

DECLARATION

On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the publication of the Conciliar Declaration *Gravissimum Educationis*, dated 28 October 1965, it is important to emphasise, as already recognised therein, that education for all has been a fundamental objective of human society throughout history. Both the education of young people and citizens in general and lifelong learning correspond to the needs of all humanity, to which the United Nations Organisation accords an absolute priority, in the name of the universality of human rights and the dignity of the human person.

The Conciliar Declaration is therefore a reference point that must be emphasised and remembered, in view of the acknowledgement of the universal right to education, involving the mobilisation of educators – parents, families, communities and civil society – and the role of the school as a centre of learning and solidarity. The assertive nature of this document therefore deserves special attention, especially at a time when the culture of peace must be actively promoted in social life and in the international community.

The right to education for all deserves special care in a world suffering the devastating effects of war and climate change, the destruction of nature and pollution. This obliges us, since we have only one planet, to take care of creation, through teaching and learning, in the context of environmental justice and sustainable human development that respects integral ecology, as recalled in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*, which assures us that we are faced with a responsibility that truly belongs to everyone. In this sense, the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations are a natural complement to the Conciliar Declaration that we are now celebrating. We are all called to defend and safeguard the fundamental right to education, just as we must cultivate a culture of peace and sustainable human development.

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