

Kathmandu, Nepal, November 20th, 2021

I'd like to start by greeting ... Fr Armit, Bishop...Fr Roy, every Principles Xavier Schools, Pilar ho hire represent Xavier Network, every authority, and friends from this community!

I am living a great dream. Today is a very important day in the history of Fe y Alegría and the education promoted by the Society of Jesus in Nepal.

This is the country that touches the sky with its fingers. With its highest mountains, it is a temple of nature created by God and a reminder of the great challenges men and women face in reaching them.

And that's why we're here. We are here because God himself inspires us and brings us together as brothers and sisters. He unites us for a common mission.

We want all children, all boys and girls and all teenagers in these lands, to have the right to enjoy a quality education.

An education that makes them good men and women. An education that has its most inspiring roots in the culture of their grandparents and that opens for them the doors to the global world.

We are here to accompany each other in this great purpose. To learn from each other in the implementation of a large-scale Popular Education project.

We are here to give an answer, as apostolic works of the Society of Jesus, in the education of the poorest people of Nepal.

We have the grace of God to realize that we cannot do it alone. Of course, first with His help and then with our cooperation.

That is why we are at the inauguration of the Social Centre and the signing of the Mission Collaboration Agreement between the International Federation of Fe y Alegría and the Educational Works of the Jesuits of Nepal. This agreement puts us more institutionally on the same path to achieve common goals.

Fe y Alegría was born in Venezuela in 1955, with the idea of being a response to the need to provide a Quality Education for All.

From its origins, Fe y Alegría has in its DNA the vocation to be present in both, the local frontiers of most exclusion and in global geographic frontiers.

In such diverse contexts and from its Christian inspiration, Fe y Alegría dialogues with multiple cultures, beliefs, and human groups with the purpose of being a Movement of Integral Popular Education and Social Promotion.

I want to highlight three very important aspects that can help us develop a Fe y Alegría with a Nepalese face:

We are Shure, the Mission of Fe y Alegría in Nepal is an educational service for the most vulnerable. We are sent, servants of the mission of God. Among the people, with the communities, we learn and relearn to educate each other.

We are inspired by the four Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus, from an affective and effective presence among the most vulnerable, the youth, with a humanist perspective along the lines of integral ecology.

We are committed to form critical conscience and with transforming people who will change the world.

For us, Education is an effective strategy if it trains people with human and Christian values, as subjects and actors of social transformation.

But the best shared secret of Fe y Alegría is that our Education is contextualized. It is defined, in each different context, by its own reality.

The pedagogical model tries to respond to multiple political contexts, cultures, beliefs ... always with others in participatory management and in networking.

We are not a franchise that repeats the same recipe everywhere. We seek to inspire an educational service and be inspired by the discoveries of each place.

We work in networks with others.

We can't work alone. First, because the challenge is very big, and we cannot do it alone. And second, because it is from God to work in communion, Common - Union.

That is why we are linked to the educational networks promoted by the Universal Society, the Conferences and Provinces of the Society of Jesus. We also work hand in hand with many religious congregations, we dialogue with their charisms to promote the education of the most vulnerable.

Fe y Alegría is not given by magic. Fe y Alegría is everyone's responsibility. Of the National Government to guarantee the right to education, of the corporate world in its social responsibility efforts, of the communities that organize themselves and of the families that are committed and actively participate.

The International Federation is a space for joint construction.

The Federation is nourished by the local work of each country and each context. It reviews and systematizes these local inputs and then it shares it. To learn from each other. To serve as an intersectoral, interprovincial, inter-missionary and international missionary platform, as Father General Arturo Sosa recalled last October 26th at the opening of our International Congress of Fe y Alegría.

The Federation is undoubtedly a very important and potent instance to accompany the mission of the Jesuits in Nepal.

The Federation is made by all of us. It is a two-way relationship. From the country to the international and from the international to the country. We have an accompaniment plan that helps us work together on federative networking initiatives.

We promote exchanges, the visibility and relevance of our work. We promote public actions that can influence political changes to guarantee the universal right to quality education as a very concrete contribution to the Global Educational Pact called by Pope Francis.

Together we achieve the sustainability of our projects. Together we make it more viable for an emerging Fe y Alegría to manage the necessary resources to develop its mission.

Finally, I want to tell you that these days I have been able to learn a little about the educational mission of the Jesuits in Nepal. It is a relevant contribution to the society of the present and of the future.

I have been infected with your joy and your hope. You have the joy and the belief that human beings can transform themselves and help build a more equitable, fraternal, and sustainable world.

With that same joy, I celebrate this first step in the incorporation of Fe y Alegría Nepal into the International Federation of Fe y Alegría. This is already underway and has people in charge. However, you are the main actors who will set the times and rhythms.

Obviously, you have our support, as stated in the Mission Collaboration Agreement that we sign today.

I promise to support this purpose. I am very excited to be able to help Fe y Alegría in Nepal, and I am very excited that Fe y Alegría Nepal can enrich the Federation and the mission of Fe y Alegría in the World as part of this Global Network of Popular Education.

May God bless our common commitment so that the vulnerable, the underserved can have the best education and training for Life

Carlos Fritzen sj – Internacional Coordinador FIFYA
