

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR SOLIDARITY

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This experiment has been put into effect in La Salle High School in Pereira, Colombia, in connection with the International Year of Solidarity.

Our Educational Campaigns.

This is a pedagogical instrument that invigorates the educational process at all levels and that deals with one particular theme which is the result of the current life of the educational community and which is inspired in the Educational Institutional Project.

In the previous 3 year period (1992-1994) Educational Campaigns were put into practice which were centered in the entire educational process and dealt with themes in accord with the particular spirit that the school community was experiencing. They were as follows:

1992: The Year of Personalization

Goal: To discover the value of being a person, affirming one's own personality, respecting and cooperating with the personality of another. Motto: "To truly be oneself".

1993: The Year of Quality

Goal: That the entire educational community encourage one another to integrate, maintain and exceed quality in all aspects of the educational process. Motto: "Quality is a result of quality".

1994: The Year of Planning

Goal: To establish harmony between the pedagogical plan and the architectural plan of the new site in order to be able to successfully "learn to live well and better each day". Motto: "The future is obtained by forming the person of the future".

We hope that in the coming years we will be able to specify these Campaigns in accord with the most important theme in the field of education, the social commitment of the Church, inspired by the Educational Institutional Project.

Our Educational Institutional Project.

The Educational Institutional Project of our school, edited and distributed in September, 1994, specifies that it is "the educational project which makes educational theory practical and that throughout the curriculum plans and lines are drawn up which allow each moment and space of the educational community to be freed".

"The curriculum should favor contact with reality in a way which contrasts, assimilates and obtains social transforma-

tions that stimulate the peaceful and civilized living together of future citizens" (page 101).

The 1995 Educational Campaign is recorded in this context of making the Educational Project operative in an urgency which demands all its attention.

1995 Campaign: The Year of Solidarity .

Solidarity "is the firm and persevering determination of interceding for the common good, that is to say, for the good of each and every one, so that we all might be truly responsible for all" (**John Paul II**, Encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, n. 38-40).

We are talking about **solidarity** not only as a fact or a deficiency but also as a **Social Problem**. We are speaking about **solidarity** as a "value" and as a "virtue".

Therefore, **the gospel of solidarity** is the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37): "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself".

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers;...a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him..."

Application of the Solidarity Campaign.

The motto for the campaign is: "Let us build a new Society from our **Solidarity**". Also a symbol has been adopted: a circle of people of different ages with hands joined together.

We have chosen this theme because 1995 has been designated as the "**Year of Tolerance**" by the United Nations and we wish to interpret that as **Solidarity**.

The previous year of 1994 was the "International Year of the Family". It is here where the values and virtues of the person are forged and which later are deeply nurtured in the school setting.

The "Year of Solidarity" is like the continuation of the "Year of the Family" in which profoundly Christian and human values are emphasized.

As we approach the end of the century we are living in critical moments of interpersonal and intergroup relationships that are being played out in terms of indifference, lack of peace, social injustice, lack of respect for dignity and human rights, etc.

The Educational Campaign on Solidarity is a call to be "in solidarity" with whom we share the planet, because our solidarity surpasses our own small environment.

Goals of the Year of Solidarity Campaign

The general goal of the campaign is the **promote solidarity** in all levels of the Educational Community, especially in the exercise of solidarity with regard to the five values proper to the high school:

FAITH in others,
LOVE of others,
SERVICE to others,
FREEDOM for others,
CREATIVITY with others.

The specific objectives are:

1. To be more deeply conscious of our **universal fraternity**, taking part in the construction of a more human world.
2. To commit all the educational service of the high school for the promotion of human dignity, justice and peace.
3. To effectively express solidarity on the following three levels:
 - With students: as the center of the educational process.
 - With society: as a means for its transformation.
 - With the Church: as a promise of evangelization of a new world.

Development process

In order that the Campaign for Solidarity might be an effective process several acts have been planned with:

1. *our families:*

Parents, brothers and sisters and closest relatives.

2. *our school:*

Classmates, coordinators; administrators and employees; teachers and department heads.

3. *our friends:*

Values as true friends; recognized values for social living; accepted values for daily sharing.

4. *our neighborhood:*

Neighbors; those on my block or in my suburb, condominium; those in the area.

5. *our city and region:*

Where we were born; where we live; where we grew up.

6. *our country:*

Fellow countrymen and women; compatriots; Colombians...

7. *our Church:*

The church we belong to because of Baptism; the Church, the People of God with whom we journey; the particular church of my Diocese and parish.

8. *our ecology:*

The general habitat; the environment; my own surroundings.

9. *our planet:*

The Universe; the American continent; our own territory.

10. *Humanity:*

The human being; all humankind; all creation.

The Solidarity Programs will be developed:

- *At the high school level;*
- *At the guidance and academic levels;*
- *At the coordinator level;*
- *At the group level* (classroom or discussion area);
- *At the specialized high school group level* (Youth Ministry-Scouts-Social, Cultural, Artistic, Sports, Ecology Groups, etc.);
- *At the Administrative level;*
- *At the family level;*
- *At the association level (Parents, Alumni);*
- *At the Church level;*
- *At the society level in general.*

Specific Educational Acts:

1. The creation of a Manual which contains the plans for the 1995 Educational Campaign for the purpose of orientation and giving life to the proposal.
2. Celebration of the Initiation of the "Solidarity" Educational Campaign within the framework of the opening Eucharist of the Academic year.
3. Reflection Days on all educational community levels in order to become familiar with and to interiorize the Educational Campaign.
4. Specific acts of **solidarity** on the part of each class, coordinator, specialized groups and associations of the high school.
5. The creation of the Evening School for Adults for workers in Quimbayita, Pavas, Cerritos, etc.
6. A special edition of the newspaper "**La Salle Today**" with themes dealing with the 1995 Educational Campaign.
7. Invitations extended to groups of people who are less favored so that they can take advantage of the high school environment and so its programs and projects can be promoted.
8. The celebration of the **Day of Solidarity** on the Feast of Blessed Brother Scubilion the "Lasallian in solidarity with the most needy". The date is April 13, his official feast day.

The growth of Solidarity

1. We should live simply, without pretense while maintaining adequate relationships with others.
2. We should see and feel the poverty that exists in the world and in our city, in order to try to understand its causes.
3. We should give priority to the study of the social doctrine of the Church in order to deepen our awareness and understanding of the social problems of today.
4. We should fully participate directly and indirectly in the creation of programs to help solve the causes of poverty and of social injustice.
5. We should take seriously the cries of the poor, in order to commit ourselves existentially and by vocation, making ourselves present where there is pressing need.

(From the Pastoral Letter "Solidarity", by Brother John Johnston, Superior General, 1989, pp. 30-31).

Conclusion

Brother John Johnston, Lasallian Superior General, says in his Pastoral Letter on **Solidarity** that "we are called to solidarity, not only in virtue of our Lasallian identity, but in virtue of our humanity and of our baptism" (p. 29).

La Salle High School of Pereira cannot live "well and better each day" and it cannot "build a new Society from the point of view of Solidarity" without a common meaning (goals and objectives); common values (the teaching of values); a common vision; a common project; a common identity. All of this is dealt with in the Educational Institutional Project. •