



JUSTICIA Y PAZ O.P.  
VENEZUELA

# CIUDADANÍA

## esperanza



## PRESENTATION:

The Dominican Family, immersed in the social reality of Venezuela, makes its contribution to the construction of a more just and humane society, promoting the values of the Gospel in each of its programs and apostolates: parishes, vicariates, schools and social works.

In the midst of the social, political and economic situation that our country is going through, we seek to respond in each of our locations by forming free, responsible, independent, irreplaceable, rational citizens, subjects of rights and duties.

With regard to the approach and the scope that we must take into account in our commitment to justice and peace, it may be enlightening to quote Fr. Vincent de Couesnongle, O.P. on the occasion of a conference on the canonization of Blessed John Macias, O.P.

"True charity today demands that we work, to the extent of our responsibilities and possibilities - surely more urgent and greater than we usually think - to build a more just, more humane and more fraternal society.

Certainly one can think that even a perfectly equitable world, with perfect laws, where everyone's individual rights are assured, could still be a cold, soulless and hopeless world, because it would still perhaps be devoid of love. Justice alone could still remain inhumane and no social law can make love blossom. A disciple of the Gospel must have great sensitivity in this regard. Christians are called to build a just world in which relationships among individuals, peoples and diverse communities are relationships of love."

We are present in 6 parishes and serve more than 600 children and young people in sacramental catechesis and more than 500 members of the different apostolate groups that we accompany; 32 schools in which we serve 21,815 students and 1967 staff members to reach more than 16,000 families.

We consider education essential as a means of evangelization and as a condition for human promotion. For this reason, of the 21,815 students, 7% receive scholarships from the religious communities of each school and more than 56% are assisted with food, school uniforms, school supplies, clothing and footwear.

The existing congregations serve 15 social works: 5 nursing homes for 150 elderly people, 3 foster homes for 40 girls, 4 vicarages and 2 houses of hospitality and preaching.



# RATIONALE

Democracy is the political model that makes human rights and their permanence possible; the instability of this model in our country has weakened the enjoyment of liberties and the guarantee of the Rule of Law.

As part of the Dominican Family, we are aware that with our contribution in education we can awaken a civic conscience that makes possible the dignity of the person, considering that it is in the family and in the school where the formation for democracy and respect for human rights begins.

Therefore, the Citizenship and Hope project is aimed at children and young people because in the educational context, relationships between students, teachers and family are established, shaping a style of relationship and the formation of certain values that determine behaviors and principles.

With this program, students will be trained in coexistence, conflict management and resolution, which will benefit a culture of peace. In social promotion, we will assist low-income students who, after completing their studies, will become promoters of democratic societies.

It is also a civic opportunity to develop the true political-democratic thinking of a citizen. Finally, we seek to awaken compassion in the hearts of Dominican children and young people, so that they will be able to carry out concrete actions for those especially in need, not as isolated actions or optional tasks, but as the fruit of an awareness and care for compassion as a fundamental human element.

Friar Bruno Cadoré, O.P., who was Master of the Order, in one of his speeches at a meeting of friars and sisters of the Latin American and Caribbean region, held in Argentina in January 2019, reminded us that "... compassion in St. Dominic of Guzman, is the foundation of the Order of Preachers, because it is above all the path of humanity, the same path that he contemplated in the Incarnation, because compassion is also the path by which Jesus approached the human being, thus assuming in his own humanity a fundamental capacity through which the human was transformed into what the human really is. In the end, Jesus' compassion is the feeling of his humanity, and it leads him to teach humanity this feeling by which he unites himself to mankind, wherever all human beings are ready to receive a light, of truth...."



**MISSION:** To form citizens based on Dominican spirituality who are capable of building the foundations for a democratic, free and responsible society.

**VISION:** To foster citizens committed to democracy.

## **GENERAL GOAL:**

To educate citizens from the Dominican educational ideal that, in the light of faith and Christian and civic values, strengthen the defense of human rights in Venezuela with the exercise of citizenship.

This project is carried out in four specific programs:

### **1.- EDUCATING FOR PEACE**

In alliance with the American Organization "Educating for Peace", we offer the children and youth of our schools an academic program aimed at promoting coexistence, conflict management and problem solving through teacher training and guidelines for each grade.

### **2.- "PREACHING SCHOLARSHIP"**

We provide our scholarship students, their parents and the Justice and Peace OP team of each institution, a training program in citizenship, civic space, among others that prepares them to be promoters of civic and democratic values in society through Social Media, theater, poetry, painting, music, among others.

In alliance with CIVILIS, a Venezuelan NGO with more than ten years of experience in strengthening civil society organizations, we developed the SCERE program for children and young people in our facilities, which seeks to consolidate citizenship training and civic spaces, fundamental concepts that strengthen democratic life.



### **3 DOMINICAN STUDENT CENTER**

With the opportunity offered by the Student Movement organized in each school, we provide students with the experience of living and defending the democratic and civil values of an electoral process, governance and accountability.

#### **4.- “ON DEAD SKINS”**

The expression of St. Dominic de Guzman "I cannot study on dead skins, while my brothers die of hunger" inspires us to be compassionate and to take concrete actions in favor of the most vulnerable: meal centers, clothing centers, financial assistance to families, donations of food, medicines and school supplies, spiritual and psychological support.

With this program we hope to make known the works of the Dominican Family and promote them with the solidarity of family, in Venezuela and beyond our borders.

