



para el mundo - pour le monde - for the World - para o mundo - per il mondo

In the month of November, we will begin the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the mission in the Institute, remembering that Br Gabriel in 1824 was in charge of the first school and the help in the cathedral of Saint Claude. It is in this context that Sa-Fa Family for the World will produce the following issues dedicated to the current mission of the Sa-Fa Family, which continues the work begun by Brother Gabriel.

Although we remain open to "all kinds of good works", the "main mission" (Cf. C. FSF 16) is still linked to the education of children and young people in various ways and places. We focus the content of the present issue on educators. "In the Centres of the Sa-Fa Family, all the people, who in one way or another work with the students, are educators" (Sa-Fa Schools for the World). The following issues will be devoted to other protagonists of the mission. siguientes números se dedicarán a otros protagonistas de la misión.



-  **In the Sa-Fa Schools,**
-  **from our charismatic intuitions**
-  **and as Sa-Fa Family,**
-  **we care for people,**
-  **we count on families**
-  **and we propose a quality school**
-  **which educates for a civilisation of universal fraternity and care for the "common home".**



Being a Sa-Fa educator today

Educators who live their profession with passion: Sa-Fa Educators live their vocation in the School, nourishing the deepest motivations of their being educators and guiding and helping students to find their own vocation. They value the complementarity of vocations (religious and laypeople) present in the school and understand educational work as a vocation of service. They carry out their mission with "educational passion" and know that *"To raise the child to where one is, one must descend to where he is"* (Br. Gabriel. Introduction to *French Grammar. Sa-Fa Schools for the World*, 17))

Educators learning and updating : The Sa-Fa Educator is willing to learn and update himself/herself on a permanent basis. This attitude allows him/her to empathise with the students and to collaborate in learning. He/she is aware that education is an interaction and thus each educator educates others and at the same time is educated by those he/she educates. He/she adopts a positive disposition to change and to discover and experiment with methods that provide creative and adapted responses to the diverse and changing situations of learners. (Sa-Fa Schools for the World 18).

Letter of Bro. Gabriel to an educator of today

This text is a literary fiction. It has been written imagining that Br Gabriel is replying to a letter addressed to him by an educator of the Sa-Fa Family on the meaning and importance of education today. The only point of contact with reality is that at the end of July last year in Sigüenza, a group of Brothers and lay people each wrote a letter to Brother Gabriel and placed it in the hole where a lime tree had been planted. Is this the answer to that letter?

Dear educator of the Sa-Fa Family:

I am replying to your letter today because I understand the concern and interest that you educators have today to carry out your mission in a society that proposes many immediate solutions to children and young people but without giving them the time and the means to grow and mature serenely.

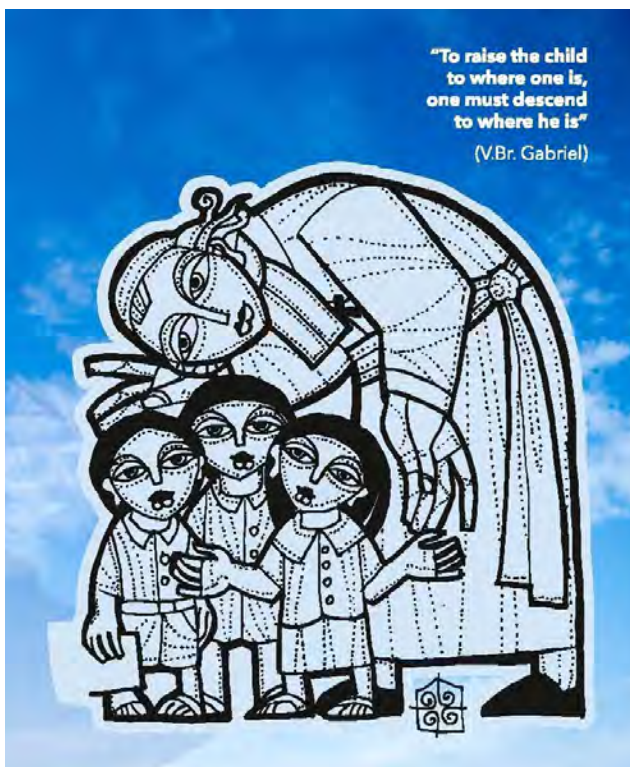
From a very young age, I noticed around me two serious problems through which I perceived an inner call that asked me for a commitment to orient my life: the destruction of the churches caused by the revolution and the abandonment of children in towns and cities, deprived of the possibility of being educated for lack of teachers and means.

In founding the Congregation of the Brothers of the Holy Family, I wanted to do my bit by helping parishes to look after places of worship and to give children and young people a good education based on Gospel values.

For me *"to educate a child is, in general terms, to develop, strengthen and perfect the organs of his body and the faculties of his spirit and, above all, to educate his heart, his will, his character, his conscience and his judgement"*.

It is not only the transmission of teaching and learning techniques that must be taken into account, but also the communication of values. *"Instruction alone is not enough to form an honest man, a citizen and a true Christian. To all this must be added education, that is to say, he must be taught to direct his conscience and his habits, and at the same time he must be given light and strength, which will help him powerfully to fulfil his duties towards God, towards himself and towards his fellow men"*.

It seemed to me important in my time to adopt the most balanced and up-to-date methods of the time, combining collective, group or individual teaching according to the case, and for this purpose I wrote some books with indications and advice for schools...



A lot has happened since then. The landscape of education and society has changed a lot. In the context in which you work today as an educator, you find political-economic systems structured according to the market, which reduce the dignity of the human person and accentuate inequality. There are many people without hope. New technologies allow people to communicate much more with each other, but the messages they convey do not always promote people's growth. The balance between the values of globalisation and the cultivation of the identity of diverse cultures is increasingly difficult to strike...

Your task is crucial at this time. Education alone cannot change society, but no major transformation can take place without educational intervention.

That is why I want to conclude by encouraging you to continue your educational task carried out in collaboration with your companions, in "family spirit", and with confidence in a better future and more open to universal fraternity.

Receive my fraternal greetings.

Brother Gabriel Taborin

Why I am an educator

I firmly believe that it is because of my vocation and above all my love for children. I have always enjoyed working with children, it is great fun because they are spontaneous, grateful and warm (Guadalupe González. Mexico).

I am an educator because I believe in the transformative power of learning. Every lesson taught has the potential to change lives, forge futures and cultivate curiosity. Teaching is more than a profession, it is a mission to enlighten minds and build a better world (Marcela Barragán. Ecuador).

I am an educator because I believe that only at the beginning of things and people can we imagine the great and powerful dream that takes our gaze beyond the edge of the horizon. Like clay in our hands we can shape the tomorrow of those who will come after us (Monica. Italy).

Because I believe that education is the most powerful tool to generate substantial changes in a society. I am a teacher because I believe in teamwork and in the Grace of God to weave with our stories a meaningful text in the style of Brother Gabriel (Jorge Ibáñez. Argentina).

"Being an educator consists of the vocation to share knowledge, the presence of affection to make learning a reality and the possibility of creating an ethical, friendly student, endowed with the curiosity to learn, following the principles of the Holy Family" (Fernanda Soares. Brazil)

"It was a revelation. There is no point in being alone. Here it's about caring for others, for pupils and families. Listening and giving kind attention; it's about giving oneself" (S. DULLIN. Secretary. France)



Mainly because of my vocation and because of the power of education to change the world. Being an educator offers me the possibility to accompany my students in their integral formation and to do my bit to help them become adults with solid values and principles, and in this way improve society and the world in which we live (Montse B. Spain)

I chose the profession of "educator" to be as close as possible to young people, because they are our future and we all have a role to play to help them grow and to give them faith and a taste for effort in their schooling, but also in their life in general (Mr. MARTIN Yoann, France).

When my father was a political prisoner, in the middle of the Uruguayan dictatorship, I realised that I had to contribute to the liberation process of my country... The closeness and commitment of the Brothers helped me to discover that I had to try my hand as a catechist, animator and educator in the College... I have never regretted this beautiful evangelising and educating vocation which began with the call to be a "fisher of men" (Eduardo Semproni, Uruguay)

Without a doubt, my source of inspiration is Jesus. This noble profession allows me to fully see my students grow, build and develop in such a changing, competitive and challenging world (Guadalupe Ceballos, Ecuador)

The purpose of a seed is none other than to generate other seeds. The reason I am an educator is to give to others what I have received, in the hope that one day they will be proud of the people they have become, as I am proud of them today (Silvio. Italy)

Educators who leave their mark

"Remembering Brother Virgilio means remembering a person who played many roles for me: teacher, professor, coach, companion in outdoor adventures, educator of my children, sincere friend of my family. He passed on to his pupils the values of charity towards the poor and of sport. Thank you, Brother, for your teachings and your friendship" (Gianni Succo, Italy)

"My high school chemistry teacher left her mark on me, because apart from her brilliant way of sharing her knowledge, she touched our hearts by teaching us that perseverance, dedication and humility make us grow as people. That phrase that she repeated to us in every class 'Of course you can' is to this day an unforgettable memory" (Lic. Jennifer Franco, Mexico)

"One teacher who really stood out for me was teacher Neusa, because as well as having an absolute knowledge of the subjects taught in class, she had a passion for what she did and always reinforced it on a daily basis" (Luiza Mistura, Brazil).

"A teacher left a mark on me who, at the beginning of the first class each week, would ask us what had 'touched our hearts'. At that early age I didn't even think about what touched my heart and he gave us a space to reflect and share it with our classmates if we wanted to" (Carlos, Spain).

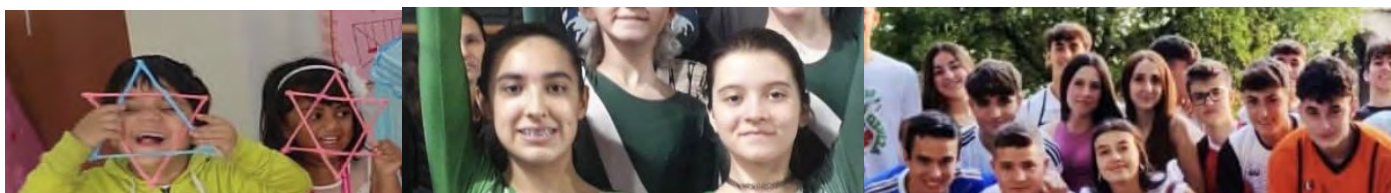


"There were those with whom I coincided several years: a sports teacher, a history teacher and a French teacher had me in their class for several years; headmasters, education counsellors and catechists were there several years in a row. As they already knew me from the previous year, their advice was more valuable and the conversations more enriching" (Tatsumi, France).

"The great mark that JP left on me was his constant listening, his willingness to be present at every moment with the exact words at every moment when it was necessary; and the ability to be for and with others. Thank you for that mark that marked my path so intensely and helped me to choose the right one" (Yanela Lema - Uruguay).

"Carlos left his mark on me, because he was the one who made me live the joy of the Gospel, encouraging me to transform my life through love and building with others a more human world, where Jesus is my companion on the way" (Renata Vadori, Argentina)

"An educator left her mark on me by helping me to gain more confidence in myself and to know how to manage my emotions, as well as helping me to grow as a person and in my faith. In addition, with her great attitude and personality, she made us see things in a more positive way and we were happier" (Sandra, Spain)



"Several teachers have left their mark on me who knew how to be a key point of support beyond their subjects; who showed special affection every day; those who in the simplest way became a sure comfort and those who saw much more in me than I imagined" (Marta - Spain).

"An educator who looked at us every day with eyes that always expressed a lot of affection left a mark on me forever. She also often asked us how we were feeling. And when she saw us feeling a bit sad or worried, she never failed to give us a word of encouragement" (Former pupil, Ecuador)

"I will never forget the first welcome, when I entered the 2nd year of Primary School. Brothers Luis and David welcomed me very kindly and gave me peace and confidence. I saw children everywhere, they saw the children and they knew their names, not just one or two but the boys and girls they saw and called them by name" (Efraín Navarro, México)

"An educator, at a delicate moment because of a small failure in an exam, told me: 'I could never be disappointed in you'. Looking back today, I realise how he made me grow as a person by being by my side. This is why the presence of an educator can be a fundamental source of support and growth for learners" (Torino - Italy).

"Called to walk together in a participatory style"