

**ANOTHER DISASTROUS INITIATIVE: THE VATICAN'S GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION**

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**AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*“According to the Catholic concept, the object of the school and of education is the formation of the perfect Christian, that is ... to exercise such spiritual and moral influence and to so train [youth] that when they are left to themselves they will remain firm in their faith as Catholics and put this faith into daily practice.” – Pope Pius XII<sup>1</sup>*

Christian education concerns itself with the entire human person in light of faith and reason. It seeks to form Christian character, enlighten the mind with truth, and develop a well-integrated person who contributes to the betterment of society. A good education must address all of our dimensions: physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual.

The spiritual dimension of the human person is the most important because it pertains to our ultimate end. God made us to know, love, and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in Heaven. An education that fails to recognize or to maximize its efforts to achieve this supernatural goal is not Christian.

In his encyclical on Christian Education, Pope Pius XI teaches:

“[S]ince education consists essentially in preparing man for what he must be and for what he must do here below, in order to attain the sublime end for which he was created, it is clear that there can be no true education which is not wholly directed to man’s last end...”<sup>2</sup>

As the word “education” may narrow our focus to the pursuit of practical and intellectual skills, it is more instructive to speak of Christian “formation.” Christian formation directs a person towards greater *truth*, *goodness*, and *beauty*. We desire these transcendent goods because God Himself is Absolute Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. As St. Augustine famously wrote, “*Thou didst create us, O Lord, for Thyself, and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee*”.

Our education is not an individual affair. Pope Pius XI explains that since we belong to three societies – the family, civil society, and the Church – our education belongs to all three. Since the Church is superior to the family and society, education belongs preeminently to her. As a good mother, the Church must seek to ensure that her children receive an education filled with secular, moral, and supernatural truth.

Parents have a God-given responsibility and corresponding inalienable right to educate their children. Pius XI writes that the family “holds directly from the Creator the mission and hence the right to educate the offspring, a right inalienable because inseparably joined to the strict obligation, a right anterior to any right whatever of civil society and of the State, and therefore inviolable on the part of any power on earth.”<sup>3</sup> The State may not supersede the rights of parents regarding the education of their children.

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<sup>1</sup> ‘[Counsel to Teaching Sisters](#),’ an address given by Pope Pius XII on 15 September 1951.

<sup>2</sup> [Divini Illius Magistri](#) (31 December 1929), No. 7. We encourage all who wish to understand Catholic teaching on education to read this encyclical.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, No. 32.

While Catholic Tradition and Popes prior to Vatican II enumerate various other principles regarding Christian Education,<sup>4</sup> those few mentioned above suffice to illustrate the gravest deficiencies in Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education.

### GRAVE PROBLEMS IN POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS

On September 12, 2019, Francis launched his Global Compact on Education with a message addressed to the world at large.<sup>5</sup>

Perhaps the gravest problem in Pope Francis' address is the utter lack of reference to the *supernatural* dimension of the human person. Making no effort to conceal its purpose, Francis explicitly states that this project means to create a "new humanism" and "to place the human person at the center."

The blatant hubris of not putting God at the center of a project of the Church would have been unimaginable to our Catholic ancestors. In this blasphemous endeavor, we hear an echo of that primordial temptation, "you shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5). Every sin involves man placing himself above God.

In his address, Pope Francis never mentions the importance of the Catholic *Faith*, Christian *morality*, or even the virtue of *religion*. The only reference Francis makes to religion is the sacrilegious 'Abu Dhabi' agreement he signed with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar on February 4, 2019. That accord presents Catholics and Muslims as believing in the same God, embraces religious indifferentism, and even erroneously claims that God wills a plurality of contradictory religions.<sup>6</sup>

Francis' address makes no mention of the moral evils besetting our 'culture of death' that grossly violate the sacredness of human life and human sexuality. Instead of calling for youth to be trained in the Ten Commandments and Christian morality to combat these evils, Francis calls for a "new universal solidarity" and a "more welcoming society," which apparently will have no need of the Catholic Faith.

Pope Francis also fails to emphasize the importance of objective and absolute truth. Instead, he waxes on about "constructive dialogue," "patient listening," and "inclusive education." It is as if all previous Christian generations failed to grasp the truth, which a *new* 'fraternal humanity' is *just now* poised to discover.

As a parent, I am troubled by Pope Francis' failure to affirm the primary responsibility and inalienable right of parents to educate their children and the singular and divine role of the Catholic Church in education. Instead of affirming these Church teachings, Francis quotes an African proverb popularized by Hillary Clinton: "It takes a whole village to educate a child." This Marxist slogan seeks to justify the State's usurpation of parental rights over their natural children and the Church's rights over her spiritual children.

### A FAITHLESS INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS

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<sup>4</sup> The Fatima Center plans to post several articles explaining basic principles of Catholic Education in the weeks leading up to the Vatican's Global Education Compact. We encourage you to read and share them by visiting:

<http://www.fatima.org>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.educationglobalcompact.org/en/the-invite-of-pope-francis/>

<sup>6</sup> This Abu Dhabi Agreement directly contradicts Pope Pius XI's encyclical on Religious Unity, *Mortalium Animos* (6 January 1928), which states, "such efforts can meet with no kind of approval among Catholics" as they "distort the true idea of religion" and gradually fall into naturalism and atheism [No.2].

In addition to Pope Francis' address, the Vatican has issued an *Instrumentum Laboris*, a working document that "will guide the work of the Global Compact on Education, clarifying the project, the context, the vision and the mission."<sup>7</sup>

The document makes it plain that the Vatican's Global Compact is a radical break from traditional Catholic teaching on education. As outlined above, God must be at the center of a truly Christian education. The *Instrumentum Laboris* states that the Global Compact is founded on "openness to others" and "fraternity". St. Paul teaches that "in the name of Jesus every knee should bow" (Philippians 2:10) but the Vatican now assures us that "'Together' is the word that saves and achieves everything."

The *Instrumentum Laboris* mentions God and Jesus 8 times in total, but refers to fraternity, the Earth and the environment 36 times. Our Lady, salvation, sin, hell, Heaven, and prayer are nowhere to be found; while world peace, the future and dialogue are mentioned 42 times.

The Vatican's materials on the Global Compact on Education confirm what many have long suspected. Pope Francis and his Vatican have no interest in promoting the Catholic Faith and its supernatural ends. Instead, their goal is a secular and humanistic paradise on earth. This goal is a great deception, for no 'paradise' is attainable which does not have the Blessed Trinity at its center

### **EDUCATION FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER**

Revolutionaries always seek to control the education of youth, which enables them to indoctrinate people in their formative years when they are most malleable.

The goal of Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education appears to be a worldwide educational system controlled by international organizations, financed by billionaires, and directed by the global elites who promote secular humanism.

The list of those who are supporting this initiative is frightening: Jeffrey Sachs (economist and population control advocate whose biggest financial backer is George Soros), Bill Gates, Jack Ma (China's richest man), Greta Thunberg, UNESCO and other agencies of the UN, the Islamic Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, among others.<sup>8</sup>

The agenda of these individuals and organizations is manifestly anti-Catholic. They promote 'population control' by abortion, contraception, and sterilization. They support all the efforts of Agenda 21,<sup>9</sup> which involves invasive and tyrannical control over nearly every aspect of people's lives under the guise of 'protecting the environment.' Lastly, they share a purely naturalistic worldview that denies supernatural grace, man's eternal destiny, and the very existence of God, the Author and Source of all life.

Pope Francis and other Church leaders are scandalously and tragically using their positions, resources, and missionary network to try to convert the children of the world – not to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Faith, but to the secular humanism of those who wish to usher in a New World Order under a

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.educationglobalcompact.org/resources/Risorse/instrumentum-laboris-en.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> See the LifeSiteNews article by Diana Montagna, "[Vatican urged to partner with top population controllers on pope's Global Education Pact](#)" (14 February 2020).

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21>

one-world government. Truly, the errors of Russia have spread throughout the world and have infected the highest levels of the Catholic Church.

### **PLACE YOUR TRUST IN GOD AND HIS MOST HOLY MOTHER**

Our Lady of Fatima came to warn us of these great evils but we have largely failed to heed Her. Though the hour is very late, God still grants us time to save souls by prayer and penance and to spread the Fatima Message to everyone we know.

Put into practice “Our Lady’s Five-Point Plan to Defeat This Coronavirus” and the spiritual plan for the salvation of wayward loved ones through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.<sup>10</sup> Encourage others to do so as well. Fervently offer your Rosary every day, practice the First Saturday Devotion every month, and pray for the full disclosure of the Third Secret of Fatima and the proper consecration of Russia to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart.

At the conclusion of its *Instrumentum Laboris*, the Vatican sets out these “Suggested Themes for Further Reflection”:

“The ‘mystique’ of living together, the village of education, fraternity and peace, egolatry, positive internet resources, education to silence, throwaway culture, thoughts of unity, restlessness in searching, revolution of tenderness, and ecological citizenship.”

I could not help but contrast this list with the list found in this wonderful piece known as “Remember Christian Soul,” which proposes subjects for Christians to meditate on daily:

“Remember, Christian soul, that thou has this day, and every day of thy life: God to glorify, Jesus to imitate, the angels and saints to invoke, a soul to save, a body to mortify, sins to expiate, virtues to acquire, hell to avoid, Heaven to gain, eternity to prepare for, time to profit by, neighbors to edify, the world to despise, devils to combat, passions to subdue, death perhaps to suffer, and judgment to undergo.”

This is the content of a truly Christian education! Imagine if a Pope were to challenge the world to reflect on such themes and to incorporate them in a program of education for the world’s youth.

*Do not lose hope* – such a day will come. The current crisis will pass. Victory is assured. Our faith is currently being tried like gold tested in fire, but Divine Revelation has prepared us for such times.

Stand fast with our Blessed Mother Mary, who comes “forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array” (Canticles 6:9). She has crushed the head of the ancient serpent. Her Immaculate Heart will triumph, and She will reign during a period of peace in which Her Son’s Bride, the Catholic Church, will flourish as never before.

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<sup>10</sup> These are available at our website (<https://fatima.org/>), and you can contact The Fatima Center for printed copies.