

How can catholic school systems best respond to the need to promote non-discrimination and to respond to cultural diversity?

Economic, cultural and even social discrimination has always been a big problem of world society and it looks like nothing is going to change. But we must not give up because there is a lot we can do, especially catholic schools can and have already responded to the need of non-discrimination and the cultural diversity.

I think it is essential that we learn about other cultures and nations and study their history, natural and geographic characteristics, and maybe also some social crises. It is also very important that we know something about world religions and understand prayers, respect them and not neglect them if they do not belong to the same religion as we. Theology teachers and especially spirituals can give us the quality and moral knowledge about that.

A very interesting way of learning about other nations and religions can be also so called "theme days". That means that school organizes for example French, Italian, Chinese, African, American etc. days and we learn about their culture, eat their food and also learn and try to speak their language.

In addition catholic schools can also help pupils discriminated because they are poor. This can be done so that the school reduces school fees for them and establishes some special funds. In this action we can cooperate all, for example we can make some things, sell them and donate money to discriminated poor families.

Here are only a few suggestions how catholic schools can best respond to the need of non-discrimination but I believe that they can be done very effectively.

Jaka Pohar
Diocesan Classical Gymnasium