

First World Children's Day with Pope Francis

On **25 and 26 May 2024**, the **first World Children's Day** (WYD) desired by Pope Francis will be celebrated in Rome. "I am glad to announce that on 25-26 May we will celebrate the first World Children's Day" [...] "Dear children! Your first World Day is fast approaching" [...] The message for this special day the Pope addresses it "to each of you, dear children, because 'you are precious' in God's eyes (Is. 43:4), as the Bible teaches us and as Jesus showed so often".

In his message, the Pope also refers to children as 'a source of joy for your parents and your families, but also for our human family and for the Church'. The day is aimed at boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12. All information and the form to participate can be found at <https://www.worldchildrenday.org>

The initiative will take place at the Olympic Stadium where, on Saturday 25 May, a procession of children in traditional dress, representing 101 nations, will bring a message of peace. On Sunday 26 May, in St. Peter's Square, the Mass presided over by the Pontiff will take place.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is also particularly close to this important celebration. The Institute, in fact, dedicated since its foundation to the theme of education and educational training especially for the most fragile and disadvantaged groups in the world, believes that this day can contribute to nurture the sharing and awareness of the importance towards child care and child protection.

Brother Juan Antonio Ojeda, Arlep District, Consultor of the Dicastery for Culture and Education will participate in the meeting and Day.

This Dicastery demonstrates the Church's confidence in the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in accompanying the processes of Catholic education through the different international organisations of which we are part.