



**A salute from  
the FISEC  
International  
Community**

**In memory of  
Pope Francis I  
(1936 -2025)**

"The bond between the Church and the world of sports is a beautiful reality that has strengthened over time, for the Ecclesial Community sees in sports a powerful instrument for the integral growth of the human person. Engaging in sports, in fact, rouses us to go beyond ourselves and our own self interests in a healthy way; it trains the spirit in sacrifice and, if it is organised well, it fosters loyalty in interpersonal relations, friendship, and respect for rules. It is important that those involved at the various levels of sports, promote human and religious values which form the foundation of a just and fraternal society. This is possible because the language of sports is universal; it extends across borders, language, race, religion and ideology; it possesses the capacity to unite people together, by fostering dialogue and acceptance. This is a very valuable resource!"

These words, which form a part of the speech delivered by Pope Francis in the presence of the delegates of the European Olympic Commissions on 23rd November 2013, encourage also the members of the family of the Fédération Internationale Sportive de l'Enseignement Catholique, athletes, coaches and leaders alike. Our organisation was founded after the Second World War, in 1948 to promote the cause of peace and the human and religious values which were regarded essential also by the late Pope for the integral growth of the human person.

Since its foundation, the volunteers of the FISEC family have organised sports games almost every year in a great number of countries of Europe – welcoming athletes also from other continents – exactly in this spirit of friendship. Pope Francis himself was a man of sport, who experienced the educative strength of sport inside a community of sport people. Now that we must take leave of him, we thank him for his guidance and promise to remain devoted to the intentions of the founding fathers of FISEC.

Fr. László Perendy

*(on behalf of the FISEC  
International community)*

