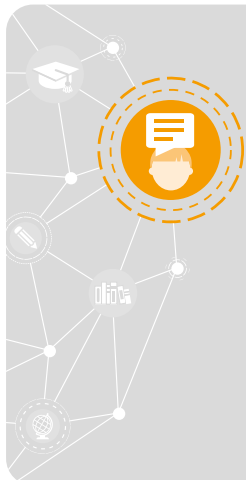
To listen to the voices of children and young people

2

To listen to the voices of children and young people in order to build together a future of justice, peace and a dignified life for every person.

Ideas for reflection

This commitment draws attention to the need to adopt a pedagogical paradigm based on attentive and respectful listening and dialogue with the younger generations. The Pope uses three verbs: *listen*, *pass on*, and *build together*. It is always necessary to start by listening to every person, welcoming their questions, their needs, their wounds, their poverty; discovering their talents, knowing their dreams, their ideals, etc. Before “giving instructions”, we need to “*e-ducere*”, i.e. to educate, to bring out, to bring to light, to prepare the good soil, preparing it to welcome the seed of knowledge. However, as the Pope writes, this can be done by passing on and sharing the values, that is the life, the style of existence; only afterwards is knowledge communicated, which makes it possible to understand and appreciate these values. Moreover, the process is like a construction, a building together, and this highlights the value of the relationship and the community in which we grow together.



Values

1. Listening to children, adolescents and young people in order to put them at the centre of educational action, with specific focus on those with special educational needs (“it is not the pupils who have to adapt to the school, but the school that has to adapt to the pupils”).
2. Every child, adolescent and young person has the right to the utmost respect and quality education.
3. Construction of a participatory educational milieu that involves mind, hands, and heart (“It takes a whole village to educate a child”).

Suggestions for Educators

- Promote the empowerment of students and young people and their access to education.
- Ensure the participation of students’ representatives in the advisory and decision-making bodies of their institution/organisation.
- Create welcoming educational communities with a particular focus on students with special educational needs.
- Condemn all forms of disrespect and exploitation of minors.


To advance the women

To encourage the full participation of girls and women in education.

Ideas for reflection

Special attention is to be paid to young girls and women, who are often marginalised by education and society. This is a priority and a strategic choice.

In the Encyclical letter *Fratelli tutti* (no.23), Pope Francis writes, “The organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story. Indeed, doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment, and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights.”



Values

1. Recognition of the same rights, dignity, and equality between men and women.
2. Greater participation of girls in education, through concrete inclusion policies.
3. Equitable inclusion of women in statutory decision-making bodies.

Suggestions for Educators

- Ensure as far as possible an equal presence of men and women in your institution/organisation.
- Encourage policies in favour of girls' participation in education.
- Guarantee the equal participation of women in the management, teaching, and governing bodies of their institution/organisation.
- Condemn all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

To empower the family

4

To consider the family as the first and essential place of education.

Ideas for reflection

Another commitment is the family, which is the primary and principal educator. It is the fundamental unit of society and as such it must be able to fulfil its task as the source of generative and constitutive relationships for the human person, to which all the other actors must contribute. In *Gravissimum educationis* it is stated that parents are the primary and principal educators of their children. "This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking." Then, "the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society need [...] particularly in the Christian family [...] children should be taught from their early years to have a knowledge of God, to worship Him, and to love their neighbour." (n.3)

Values

1. Priority of the family in the education of children.
2. Participation of the representatives of parents in decision-making bodies.
3. Promotion of family-friendly policies, especially for the most socio-economically disadvantaged families.

Suggestions for Educators

- Always involve the families in the educational activities of your school/organisation.
- Ensure the presence of the representatives of parents in the advisory and decision-making bodies of your school/organisation.
- Build community educational pacts between schools and the families, to meet local needs.
- Encourage parents' training and self-training.


To welcome

To educate and be educated on the need for acceptance and in particular, openness to the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Ideas for reflection

In a globalised world, general equality has not been achieved, but many forms of social, economic, and cultural imbalances have become more pronounced. Alongside citizens who have adequate means for personal and family development, there are a great many 'non-citizens', 'citizens non-citizens', "half-citizens" or "urban remnants", i.e. the excluded (cfr. *Evangelii gaudium* 74).

A society is healthy when it knows how to welcome the most vulnerable persons, when it takes care of the excluded so that they become full citizens. A compact on education must therefore aim at welcoming the last, at the culture of inclusion, at cultivating everyone's attention to the social and existential peripheries, and at healing the deepest wounds of the human person and society.



Values

1. Education to openness and encounter with the other.
2. Welcoming and integration of vulnerable and marginalised people through inclusion policies.
3. Overcoming the throwaway culture through inclusion projects.

Suggestions for educators

- Promote awareness programmes in an intercultural and interreligious perspective.
- Welcome students and people from other countries into your institution/ organisation (internationalisation).
- Launch international cooperation programmes aimed at building a more fraternal and welcoming world.

To find new ways of understanding economy and politics

To be committed to finding new ways of understanding the economy, politics, growth, and progress that can truly stand at the service of the human person and the entire human family, within the context of an integral ecology.

Ideas for reflection

This commitment sums up many aspects.

Economy, politics, growth, and progress are all part of a way of life, a culture in which education must aim to form men and women capable of being protagonists of the common good. In order to be able to do this, it is essential to spread a culture of encounter, seeking points of contact, building bridges, and planning a project that includes everyone (cfr. *Fratelli tutti* 216). This implies educating the ability to recognise the right of others to be themselves and to be different. Within this lifestyle of values and culture, a “social covenant” must be active and effective and demand realizing that some things may have to be renounced for the sake of common good (cfr. no.221). Education must, therefore, help to live the value of respect; it must teach “a love capable of welcoming differences, and the priority of the dignity of every human being over his or her ideas, opinions, and practices” (no.191).



Values

1. A renewed idea of economy, politics, growth, and progress in the perspective of inclusion.
2. Sustainable development and commitment to building the common good through a “social covenant”.
3. Investing one's best energies in education at the service of the community.

Suggestions for Educators

- Encourage study and research on economics, politics, growth, and progress in your institution/organisation with innovative and inclusive ideas, revising curricula and courses of study.
- Propose an integral education at the service of the values of participation, democracy, politics, justice, equality, fraternity, and peace.
- Redefine the training projects of your institution/organisation in favour of training people who are willing to serve the community.

To safeguard our common home

To safeguard and cultivate our common home, protecting it from the exploitation of its resources and adopting a more sober lifestyle marked by the use of renewable energy sources and respect for the natural and human environment.

Ideas for reflection

The last commitment indicated by Pope Francis clearly refers to the encyclical letter *Laudato si'*, which highlights the global dimension of the current crisis. It is not only an 'environmental' crisis, or an economic, financial, political, or social crisis. It is a crisis without any adjectives, because it is an inner crisis, projected outwards in all the dimensions of the human being – in the relationship with others, with society, with things, and with the environment. What is at stake then, is of an existential order, it concerns the position that human beings assign to themselves, the way in which they perceive their own existence in the world. This is why the Pope, already in the first message launching the Compact on Education (12-09-2019), renewed the invitation to dialogue on the way in which we are building the common home and the future of the planet. The answer lies in the need to invest the talents of all, because every change needs an educational journey to develop a new universal solidarity and a more welcoming society.



Values

1. Education to respect and care for the common home and to more sober and environmentally friendly lifestyles.
2. Investment in renewable energies.
3. Save and promote green spaces in one's own geographical area and educational centres.

Suggestions for Educators

- Encourage environmentally friendly activities in your organisation.
- Develop a care for the common home and refine the ability to lead the heart to beauty in the face of the wonders of creation.
- Facilitate the conversion to renewable energies for your institution/organisation energy supply.
- Create green spaces in your educational centres in proportion to the number of members of your institution/organisation.



For further information on the
Global Compact on Education

www.educationglobalcompact.org
info@educationglobalcompact.org



What's World Science Day for Peace and Development?

Nalini Sorensen

When the Editor of **EduFOCUS** asked me to write an article on 'World Science Day for Peace and Development', I literally went, "What on earth is this? Is this even a thing?" in my head. Yes, the voices in my head are loud and vocal. Between these voices and my recurring tinnitus, it's hard to hear what my husband says to me. At least that's my excuse.

But... I digress. I hadn't heard of this, and had absolutely no clue what this was all about. So, I did what any normal person would do in these circumstances. I googled it. And my best friend, Google, came to my rescue, as she always does. She's a strong, (mostly) reliable, trustworthy friend. I'm here to write that World Science Day for Peace and Development IS indeed a thing, and quite an interesting one at that.

So, here's what I have for you – five fun facts on World Science Day for Peace and Development:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made this day a thing, and declared 10 November each year as 'World Science Day for Peace and Development'. (Random personal, unrelated fact—it's ALSO my mum's birthday on 10 November, and I'm certain she has no idea that she shares her birthday with World Science Day for Peace and Development. But I can't wait to break the news to her.)
- This started for the first time from 10 November 2002. So, it's been going on for more than 20 long years already. (And I hadn't heard of it! Shame on me!)

- The basic aim was to bring science closer to society, to you and to me, while keeping a keen eye on sustainability. (Because really, which facet of our lives does science not have an impact on? And how can we not look out for planet Earth while progressing?)
- While the date stays the same each year, 10 November, there is a different theme each year. The theme for 2023 is 'Building trust in science'.
- The ultimate plan is to work towards a cleaner, safer planet by 2030. It's officially called 'The 2030 Agenda'. To enable this, there are 17 building blocks identified. These are officially called 'The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

That's it, in a nutshell for you. If you want to know more, I'll willingly lend you my friend, Google. She's extremely generous with her knowledge and her services.

And, if you will just pause a minute and think about it, HOW would you google this? Most likely on your mobile, right? What you are holding in your hands – your mobile – IS, in fact, science; constantly developing, constantly updating, constantly impacting your daily, everyday life. Science isn't just about those atoms and molecules, and formulae that you studied in school. It is in our daily lives every minute of every day.

That's what makes this day so important to each of us.

Nalini Sorensen is an award-winning children's author, who loves spending time with children and looking at the world through the wonder of their eyes. She believes that life is too short to not laugh and seems to always attract highly humorous situations in her real life. She lives in Mumbai with her husband, two sons and dog.

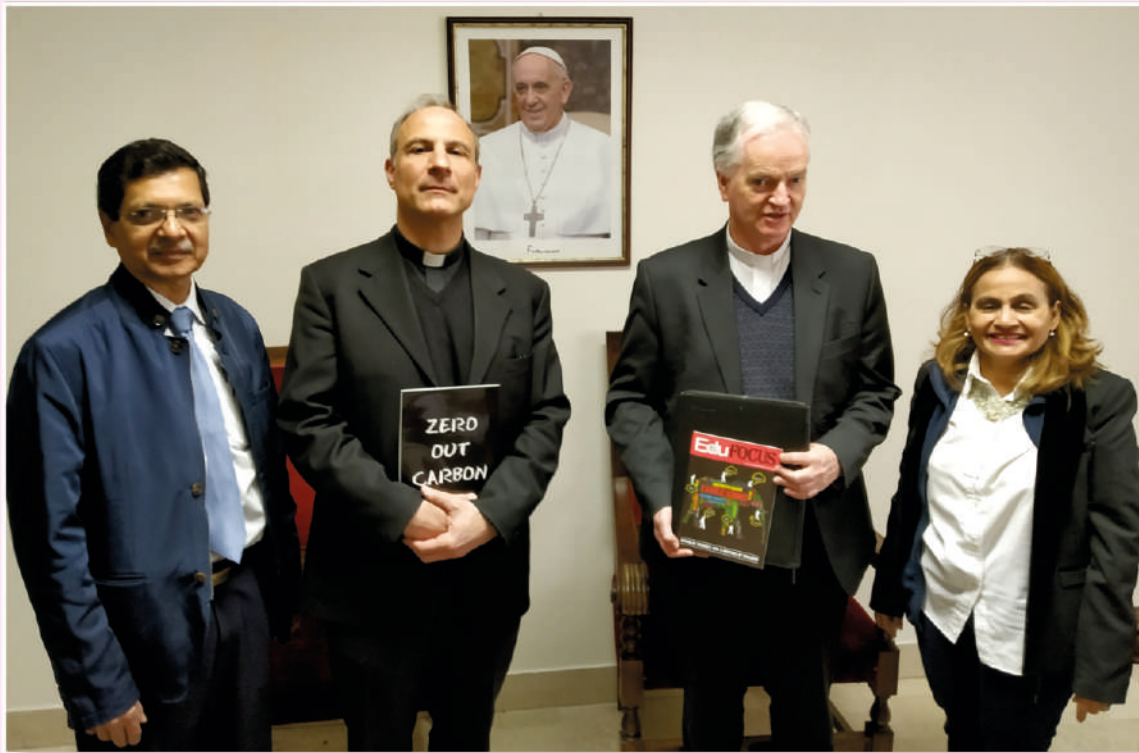
Nalini has written numerous books, across various age groups, for children, and has been published by several publishers in India. She has contributed to anthologies, to children's magazines, and has written readers for schools in India. She is a TEDx speaker, and has attended and presented at numerous literary events across India.

She's on Instagram (@nalinisorensen) and on Facebook (@NaliniSorensenAuthor).



EduFOCUS Appreciated by Vatican Curia

Nirmala Carvalho



I had the honour of visiting the Vatican's top officials of the Dicastery of Interreligious Dialogue and Dicastery of Culture and Education at their respective Curia offices, and presenting to them copies of **EduFOCUS**, the magazine of the Archdiocesan Board of Education of the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Bishop Paul Tighe is the secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education and one of the leading figures in the Vatican when it comes to communications as well. He came with his team to meet us in the Curia office. His team included both the undersecretaries of Culture and Education.

Being aware that carrying out the apostolate of education in a multireligious, multicultural and pluralistic society is fraught with both challenges as well as opportunities, the Curia were very interested in the mission of **EduFOCUS**.

As soon as Bishop Tighe saw 'Aryabhata' on the cover of one of the issues, he remarked on the striking similarity to the famous TIME magazine. I explained to him of the creative talents of Fr. Magi Murzello, the Editor of **EduFOCUS** who conceptualized the cover with a twin objective. First and importantly, to highlight the contribution of the Indian scholar of ZERO to the world of mathematics and entwining the urgent need to Zero Out Carbon in our schools. We gave Zero to the world, let's give it another Zero, his editorial noted. The second and no less significant objective was a subtle display of our patriotism which at times is questioned.

Bishop Tighe and team were informed that in November 2018, **EduFOCUS** featured 'Scholas Occurrentes'. Msgr. Melchor Sanchez from the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education then shared details of 'Scholas Occurrentes' which was formed at the initiative of the then Cardinal Jorge

Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, found in educational projects created for children in impoverished areas in the city of Buenos Aires.

Education and social change are closely connected, and Fr. Magi Murzello, Editor of **EduFOCUS**, the Rector of St Andrew's College as well as Principal of St. Andrew High School, has an intense role to play where students come from diverse socio-cultural economic backgrounds. **EduFOCUS** is primarily for principals, heads and teachers of Christian institutions and those who shape and form impressionable minds. Through its engagement with Christian educators, **EduFOCUS** seeks to illumine concerned formators to foster equity, identity and dignity, especially among the disadvantaged.

The participation in the various cultural activities as showcased in **EduFOCUS** was symbolic of the cultural integration in the education apostolate where diverse religious, caste, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds are not impediments to the Mission.

Bishop Tighe, through **EduFOCUS**, saw pictures of students and staff and people of goodwill enthusiastically participating in sports, arts, and cultural festivals, showcasing the diversity of Indian culture and the harmony in the institutions, thus seeking to sew together the fabric of fraternal humanity in a climate of suspicion and fabricated conversion allegations.

Bishop Tighe was impressed by **EduFOCUS** not merely for authentic dissemination of the Vatican's documents, but also for the creative way the voice of the Pope was being heard in a secular environment aimed at developing a new universal solidarity and a more welcoming society.

It is not a coincidence that **EduFOCUS** was at the Vatican's top offices on the tenth anniversary of the pontificate of Pope Francis. Francis desired a church of the poor, for the poor. His pontificate has paid special attention to the marginalized and migrants. His advocacy for the environment and support for COP26 is unparalleled.

Throughout Pope Francis' ten years, **EduFOCUS** has faithfully disseminated the encyclicals of the Pope, besides providing concrete ways of implementing them. COP26, encyclical *Laudato Si'*, *Fratelli Tutti*, etc. have been a priority for **EduFOCUS**.

Bishop Tighe was especially appreciative of the commitment to the education apostolate to the poor and vulnerable students, inclusive education, fostering better and mutual understanding. The senior Vatican officials recognized the contribution of **EduFOCUS** in evangelizing whilst engaged with culture and its success spiritually, academically and communally in Catholic education being a catalyst for social transformation.

The Pope's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* prioritizes the most vulnerable, and this is a practical experience in the institutions. The Dicastery invited additional information from **EduFOCUS** on the Global Compact to work together as Catholic educators.

(This article was first published in The Examiner - Sep 02 - 08, 2023)

Nirmala Carvalho has been a Crux correspondent since 2004 and, in 2006, won the Communications Award from the Catholic Bishops Conference of India for “exceptional sensitivity to the Church and minority-related issues”. She holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in sociology, both from the University of Mumbai.



His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias Inaugurates International Conference

Anjali Heredia Gracias



On Monday, 08 May 2023, His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias inaugurated the two-day XXV IFSSO International Conference on **“Social Media, Cyber-religion and Culture”** in the presence of delegates from over 15 countries including Indonesia, Philippines, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Fiji, Ethiopia and USA. The Conference, held at St. Andrew's School Conference Hall, Bandra, was organized by International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFSSO) in cooperation with St. Andrew's Educational Foundation – Mumbai, Academic Network for Dynamic and Inspired Educators (ANDIE) – India, Grand Academic Portal (GAP) – India, and Masyarakat Sejarawan Indonesia (Indonesian Historian Association) – Bali.

The day began with a pukka Maharashtrian welcome. The arrival of each guest was heralded

by the rousing sounds of traditional drums and trumpet, and lezim dance. A sandalwood tikka was applied to the guest's forehead by ladies wearing vivid nau-vari saris. They were then ushered into the conference hall for the inaugural session which comprised a prayer, lighting of the samai by His Eminence and IFSSO officials, an introduction to the conference by Dr. Preeti Oza, the inaugural address by His Eminence, the keynote address by Fr. Magi Murzello, and addresses by Prof. Nestor Castro Ph.D. (University of the Philippines, Diliman), Dr. I Ketut Ardhana (Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia) and Prof. Dr. Gurudutta Japee (Gujarat University, Ahmedabad). The dignitaries, including His Eminence, were then felicitated with a shawl, books by Fr. Magi Murzello, Dr. Preeti Oza and Prof. Dr. Gurudutta Japee, as well as a painting in Warli art entitled “Cosmopolitan



Mumbai” specially created by Dr. Omkar Bhatkar for the Conference.

The inaugural session was followed by a short tea break and parallel technical sessions wherein the delegates presented papers related to any of the themes of the Conference. Nearly 60 papers were presented in both the offline and online mode. Every delegate was awarded a participation certificate at the end of their technical session.







Cerebration X

Mrs. Clare Victoria

All the courses conducted by the ABE are excellent and 'Cerebration 2023', the in-service training programme for teachers due for senior scale, was no exception.

In June 2023, we spent eight fun-filled yet enriching days at St. Andrew's School Hall, Bandra (West) attending this refresher course. The programme was so well carried out and arrangements so perfect that the entire day was spent joyously.

The speakers were experts in their fields and imparted their expertise in a systematic and interesting format keeping all 94 participants ever energised and enthusiastic all throughout.

With Ms. Shailaja Mulay at the helm, nothing seemed impossible to achieve. Her vast expanse of knowledge and years of experience enriched all participants.

We gained an experience that all of us will cherish and use throughout our vocation. A heartfelt thank you to Fr. Dennis Gonsalves for heading the ABE and always keeping the balance between the various aspects of the schools under ABE. It was out of great thoughtfulness that this course for all the teachers was organised and completed successfully.

Our greatest gratitude to all resource persons who made our journey fruitful. Special thanks to Fr. Magi Murzello for not only providing the fantastic venue but also for his lovely sessions which energised all the participants.

A course like this will always keep our teachers geared up to face multiple challenges and keep them abreast with all the latest developments. We are lifelong learners and educators now, who know that they are out on a mission!

Mrs. Clare Victoria teaches at Our Lady of Nazareth High School, Bhayandar (West)





ABE Schools' Pilgrimage to the Mount

Anjali Heredia Gracias



On Thursday, 14 September 2023, more than one thousand Std. X students from more than 50 ABE schools across Mumbai made their way to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Bandra (West). It was the annual pilgrimage organized by the Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE) for their schools. The theme of the Mass was “Mary arose and went” highlighting Our Lady's willingness to serve others even in the face of challenges. The day also commemorated the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross – the day on which the 'True Cross' was discovered... the Cross used in the



crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

The students participated in the Mass presided over by Fr. Vincent Carmel, Chief Editor of The Teenager Today magazine, and concelebrated by several other priests from across the ABE schools. In his homily, Fr. Vincent highlighted the struggles and challenges faced by the students in their lives and how they could offer these to Mary. He encouraged them to follow Mary's example of service and willingness to help others even when it was difficult.

The liturgy was prepared by the students of Victoria High School, Mahim (West) and the choir was conducted by teachers of this school.

After Mass, the students were treated to snack boxes sponsored by St. Andrew High School, Bandra (West) and returned to their respective schools with a renewed sense of faith and commitment to serving others.





CACHE commemorates World Teachers' Day

Anjali Heredia Gracias

CACHE – Centre for Advanced studies in Culture, Happiness and Ethics – marked World Teachers' Day by organising an international symposium on “Teachers Without Borders – Classroom | Connect | Community” on Thursday, 05 October 2023 at St. Andrew's School Conference Hall, Bandra (West).

The Symposium began with the Chief Guest Sr. Adv. Joaquim Reis and invited speakers placing electric candles on a stand in front of the dais while the students of St. Andrew High School sang “This little light of mine”. Fr. Magi Murzello then recited the beautiful prayer, “Make me a channel of your peace”.

Sr. Adv. Reis and Fr. Magi Murzello, Founder, then inaugurated CACHE – a community centre focussed on illuminating and empowering individuals as they face complicated challenges and exceptional opportunities. The logo has been inspired by a digital motherboard (a storehouse of knowledge waiting to be shared) and a tree (an evergreen symbol of happiness, knowledge and growth). The four colours have been deliberately chosen – yellow (happiness), green (nature), orange (culture) and blue (ethics).

The Symposium was declared open as Sr. Adv. Joaquim Reis gave the inaugural address wherein he acknowledged the presence of teachers and how they affect the community at large. The



Chief Guest, dignitaries and speakers were then felicitated with a 'wellness basket' comprising a memento, a ThankPad, a heat pad and a host of healthy treats that was much appreciated.

Dr. Preeti Oza, gave us an insight into CACHE and its future plans as well as introduced the Symposium.

The line-up of speakers comprised a host of distinguished educators. Prof. Dr. Michelle Philip (Wilson College, Mumbai) elaborated on “Humour, Creativity and Community in Professional Development” as she asserted that all educators are really “imagineers”.

Maj. Gen. Om Gulia, SM, VSM (Retd.) enlightened the audience on “Leadership” as he drew on his experiences in the Indian Army. He presented ideas which would help children learn





to take decisions, build their character and inculcate discipline.

Dr. Snehal Pinto (Ryan International Group of Institutions) spoke on “Global Citizenship Education”. She emphasized on learning skills and values rather than learning only content. She pointed out that the need of the hour was really to “think global, act local”.

Prof. Dr. Hanif Lakdawala (Akbar Peerbhoy College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai), a motivational speaker, used the example of the sinking of the Titanic and the story of David and Goliath to drive home the fact that one must “Cultivate a Growth Mindset”.

Fr. Adolph Furtado SDB (Don Bosco, Nerul) pointed out just how easy “International Collaboration in Education” has become as foreign universities have begun to openly share knowledge. ChatGPT was not the be-all-and-end-all of knowledge. He stressed that the educator needed to be a prophet, a mystic and a servant to achieve the desired goals.

Ms. Anna Bredemeyer (former Miss India and

The Original Supermodel) took the educators down memory lane as she reminisced on her school days and her “Role Models and Inspiration”. She motivated the teachers to be nurturers, guides, give constructive criticism and gently nudge the children back to reality from their excessive involvement in social media.

Rev. Prof. Dr. Chandima Gangodawila (renowned Buddhist scholar) emphasised the need for “Conflict Resolution and Peace Education” from the Buddhist point of view. He stressed on the need to resolve potential conflicts and minimize conflicts by understanding our personal ego.



Prof. Dr. Nestor Castro (University of Manila, Philippines) elucidated on “Education for Personal Integrity”. He emphasized on the teachers having personal integrity, being a role model and exchanging experiences across the globe.

The last speaker for the morning, Dr. phil I Ketut Ardhana (Udayana University, Bali), explained “Ethics and Values in Education”. He addressed the participants online on globalizing the nation by understanding the process of society and culture in relation to strengthening the teaching – learning process.

Each speaker brought in their own special brand of humour and personal experiences that kept the audience's attention throughout the programme. After a hearty lunch, the nearly 250 educators from more than 80 schools across Mumbai left with a Certificate of Participation, a memento and wonderful memories of a morning well-spent.

The event would not have been possible without our cooperators – St. Andrew's Educational Foundation – Mumbai, International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFSSO), Grand Academic Portal (GAP) – India, Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya (NNKM) – Mumbai, Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE) – Mumbai, Academic Network of Dynamic and Inspired Educators (ANDIE) – India, Ryan International Group of Institutions – India, Rose Manor International School – Mumbai and Lifeline Hospitals – Mumbai.

A recording of the symposium is available on YouTube ...

<https://youtube.com/live/oZtg797QG38?feature=share>.

You could also search for the recording using “Teachers Without Borders”.

CACHE will hold cultural enrichment workshops, happiness and well-being seminars, community engagement programmes and personal growth retreats at least once a month either in person or in the online mode. To be a part of CACHE, do drop us an email on connect2cache@gmail.com







What is money called in space?

Star bucks.

What do starlets like to read before bed?

Comet books.



How do you get clean in outer space?

You take a meteor shower.

What do stars say when they apologise to one another?

"I'm starry."

Why couldn't the star stay focused?

He kept spacing out.



What do you win in a space talent competition?

A constellation prize.

Why did the star decide to take a vacation?

It needed some space.

Why did the cow want to become an astronaut?

She wanted to see the Milky Way.

Why did the star keep going to school?

So it could get brighter.



Why do you have to clean your house so much in space?

Stardust is everywhere.



Why did the star have a crush on the sun?

It was the centre of his universe.

Why didn't the Dog Star laugh at the joke?

It was too Sirius.

What channel should you watch if you want to laugh?

The comet-y channel.

What do you call a bacon-wrapped comet?

A meat-eor.



Why was the star arrested?

It was a shooting star.

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN
CULTURE, HAPPINESS AND ETHICS (CACHE)
BRINGS YOU



CON-FAIR-ENCE

Relive Bandra Fair memories!

Saturday, 02 December 2023

10 am onwards

St. Andrew's Educational Campus, Bandra (W)



Cover charge: Rs. 200

(redeemable against rides, refreshments and revelry)

Scan the QR code to register

Open to Educators only





INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

11 - 16 DECEMBER 2023

6 - 7 PM ONLINE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

OPEN TO ALL

