



Confederazione Mondiale Mornese Exallievi ed Exallievi delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
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Good afternoon, Mother Chiara. Distinguish authorities and participants from all over the world.

We are still in celebratory mode as we continue with the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. And what a way to celebrate the educational path of our beloved sisters.

We have a saying, 'If it is not broken, don't fix it.' Unfortunately, the educational system is broken in many parts of the world—a regrettable situation. We want the kids to learn many new things about technology and new ideas, but we have left behind the fundamental basics, values, loyalties, and even dreams.

We have been invited to come to this Congress to participate in the ongoing movement to support the Global Education Pact launched by Pope Francis and to cooperate with a new development model through the original contributions of the FMA to education. As Past Pupils, we can relate easily and perhaps give testimony of what we received and how it has affected our lives. We are indebted to the Institute and to each sister who took the time to send us on the right path.

The genius, enterprise, and leadership of Mother Mazzarello were the focus of the totality of the education of young women. Not so much as how to read and write but a holistic approach. To give the girls an opportunity to grow and find fulfillment in life. The Past Pupils will remember what we learned from the sisters, teamwork, graciousness, our self-worth, an open invitation to dream and be able to succeed. This is the preventive system in action. My friends, this cannot change. This education must continue with a renewed and forceful emphasis.

Pope Francis on the Global Educational Path addresses this approach and begs not to leave any child behind. The initiative promotes the values of care for others, peace, justice, goodness, beauty, acceptance, and fraternity to build hope, solidarity, and harmony everywhere.

How can we, as participants in this Congress, work with each other and fully participate in the challenges and confrontations present today and what the future of education should look like now and in the future?

Abraham Lincoln, an ex-president of the United States, once said: "The best way to predict the future is to create it."

Welcome, and let us get to work!

Maria Carmen Castillon

President,
World Confederation *Mornese*, Past Pupils of the FMA