

## **Educate with fraternity: the extra ingredient that Francis is asking of educators in his first Pope Video for 2023**

- *In the first **Pope Video** for 2023, **Francis** emphasizes the importance of educators, as he has done repeatedly during his pontificate.*
- *The **Holy Father** asks that they add new content to their teaching: **fraternity**, a key ingredient in the search for a world that is closer to those who are most vulnerable.*
- ***Francis** wants educators to be credible witnesses, who see **fraternity** as the best path for helping those most in need.*

(Vatican City, January 10, 2023) – [The Pope Video](#) has just begun its eighth consecutive year by publishing the prayer intention that the Holy Father is entrusting to the entire **Catholic Church** through the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#). To inaugurate 2023, **Francis** has chosen to send a message to educators with a unique proposal: “add new content to their teaching: **fraternity**.”

### **Head, heart and hands: witnesses of fraternity**

In this [Pope Video](#), **Francis** wants to broaden the reach of education, so it will not be centered only on content. For the Pope, educators are witnesses of fraternity who not only pass on “their mental knowledge, but also their convictions, their commitment to life.” In this way, educators will be able to be “heeded much more attentively and will be community builders.” “Educating,” the **Holy Father** said last year in a conversation with a delegation from the Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education Project, “is taking a risk in the tension between the mind, the heart and the hands: in harmony, to the point of thinking what I feel and do; feeling what I think and do; of doing what I feel and think. It’s a balance.”

### **A school, a soccer field, a teacher**

The Pope’s video for January – which begins with the word **fraternity** written on a blackboard as if it were a school subject – accompanies **Francis’** reflection with the narration of a story which takes place at a school. A boy, marginalized by his classmates during soccer games, stays alone in a corner until a teacher recognizes his plight and decides to help him. He doesn’t do it with words, but with his testimony of life: he stays with him, day after day, and passionately and perseveringly teaches him how to play. This goes on until one morning he finds the boy together with those same classmates



who had marginalized him earlier: he's playing with them, and when he makes his first goal, he dedicates it precisely to that teacher, the credible witness who helped him.

### **Don't forget those who are most vulnerable**

**Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J.**, international director of the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), commented on this first prayer intention of 2023: "Once again, in the face of the challenges of the world, **Pope Francis** insists anew on fraternity. This is the compass of his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. It's the only path for humanity, and this is why education is essential. The Pope entrusts educators with being 'credible witnesses' who can teach fraternity instead of confrontation. When we look at Jesus we learn that we can only communicate and transmit to others what we ourselves live. This requires coherence in our lives between what we say and what we do. This is a grace, and that's why he invites us to pray to receive it."

*The Pope Video is possible thanks to the generous contributions of many people. You can donate by following [this link](#).*

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#### **About The Pope Video**

The Pope Video is an official global initiative with the purpose of disseminating the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions. It is carried out by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer). **Since the year 2016, The Pope Video has had more than 184 million views across all the Vatican's social networks, and is translated into more than 23 languages, receiving press coverage in 114 countries.** The videos are produced and created by the team of The Pope Video of the Prayer Network, coordinated by Andrea Sarubbi, with the support of La Machi Communication for Good Causes agency. The project is supported by [Vatican Media](#). More information at: [The Pope Video](#)

#### **About the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is a Vatican foundation, with the mission of mobilizing Catholics through prayer and action in response to the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. These challenges are presented in the form of prayer intentions entrusted by the Pope to the entire Church. The foundation's mission is inscribed in the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus, a mission of compassion for the world. It was founded in 1844 as the Apostleship of Prayer. It is present in 89 countries and is made up of more than 22 million Catholics. It includes a youth branch, the EYM: Eucharistic Youth Movement. In December 2020, the Pope constituted this pontifical work as a Vatican foundation and approved its new statutes. Its international director is Fr. Frédéric Fornos, SJ. For more information, visit: <https://www.popesprayer.va>



**THE POPE VIDEO**

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



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