

HOW CAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EQUIP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COMPETENCES AND MOTIVATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING?

"Today, perhaps more than ever before, it is important to recognize that learning is a lifelong experience. Rapid, radical changes in contemporary society demand well planned, continuing efforts to assimilate new data, new insights, new modes of thinking and acting." To Teach as Jesus Did, 1972, #43

Each of us learns something every day, or has the opportunity to do so. At work, at home, or while making lunch, the day is filled with opportunities for learning. But we, young people, learn the main part in schools. Of course, it is on us how and how much we learn, but it is dependent on our teachers too. If they teach us in an interesting way, we listen with pleasure and learn more, otherwise not. Today, in the 21st century, things are changing every second, and for this reason we must constantly improve our skills, we must learn about new things everyday. We name this lifelong learning.

For lifelong learning we must have motivation. An important role in our early years is our parents, and that of our family. However, when we are teens, school and teachers have a big role in our lives too. Teachers should be enthusiastic about students learning their subject, and students should know that with effort they can learn everything. Teachers should not reject students who have grades and scores lower than someone else's. They should not insult one another, neither teachers nor students.

It is good, when teachers teach not only for tests, but also for further life. During the lesson they can talk about the future, how to learn for life... Students have to realize that effort is a constant companion of personal excellence and know that mistakes are a natural part of learning. As well, they should hold oneself responsible for most of what is learned and seek to make the process of learning as pleasurable as the result. Moreover, they should cherish knowledge and competence above grades.

Lifelong learning is an important part of our life. We can not survive without that. The schools and families play an important role in our life, but we are the most important. It is dependent on us how much we learn and how we live.

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