



*To the Participants
in the IV Global Symposium Uniservitate*

I offer greetings and cordial good wishes to all gathered for the Fourth Global Symposium Uniservitate. I thank the speakers and all who worked to make this occasion possible.

The Symposium brings together rectors, professors and university students in order to share their experiences and research with the goal of exploring the concept of Service-Learning. It is my hope that your reflections and discussions with regard to this theme will help develop in young people a greater awareness of the relationship that should exist between the “languages” of the mind, the heart and the hands. In this way, educators can form – and not simply inform – those entrusted to their care, so that all can learn to think in harmony with what they feel and do; feel in harmony with what they think and do and do it in harmony with what they feel and think. Such an integral approach to education calls for creative interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary methods in order to assist young people to be leaders and protagonists in building a better future for society as a whole.

At the same time, the importance of the spiritual dimension in education cannot be overlooked. I trust that the efforts of the Symposium, therefore, will enhance the zeal of all taking part to

serve the common good as missionary disciples, capable of bringing the transformative truth, beauty and joy of the Gospel to all in the human family, thus advancing God's kingdom of fraternal solidarity, justice and peace.

With these sentiments and with the assurance of my prayers that the Symposium will bear good fruit, I invoke upon those present the abundant blessings of Almighty God.

Francis

Rome, from Saint John Lateran, 6 November 2023