

How can Catholic schools equip young people with competences and motivation for lifelong learning?

“Non scholae, sed vitae discemus,” is a well known Latin idiom which means, that we don't learn only for school but for life. However, a school has an important role in one part of our lifelong learning and it doesn't really matter whether it is Catholic or not, as long as we are satisfied with it.

I think that every school tries to give as much as possible to its students. Schools are not only a place where we can discover and learn many for us unknown things, but they are also a place where we can develop our emotions and a feeling for other people (->ethics), as well as finding the motivation. On the other hand, it can be just the opposite. The idea of Christian religion is to be modest, good and to help people in need. According to that statement, Catholics should be more careful about others and of course their actions. But, as we know, not all Christians are good. Everybody sins; it is because we are human. I think that also atheists have similar aspect to sins, although they do not look on that from the view of not coming to heaven. It must be very hard for someone to live, who has done something bad and also for someone who has not fulfill his dreams. One must never loose hope (Catholic or Atheist)! I visit a Catholic school despite the fact that I don't believe in God. And I think I have made a good decision about going to this school. In the Christian world, good values are important and maybe more present in everyday life. In our school, good relationships are significant and we do a lot about this theme. We have spiritual retreats, excursions and also religion classes (in my opinion we should work more on relationships than on religion), where the bonds that connect us become stronger every year (or day!). There are more opportunities to have fun, to talk to each other and also to fight. But we try to make up our quarrels and we can always ask for a hand if we need it. If you ask me, trips and retreats really answer the purpose – be with your class mates for 3 days is something completely different from being in school. School is not only a place where you learn but you are looking forward to it especially because of your friends. Well that is what students in every school care about, but I think in ours we have better chances to connect the whole class.

Except for this, I don't think a Catholic school is really different from others, maybe only because teachers are mostly better. At the same point, good relationships are maybe even more important than it looks like, an important motivation to keep on going.

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