



VIII Taller RedLaC

ARU 2016

23 al 29 de octubre - Buenos Aires, Argentina

The 8th Workshop for Sacred Heart Education Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Casa del Almagro from 23rd to 29th of October 2016.

The theme of ***“New Times: New Perspectives, New Practices”*** brought together the delegates of the participating Provinces of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Sacred Heart Formal Education (RedLaC): Argentina-Uruguay, Chile, Mexico, Peru and The Antilles; in addition we had representatives from invited Provinces: Colombia, United States/Canada and Spain.

Invited to ***“Look, review, and transform our educative practice from the perspective of the reality of students of today, and in view of our educative vision and the society we want to build,”***¹ we proposed a workshop method and a participative process that engaged the different countries and facilitated collaboration and collective work. This allowed us to hear the voices and the realities of the children and young people in our regions, allowing us to become aware of them and, through that, to question our educative practice.

Listening to our children and young people – their dreams, desires, utopias, beliefs, fears, challenges – convinced us that we are living in ***New Times***: a globalized world, interconnected through science and technology and by various means of communications, but oftentimes confronting us with adverse and unjust facets. Amidst all these we highlight signs that fill us with hope, like the strength of our young people who do not give up when faced with world injustices, but rather search for ways to transform them. They want to be agents of change in favor of the common good, vindicating experience as a source of learning.

We know from this that we need ***New Perspectives*** of the world. To renew our way of seeing, to grasp complexities, and to deconstruct these require that we let go of our previous schemas and read the new contexts in which our young people live.

¹ VIII Taller RedLaC ARU 2016 ***“Tiempos nuevos; nuevas miradas, nuevas prácticas”***. Objetivo General.

Changing how we see things implies welcoming **New Practices**, reviewing our ways of doing, so that these include new discoveries inspired by the initiatives of our students, their genuine participation, critical thinking, collective efforts, and commitment.

As Sacred Heart educators we want our contexts, practices, and concepts to be the starting points of our continuing reflection on our day-to-day practice.

In order to do this, we make this educational plan that seeks to be transformative, and which bears what characterize us as educators. In making this educational plan, we also renew our commitment to:²

- Start with the pedagogy of St Madeleine Sophie and of the Spirituality of the Sacred Heart.
- Found reflection on our practice on the way our young people see things today, so that we can transform our practice in light of the new reality.
- Develop critical thinking, seeking to embrace an ethical, political and environmental commitment.
- Include all young people, accepting their own culture and heeding their voices.
- Be person-centered, and for this reason, value process more than results.
- Integrate contributions of critical pedagogy
- Include all the dimensions of the human person in the formation of students: affective, spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, and political.
- Prioritize Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation as a foundational axis.
- Encourage educators to commit to this critical vision, which is contextualized and viewed from the periphery, giving priority to those who are most vulnerable.
- Seek the transformation of both the actor and the unjust realities, responding to needs within the given context.
- Involve the whole community in the educative task.
- Integrate concepts and methodologies from Popular Education in Formal Education insofar as they contribute to achieving social transformation.
- Promote the values of love, freedom, solidarity, dialogue, listening, tolerance and mutual respect in all their fields of influence and practice.

This is our commitment and we promise to share it and live it in our schools.

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² VIII Taller RedLac ARU 2016 “*Tiempos nuevos; nuevas miradas, nuevas prácticas*”. Documento Final