R. 213/23

Rome, June 2023.

Dear Directors and Management Teams:

At the end of last November I wrote to you to "promote our union" around the Global Compact on Education (GCE). We invited the Centers and their educators to ask themselves if we were adhering to the Compact and to place their seal in visible places as a sign of the assumed commitment. **We're on time** if we haven't done it yet.

To those who have been encouraged, we already **propose a Stage II.** Going into it is **to seek the coherence between what we say and what we do, between the desires that encourage our vocation as educators and the firm will to manifest them in life: may they be expressed in our attitudes, in gestures, in our relationships** -with the students and their families and with all the staff- who shape an environment that is truly important! To take this step is to be willing **to face the "challenges of our world" to education and review everything**.

The UISG-USG Education Seminar and different contributions from the IOCE [International Office of Catholic Education) support us in this process. We echo what was confirmed at the Seminar: "*Publications such as Luces para el camino*[1] *can serve as a small sample of the diversity and quality of these initiatives, which the centers launch with enthusiasm and not a little voluntarism. They are all valuable proposals... they are "added" to the multitude of other initiatives that were already being carried out in the centers, for which reason they require a considerable additional effort. As a consequence of this wear and tear, many initiatives with great transformative potential do not reach maturity... For these types of initiatives to be sustainable over time and have a true transformative effect, it is necessary to focus on them, which* ***requires carrying out an intelligent "pruning" that allows eliminating everything that generates noise*** *or that does not contribute significantly to the strategy followed. In short,* ***prune to put more energy into the drive for transformation***" [2].

The time that we have foreseen **to analyze the activity of the Center would be until April 2024,** but always with flexibility. Meeting the deadlines is not what interests us the most, but living the processes. What we do must be done "from within" and with firm conviction. We want to be in line with the Compact and not everything we promote is in line with it, we have to review it, simplify it, prioritize it. This Analysis Stage will give way to the Alliances Stage, but that will come later.

We have the opportunity to respond to the first Call of the GC XVIII, **to put discernment in common into practice.** We offer some orientations at the end of the Guide accompanying this letter. Experience shows that this way of conducting meetings, even if we were not effective in reaching conclusions, **will help build community**.

May Mary, the great Educator, intercede for us so that we may approach these steps with truth and love.

María Teresa Pinto FI

[1] OIEC (2020). Luces para el camino. Madrid: PPC.

[2] The underscoring is ours