



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

November 20 2020



Theme: **FOR EVERY CHILD, A FUTURE**

A setting – Proposal :Globe
Representation of Marie-Louise with children
Representation of children from your country
Where possible, pray this celebration in the company of children...

Brief history of the day

World Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated annually on 20 November to promote respect for and the rights of children.

November 20 marks the day the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed in 1989.

Mothers and fathers, teachers, nurses and doctors, civil society leaders or activists, religious or community leaders, business leaders and media professionals, as well as youth and children can play an important role and make World Children's Day a special event in their society, for their community or for their country.

World Children's Day provides each and every one of us with a unique opportunity to raise awareness, promote and highlight the rights of the child but also to turn this date into concrete actions in favour of children all over the world. This year is a very special edition, as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This year's theme, "**For every child, a future,**" brings us closer to an African proverb that says, "Don't worry about the harvest, but about sowing well," which allows us to grasp the importance of a good education for children from a young age with a view to their future.

Reflection - Every child has the right to true equality of opportunity in life.

Unfortunately, many of them around the world are trapped in a cycle of poverty that is passed down from generation to generation and threatens their future and the future of their society.

More than one million children indicated what would make them feel safe at school. This led to the Youth Manifesto to End Violence. It is a forum for students, parents, teachers and governments to improve safety in schools. Furthermore, **every child has the right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and violence** (Article 34). However, 650 million girls and women who are currently alive were married before they turned 18. When you marry before the majority, there is a greater risk of domestic violence and dropping out of school.

Word of God - Mt 19, 13-15: Jesus and the little children

And little children were presented unto him, that he should lay his hands upon them, praying, but the disciples rebuked them. Then Jesus said, "Leave the little children and do not prevent them from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as they are" and then he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Looking at our Founders

Marie-Louise Trichet, gentle educator

In the renovated premises, the young people met, chosen by Louis according to a rigorous criterion: the one who can pay is not admitted to the totally free registration. Three lay teachers, a priest rector of the small community and a servant run the school full of students. Talent, imagination, austerity distinguish the

organization, which will be identical in women's schools. The young people who entered the room are part of a game, which is both spiritual and captivating. Nine rows of benches are arranged amphitheatrically and represent the angelic choirs; seraphim, cherubim, and below, angels... Paradisiacal personification embodied in small faces smeared with street children; and, sometimes, it is necessary to intervene in a firm and authoritative way, to maintain a compromised order. (Marie-Louise Trichet, *un chemin de sagesse* P. 133 & 134).

Sent by Wisdom (RL, chap.1)

Our apostolic commitments promote the integral growth and liberation of the person through education, health, social action, pastoral care and in all other activities related to our charism. In response to the current challenges, we are working to promote the development of peoples so that they become artisans of their own destiny.” RL #3*Sent by Wisdom (RL, Chap.)*



Daughters of Wisdom in the Congo working with children: “the happy ones”, the orphans, the malnourished children, children at the Sagesse School Complex, Isangi.

GROUP SHARING

- What did you find most relevant in the various texts of this celebration?
- Talk about your commitments to children in the context of your Entity: prayers, support, or concrete actions...
- What commitment(s) do you maintain to contribute **to the future of children at home or elsewhere?**

Prayer intentions (a proposal)

1. The child is the greatest gift the Creator gives to the family. Lord, we pray for the happy children. They are bearers of a future. **God of life, we praise you!**
2. For children experiencing the harsh conditions of war, famine, forced labour, child trafficking and other forms of abuse... Cast your tender gaze on them so that they may feel that they are loved by you. **For them, we pray to you, Lord!**
3. For children with disabilities, for those who are deprived of their rights, may society allow them to enjoy the same rights and dignity as all other children. **God of justice, we entrust them to you.**
4. For all the Daughters of Wisdom throughout the world, that we may take to heart the values that inspired Mother Mary Louise of Jesus in order to translate into our commitments, meekness and compassion. **We pray to you, Lord!**

Conclusion

Lord, you tell us to “let the children come to you because the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like them...” Grant us to commit ourselves to the children so that we too can contribute to their future. You who live and reign for centuries Amen!