

NEWSLETTER

European Committee for Catholic Education

CEEC Executive Board Meeting Building CEEC's Future Together

At its latest meeting in Brussels, the CEEC Executive Board focused on how to strengthen the organisation and provide greater value to its members. The Board reaffirmed the importance of Catholic school identity in a changing Europe and discussed practical priorities for the coming year.

A one-year pilot will introduce a clearer sharing of responsibilities among Board members. Key areas include reconnecting with less active members, developing research networks and improving communication between national secretariats.

Other important developments include the modernisation of the CEEC website, better sharing of working-group resources, and continued progress within the IMANARE project. The Board looks forward to working closely with members on these initiatives.

France : new representant



We were pleased to welcome Christophe Armanet to his first Executive Board meeting as the representative of Catholic education in France (SGEC). He will particularly support CEEC's work on the training of school leaders in Europe.

Since September 2026, Christophe has been Director of Training & Coordination at SGEC, where he coordinates the training of school leaders, the national team working on educational issues, and institutional training at a distance.

He brings extensive experience of Catholic schools and school leadership, having worked for more than ten years as a teacher and school leader in the Île-de-France region, before moving into training and educational coordination at SGEC. He studied philosophy and has a degree in Educational Sciences. He also has a strong European background, which will find a natural continuation within CEEC.

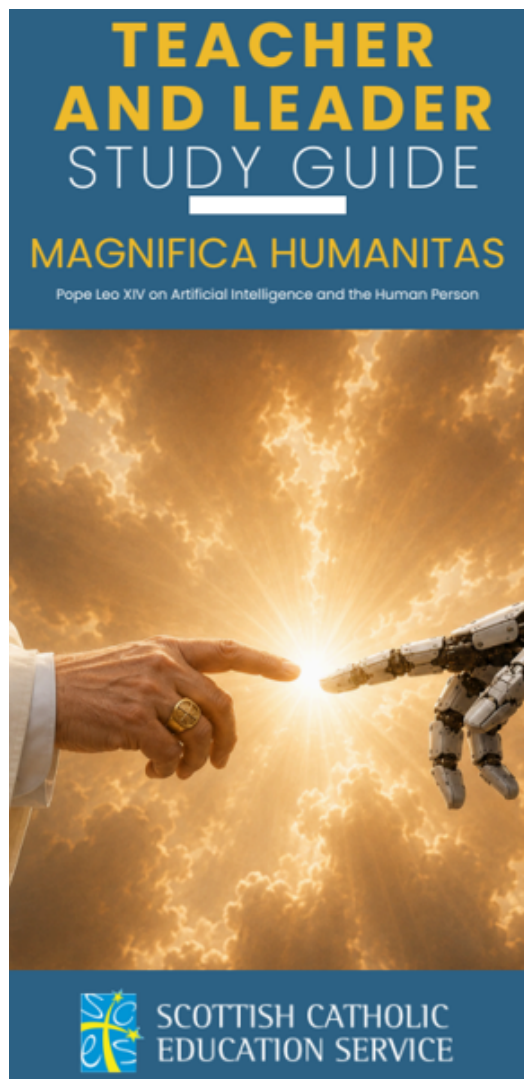
We are delighted to welcome him to Knock for his first CEEC General Assembly.

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Scotland: Exploring Magnifica Humanitas with students

The Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES), together with the Office of Communication & Evangelisation, has developed a new [Study Guide for S1-S2](#) students on Pope Leo XIV's Magnifica Humanitas.

The resource offers an accessible introduction to the document's reflections on artificial intelligence, human dignity and the common good, encouraging students to pray, reflect and discuss how these themes can be lived out in the Church and in society.



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The package includes a Study Guide for Teachers and an accompanying PowerPoint Presentation, as well as a summary of the document prepared by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

A video, [Unpacking Magnifica Humanitas](#) | Pope Leo XIV, AI & the Future of Humanity, also provides useful background for teachers introducing the topic.

Why is this relevant for Catholic education across Europe?

As AI increasingly shapes the lives and learning environments of young people, these resources offer Catholic schools a practical way to connect technological developments with Christian anthropology, human dignity, responsibility and the common good. They can therefore provide valuable inspiration for RE teachers and Catholic educators in other European countries exploring how to address AI from a faith-based perspective.

France: Pope Leo XIV at UNESCO

On Friday 25 September 2026, 46 years after Pope John Paul II, Pope Leo XIV visited the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Artificial intelligence was at the heart of the discussions. UNESCO's work on the ethics of AI and Pope Leo XIV's reflection in Magnifica Humanitas share a common message: technological progress should always serve people, their freedom and their critical thinking.



Hervé Lecomte, Secretary General of OIEC, attended the event. He highlighted the importance of this visit at a time when international cooperation is facing challenges, while today's issues require common action more than ever. The visit was a strong message in favour of multilateralism, human dignity and peace.

On this occasion, OIEC is also publishing a new book bringing together the educational perspectives of UNESCO, the Holy See and OIEC:

 [Education as a Path to Peace](#)

Spiritus Rome 2026 – International Formation Programme



From 25 to 28 September, the Spiritus Rome International Experience was an extraordinary opportunity to gather with 85 leaders from 12 countries, united by a shared commitment to the mission and renewal of Catholic education. The event brought together Catholic educational and Church leaders at the ACU Rome Campus for four days of faith formation, evangelisation and leadership development.

What stood out was the combination of dynamic presentations that brought the vision of Spiritus to life and practical models demonstrating how that vision can be implemented within Catholic schools. The experience offered both inspiration and a clear pathway forward, strengthening our sense that Spiritus has the potential to make a significant contribution to formation for mission in Catholic schools internationally.

Led by Professor Br David Hall FMS, Peter Woods and Fr Friedrich Bechina—who joined us as guests at our last General Assembly—the programme combined prayer, reflection, networking and practical training.

Next Spiritus International Leaders Conference — Australia, Sydney: 16–18 May 2027

LOOKING AHEAD

The Netherlands: Education and Catholic Social Teaching Symposium

We are pleased to share the upcoming symposium “Education and Catholic Social Teaching”, organised by the Centre for Social Catholicism (CSLK) on 6 November 2026 in the Netherlands.

The symposium will explore current challenges in education, including educational quality, the formation of young people, academic pressure and the role of educational freedom. These questions will be considered in the light of Catholic Social Teaching, with a particular focus on the dignity of the person, solidarity, subsidiarity and the common good.

The NKRS team and Titus Frankemölle, who welcomed us so warmly during our General Assembly in The Hague last April, will be taking part in the event. We will also be pleased to hear Dr Theo van der Zee, Professor of Education from an Ethical and Religious Perspective at Radboud University Nijmegen and advisor to VERUS, whom we had the pleasure of listening to during one of his conferences in London last October.

We wish the organisers and speakers a fruitful and inspiring afternoon of exchange on the future of education.

Registrations [here](#).

Ireland, Knock 2026

The CEEC will gather in Knock, Ireland, from 12 to 14 October 2026 for its 107th General Assembly. The meeting will be an opportunity to exchange on current developments in Catholic education, discuss CEEC's priorities and discover more about the Irish context.

A particular highlight will be the presentation on education systems and Catholic schools in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, with Alan Hynes, CEO of the Catholic Education Partnership, Fintan Murphy, CEO of the Catholic Schools' Trustee Service (CSTS) which is the support body for the Catholic School sector in Northern Ireland, and Claire Kilroy, CEO of the Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools (APTCS).

Michelle Ward and Gene Butler will lead a session on Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). Michelle is the co-creator of Living Love Senior Cycle, a new digital Catholic resource for schools, and the lead writer of the new Senior Cycle Religious Education Curriculum Framework, Made for More. A former secondary school teacher and youth evangelisation worker, she now works as a freelance writer and faith educator. The programme will also include a round table about Catholic schools in CEEC countries, and discussions on the future of Catholic education in Europe. Members will also discover Knock Shrine and Basilica and explore the Wild Atlantic Way together. We look forward to welcoming our members to Ireland for two days of exchange, reflection and fellowship.



SAVE THE DATES

- 108th CEEC General Assembly: Louvain-la-Neuve, 20–22 April 2027
- 109th CEEC General Assembly: Santiago de Compostela, 20–21 October 2027
- 110th CEEC General Assembly: Malta, 27–30 March 2028

View the full Catholic Education events calendar for Europe [here](#).

OIDEL launches its new website

With a renewed design and a clearer, more modern online presence, the new website reflects OIDEL's work and identity as an organisation. Discover the new website here: www.oidel.org.

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