

**Unofficial transcript of Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça's address on the occasion of the 5th meeting of rectors of the Uniservitate global network.**

Dear Rectors, distinguished authorities, and members of the global Uniservitate network: it is with deep gratitude that I join you on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the rectors and authorities of the **Uniservitate** network, an initiative which in recent years has exemplified the educational value of service in an exemplary manner. Your commitment bears witness to the fact that authentic education does not flourish merely through the transmission of content, but is fulfilled when knowledge becomes life, when study translates into responsibility, and when formation opens up to the gift of self.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the deep connection between your journey and the **Global Compact on Education**, relaunched with renewed vigour by the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV. In particular, I would like to urge you to commit yourselves to the three new commitments outlined by the Holy Father, which clearly chart a course for the future of education:

- **Cultivating inner life:** because without spiritual depth there can be no holistic education.
- **Creating a humane digital environment:** one capable of putting technology at the service of human dignity.
- **Building peace:** as an urgent task and a shared responsibility of educational institutions.

This commitment becomes even more urgent in these times of escalating global conflict.

These guidelines find concrete expression in the experience of your global network, especially through **education in service**. This represents a privileged way to ensure that our educational programs do not remain mere words but instead become transformative

actions capable of making a difference in the world and, above all, of reaching the poorest and most vulnerable.

Pope Leo reminds us in his apostolic letter ***Drawing New Maps of Hope*** that losing sight of the poor is tantamount to losing the school itself. This also applies to the university, the Holy Father continues. An inclusive outlook and care for the heart save us from standardization; the spirit of service revives the imagination and rekindles love.

Educating for service means, at its core, to educate in the very style of Christ, who reminds us: “I have not come to be served, but to serve” From this perspective, education also becomes a concrete form of evangelization, capable of uniting faith, culture, and life. As Pope Francis also reminded us: “Whoever does not live to serve is not fit to live,” a simple yet incisive expression that captures the heart of the Christian vocation.

Looking to the future, I wish to recall two important events that will mark your shared journey:

1. The **Seventh Uniservitate Symposium**: It will be held in Rome toward the end of the year and will be a decisive moment for outlining new strategies for sustainability, so that your commitment may continue to bear lasting fruit, especially in the building of peace.
2. The **World Congress on Educational Ministry**: It will take place in Rome on October 22nd and 23rd, 2026, offering an additional space for reflection in which education for service will be confirmed as one of the fundamental pillars of a ministry capable of forming young people who are not only competent but also responsible and supportive.

Dear friends, what you have sown in recent years is valuable. My hope is that it may continue to flourish over time and that the Uniservitate network may also renew and reinvent itself to respond to the challenges of this new educational season, opened by the Jubilee of the World of Education and illuminated by renewed hope.

May you, at this time, be a living sign of an education that fosters fraternity, builds bridges and kindles constellations of hope throughout the world. Upon each of you, upon your institutions, and upon your students and teachers, I invoke the Lord’s blessing through the



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intercession of Saint John Henry Newman, a teacher of conscience and a witness to a faith that enlightens the mind and guides life.

Thank you for your commitment and your service.

