

Because “promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school,”⁶ Catholic education goes beyond the technical and practical aspects of schooling to help students integrate every area of knowledge within a Christian vision of the human person. The school recognizes that the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual dimensions of human development must tend to a personal synthesis of faith and life in each student. Growth in these areas prepares students for a life of service, building the Kingdom of God in society.

The Catholic school is a place of ecclesial experience. The New Testament speaks of the Church as *koinonia*, a communion of relationships built through sharing life in Christ. This communion fosters relationships characterized by mutual respect, open communication and the commitment to serve each other's needs. The history of the Church's educational postulate is distinguished by concern for the poor and marginalized members of society. Pope Francis' emphasis on reaching those on the peripheries reflects this core focus of Catholic education.

The parish is a family of families. Through its school, the parish cooperates with parents to support them in their role as the primary educators of their children, especially in the transmission of the faith, and through the school, parents and children are linked to the wider community of the parish. Parents should be involved in the life of the school through participation in councils and committees, as well as regular collaboration with the staff.

the personal witness of the teacher that will have the greatest impact on the students.

The leadership of the diocesan school community should promote the effectiveness of those who teach by providing ongoing professional development and formation in the Catholic faith.

The pastor is an integral member of the school community, with a specific role in overseeing the religious education curriculum and leading the liturgical life. He has a responsibility to support the formation of teachers in their role as Catholic educators. He should promote Catholic education, especially for those who are poor, deprived of the benefits of family life or otherwise marginalized.

St. John Paul II called for evangelization in the third millennium "new in its ardour, methods and expressions."⁹

1. Cf. Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (28 December 1997), n. 11.
2. Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School* (19 March 1977), n. 8.
3. Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (28 December 1997), n.14.
4. Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School* (19 March 1977), n. 34.
5. Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School* (7 April 1988), n. 66.
6. St. John Paul II, *Address to the National Meeting of the Catholic School in Italy* (24 November 1991).
7. Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (28 December 1997), n.19.
8. Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, *Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith* (15 October 1982), n. 37.
9. St. John Paul II, *Address at the Opening of the 19th Ordinary Plenary Assembly of the Latin American Episcopal Council* (9 March 1983).
10. Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (28 December 1997), n. 3.