



DICASTERIUM  
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Vatican City, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

## **Message of Cardinal Kevin Farrell**

**Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**

**For the World Council of the *International Catholic Conference of Scouting***

Dear friends,

I would like to greet all the members of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting gathered in Rome for the meeting of the World Council. I ask the Lord to grant to all of you a real spirit of communion and to illuminate you with his wisdom during these important days of reflection, exchange of ideas and decision-making for your organization, including the presentation of the new statutes for ICCS.

Your organization seeks to ensure a vital and fruitful link with both the Catholic Church and the international Scouting movement, as well as offering formation for international leaders and managers of Scouting organizations, to help them carry out their precious work in the field of education with passion and competence. Like every educator, Scout leaders need to cultivate within themselves their own authentic passion for education. Young people who have had the good fortune to meet real educators on their path of life, may perhaps forget many of their words or even the group activities they took part in, but they will never forget the love that burnt in the heart of those adults who accompanied them. Likewise, they will not forget the attention and interest shown them by real educators, who made them feel like people who were not only important, but unique.

Because of this, it is important for educators in general, and for Christian educators in particular, to find within themselves more and more the joy and enthusiasm that comes from passing on something truly great to the young people entrusted to their care. Indeed, there is nothing greater in life than welcoming the Lord Jesus into our life and remaining faithful to his Word as disciples and friends. All of you who lead Scouting activities should always be conscious that time and energy spent on the formation of the spirit, mind and character of young people is the best investment in the future of the Church and civil society as a whole. Indeed, it is one of the most beautiful and rewarding ways in which we adults can give our lives for others, as Jesus has taught us to do.

I would like to remind you of the wonderful words spoken by Holy Father a few months ago, speaking precisely about the task of education: “Human beings cannot live without hope, and education is a generator of hope. In fact, education is a form of giving birth and of nourishing for growth. It is part of a dynamic of giving life. And the birth of each human being is the most abundant source of hope there is: a life which searches for beauty, truth and a communion with others that helps all grow together. I am convinced that what today’s young people need more than anything else is this sort of life, one that builds the future. Therefore, real educators are like fathers or mothers who transmit a way of life which has a future”<sup>1</sup>.

Dear friends, I invite you to take up the Holy Father’s challenge, so that you will be for young people this type of father and mother, introducing them to a life that is beautiful, good, true and fruitful, generating in them hope for the future.

With my best wishes for the success of your gathering, I assure you of my prayers and readily grant you my most sincere blessing,



~~Kevin Card Farrell~~

Prefect

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, *Speech to the Participants of the Plenary Meeting of the Congregation for Catholic Education (Institutes of Study) 9<sup>o</sup> February 2017.*