



Società del Sacro Cuore

Casa Generalizia



Del modelo a la acción. Educar con *pasión* y *propósito*

I CONGRESO DEL MODELO PEDAGÓGICO XTI
FUNDACIÓN EDUCATIVA SOFÍA BARAT

Madrid, July 2, 2026

Dear friends, dear Sisters,
Dear educators, teachers and leaders of Sacred Heart schools,
Dear members of the Sofía Barat Educational Foundation,

It is a great joy to be with you today as we open this Xti Congress.
Seeing so many of you gathered here fills me with one simple but essential conviction:
Education is always an act of hope.

We cannot educate if we do not believe in the future.
We cannot educate if we do not believe in a young person's ability to grow, to rise again
after setbacks, and to become fully the person he or she is called to be.
We cannot educate if we do not believe that our world can be healed and transformed.

And it is precisely this hope that brings us together today.
The theme of your Congress, *"Educating with Passion and Purpose: From Model to Action,"*
beautifully expresses the responsibility we all share.

We are here because we still believe in the transformative power of education.

This conviction was already rooted in the heart of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat.
She understood something profoundly important:
The world is not transformed in any lasting way simply through ideas or structures.

The world is transformed by forming people.
People who are free.
People who are inwardly strong.
People capable of discernment.
People capable of compassion.
People capable of love.

That is why, in the Sacred Heart tradition, education has never been simply about
transmitting knowledge.

To educate is to help each person discover his or her own dignity.
It is to accompany each person in becoming fully who they are meant to be.
It is to educate the mind, certainly—but above all the heart, freedom, conscience, and the
capacity to love and to serve.

In one word: **To humanize.**

And I believe that today this word is more important than ever.

We live in fascinating times, yet deeply paradoxical ones.

Never before has humanity possessed so much knowledge, so many tools, and such extraordinary technological capabilities. Artificial intelligence, for example, is already transforming the way we learn, work, communicate—and even the way we think.

Yet perhaps never before have we experienced such fragmentation, violence, inner loneliness, and such a profound loss of meaning and direction.

Faced with this reality, one essential question emerges: What does it mean to educate a human being today?

Our mission is not simply to prepare young people to perform well.

The world will produce experts.

The market will develop skills.

Machines will deliver efficiency.

But...

Who will form consciences?

Who will help young people distinguish truth from falsehood?

Who will teach them to choose what is good rather than merely what is useful?

Who will help them resist indifference?

Who will teach them the values of relationship, listening and responsibility?

That is our mission.

Not simply to form brilliant minds, but enlightened consciences.

Not merely competent professionals, but deeply human women and men.

That is why I believe the Xti model is far more than an educational model.

It offers a vision.

An understanding of the human person.

A hope.

It tells us something fundamental about what it means to be human.

And that vision is beautifully summed up in four simple words: **"For you. For all."**

These four words express a genuine educational spirituality.

For you.

Because every person matters.

Every child.

Every young person.

Every adult.

Every story.

Every vulnerability.

Every hidden promise.

Madeleine Sophie expressed this with remarkable boldness when she said:

"For one child alone, I would have founded the Society."

Just one.

These words prevent us from thinking only in terms of structures, results or statistics.

They remind us that at the heart of every educational mission there is always a face.
Always a person.
Always a sacred story.

And at the same time:

For all.

Because no human growth is truly authentic unless it opens us to relationships, solidarity and service of the common good.

We do not educate simply for individual success.
We educate to build a world that is more just, more compassionate and more deeply human.
In other words, we educate for transformation.

And here our mission becomes almost prophetic.
In a world so often marked by polarization, hostility and fear of the other, our schools can become signs of hope.
Places that show another way of living together is possible.
Places where people learn to encounter one another.
To listen.
To forgive.
To be reconciled.
In other words, places where people learn to become artisans of peace.

I deeply believe that today's world needs the pedagogy of the Sacred Heart.
A pedagogy of the heart that brings together what our age too often separates:

Excellence and tenderness.
High standards and compassion.
Intelligence and interior depth.
Innovation and rootedness.
Freedom and responsibility.

This is why your work in educational innovation is so valuable.

Innovation does not mean abandoning our identity.
Innovation means allowing our roots to bear new fruit.
It means enabling an ancient charism to speak a new language.
It means making alive today what has been entrusted to us through history.

And that requires courage.
Because every true education is a work of patience.
Madeleine Sophie reminded us wisely: "Good takes time and patience."

In a culture of immediacy, those words are almost revolutionary.

Yes, education takes time.
Yes, it requires fidelity.
Yes, it often means sowing seeds without immediately seeing the harvest.

Since the time of Madeleine Sophie, the Society of the Sacred Heart has lived with one bold conviction: to help every person discover that they are loved by God and called to transform the world.

As we gather here today, on the other side of the Pyrenees, in Joigny, the Board of the International Canonical Foundation Sophie Barat Education is meeting.

I see this as more than a coincidence.

Perhaps it is a sign.

A sign that something new is growing among us.

Since the last General Chapter, something new has been emerging within the Society of the Sacred Heart. By reorganizing beyond borders, languages and cultures, the Society is expressing even more clearly an intuition that has been present from the very beginning: Our mission is one because the Heart of Christ is one.

What unites us is far stronger than what make us different.

Today, nearly 180 Sacred Heart schools around the world share and embody this same educational charism.

When I think of this reality, I do not first see institutions.

I see faces.

Passionate educators.

Committed communities.

Young people filled with dreams and hope.

I see one great missionary community.

What extraordinary potential we have—if we truly choose to walk together.

My wish for this Congress is simple.

May these days become much more than a sharing of experiences or educational methods.

May they be a time of inner renewal.

A time when a shared vision grows among us.

A time when our hope is strengthened.

A time when our passion for education is rekindled.

And when you return home, may each one of you hear once again that quiet inner call:

Continue. Believe. Serve. Educate.

Because, ultimately, education may be one of the most concrete ways of participating here and now in the work of God—a God who chose to become one of us, and whose Heart continues to beat at the heart of our world.

Thank you for your commitment.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Thank you for continuing to believe in young people.

I wish you a truly inspiring and fruitful Congress.

Claire Castaing