

WEBINAR UMEC WUCT

12 06 2020

President's introduction

Welcome, friends and members of UMEC-WUCT at our webinar that aims to exchange information, experiences and expertise

May I begin with a short prayer?

Holy Spirit give us a diligent and obedient spirit, quickness of apprehension, capacity of retaining, and the powerful assistance of Thy holy grace. That what we hear or learn we may apply to Thy honour and the eternal salvation of our own souls. Amen.

With deep regret, we had to take the decision to postpone our General Assembly of 2020. We were not an exception: after our decision, many similar measures around the world have been taken.

We hope sincerely that medicine and a vaccine for the Corona virus (COVID 19) will be developed and distributed as soon as possible to all the people who need it. If this can be done, we hope to meet again next year in person without any fear for our health, the health of our family and of all the different people with whom we come in contact.

But life and all its dreams, activities and obligations need to continue. Even in this very difficult time, we have the obligation to continue to try and put into practice our human values and to teach and instruct all children and young people.

It is a task and an obligation for all those who are educators and -of course- for the catholic teacher in person.

At this moment, we don't have an alternative: we must be careful and follow all directions. When this thunderstorm will pass, we do not know, but we can be certain that life will be different, and we do not know yet nor suspect all the consequences that will ensue.

Would it be a dream if the world evolved from this experience to one in which we are united in faith, belief and general solidarity, rather than one in which we are hopelessly divided?

On one hand, we can only hope, whilst on the other there is fear of the unknown. Let's not forget that fear and selfishness are totally opposite to our expectation of hope and positiveness!

With the help and the support of engaged teachers, families, friends and colleagues we will put aside fear and negativism and replace them with hope, trust and belief.

St.-Paul defined what's belief: « Belief is the strong insurance for things we hope, and the demonstration of those you can't see!» (Hebr. 11,1)

Italian children said very recently at the lock-down: "Andrà tutto bene!"

Jesus said: "Don't be afraid!"

Let's open the gates for Christ and consequently for a better world, everyone's dream

In anticipation of this better world, UMEC-WUCT wants to walk, together with you, to ensure that all children acquire foundation skills. UMEC-WUCT wants to give you not only courage, but also wants to congratulate you sincerely for your endeavours. With your help, teachers can break learning barriers, enrich learning experiences, promote transferable skills that today's children and young people need to become responsible global citizens.

I want to thank Gen. Secretary and the AIMC for generously offering their time and know-how. I congratulate you for your courage, work and determination and I propose that you follow now this first webinar in English.

Thanks also to Mgr. Dollmann for his support and very kind collaboration.

In the spirit of what I told you, I want to congratulate also prof. Hector Rigaldo for his 'Pensieri positivi', sus 'mensajes positivos' et ses 'pensées positives' all year long!! Thank you for this initiative, Hector

A sincere "Thank you" also for your cooperation, interest, time, creativity, engagement to all speakers!

The participants at the webinar will probably have some questions or comments after every speaker. Because of time, we can't take them now. Please, send your comments to Giovanni Perrone, after the webinar or leave them below your screen at the Q and A button, during the webinar.

And now, I want to give the floor to our first speaker and well-known friend, Prof. Dr. J. Lydon.

G. Bourdeaud'hui