



*The adage, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going," is compelling motivation in this time of economic mountain weather. Given that large numbers of younger people have not had to endure the effects of a deep recession before, it behoves those of us involved with them to offer support as they navigate their way through the inevitable challenges many are facing, or will soon have to face.*

*This can be done by strengthening prayer opportunities in classroom and school assembly prayer time. Modelling engaging prayer forms enables young people to learn how to pray and learn how to be inspired in a fresh way. Christian hope which is founded on faith is much more than mere optimism. Hope enables the future to be squarely faced, since each of us is on a journey of hope, with God at its core.*

*There is plenty of independent evidence to support the view that faith-based spiritually oriented individuals are happier than those who are less so. We cannot back away from the hard realities of life but we can show young people solutions that are based on reason and opportunity supported by faith.*

*When students come to the realisation that life does have a purpose and that each life is a gift to the rest of us, they are more likely to ride out the challenges they face.*

*There is no doubt, we are all attracted to people who exude joy, enthusiasm and optimism. Where there is goodness God is found. Our school communities are normally places of joy, support and challenge for students. They are good places to be.*

*May we adults who work with the 66,000 students in our nation's Catholic schools choose life, life that is based on the joy of knowing we are loved as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father in whom we live and move and have our being.*

### Greetings

**Kia tau te rangimārie.**

**We wish you all the best for the new term and trust you travel well!**

### Dates for Your Diary

- Catholic Education Convention 29-31 July 2009. Registration brochures are now available. Full information is also on [www.conference.co.nz/cathed09](http://www.conference.co.nz/cathed09). Registration can take place online or by mail. By mid April over 200 registrations had already been received.
- Catholic Education Laureate Awards. Nominations close 31 May 2009. Please contact NZCEO if you need further information.
- Catholic Schools Day, 19 May 2010. Please note the change of date, arising from a clash of dates with the major Oceanic Region Meeting of Catholic Bishops, which our Bishops will be attending.

### Certification for Teachers in Catholic Schools

The 'Handbook for Certification in Catholic Special Character and Religious Education' is now available on line at [www.ncrs.org.nz](http://www.ncrs.org.nz), [www.faithcentral.net.nz](http://www.faithcentral.net.nz) or [www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz). Certification is available for all teachers in Catholic schools, either in Catholic Special Character or in Religious Education. This important initiative will help to sustain and further elevate Catholic Character and Religious Education in New Zealand's Catholic schools. All those involved with the development of the Certification framework are congratulated.

### Congratulations

Ann Nelson, recently appointed to St Joseph's School, Balclutha, is new to principalship in a Catholic School. We offer her our best wishes.

### Congratulations

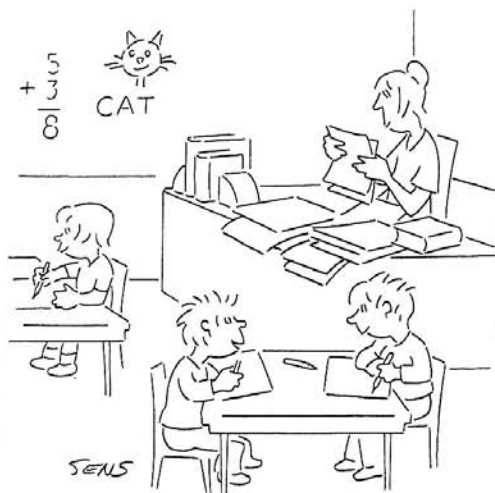
- Carol Coddington, Principal of St Dominic's College, Auckland, and Arnna Graham-Somerville, Principal St Joseph's School, Hamilton, were a mentor and a presenter respectively at the recent First Time Principals Residential Course.
- St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch, will host the Prime Minister on 30th April, for the Young Enterprise Team's 2009 product launch, and celebration of seven years of community-based enterprise.
- Brendan Schollum, Principal of Aquinas College, Tauranga, provided a stirring editorial in a recent school newsletter on "the blood, sweat, work and prayers" of our grandparents and religious teachers who founded the system we have today. He suggested that it is important that every parent and student appreciates and works to uphold this legacy. He ended, "I hope that a number of students choose careers of social service – for example we need more fine young Catholic teachers to carry the banner to the next generation." This is a message worth sharing with every student.

### Recent Catholic Statistics

Worldwide, the number of Catholics grew to 1.147 billion in 2007, the number of priests increased to 408,024, and the number of bishops reached 5,000. The percentage of Catholics remains at 17.3% of the global population.

**"Others see only a hopeless end,  
but the Christian rejoices in an  
endless hope"**

*Gilbert Brenken*



"What I like about talking is that you don't have to worry about spelling."

## Statistics on Catholic Schooling

Lay teachers now make up at least 80% of the 3.5 million teachers working in Catholic schools around the world. Catholic schools currently serve almost 42 million students, and enrolment at Catholic schools has gone up about 60% over the last 30 years.

## An Interesting Website

Those associated with schools that have sporting academies may be interested to visit [www.cesew.org.uk](http://www.cesew.org.uk) to read a presentation by Laura McCann, the CES Policy and Briefing Officer, at the 2008 National Conference for Faith Schools that are also Specialist Sports Colleges, on the role of Catholic schools in supporting community cohesion, and the place of sport as a symbol and means of promoting co-operation. The reference for the presentation is: <http://www.cesew.org.uk/temp/SpeechspforsportsspcollegesspconferencespFINALspVERSIONsp15.7.08hs2hs.doc>

## Seasons for Growth Companion Training Workshops

Seasons for Growth offers training throughout the country in companioning those experiencing grief, including training to companion young people, adults, refresher courses and Literature for Life training. A new guidance package, 'Picking up the Pieces', is also available. Contacts are: Auckland Delia Ruane [deliar@cda.org.nz](mailto:deliar@cda.org.nz); Hamilton Cynthia Piper [cynthiap@cdh.org.nz](mailto:cynthiap@cdh.org.nz), or Catholic Family Support Services [admin@cfs.org.nz](mailto:admin@cfs.org.nz); Wellington Sue Devereux [s.devereux@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:s.devereux@wn.catholic.org.nz); Christchurch Lyn Wilson [lynwilseasons@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:lynwilseasons@slingshot.co.nz); Dunedin/Invercargill Kay Blackburn [kayandgreg@paradise.net.nz](mailto:kayandgreg@paradise.net.nz); Central Otago Kathi McLean [kathi@coreap.org.nz](mailto:kathi@coreap.org.nz).

**"The only disability in life is a bad attitude."**

Scott Hamilton

## Year of the Priest Announced

Pope Benedict has announced that the Church will celebrate a special year for priests to begin on June 19th, the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé d'Ars, St Jean Vianney.

## A Thought to Ponder

"Our task of caring for the earth... has eternal significance. Care for persons and care for the cosmos have to go together." Karl Rahner

## Intercultural Dialogue – a Statement by Pope Benedict

Recently the Pope stated that "intercultural dialogue which deepens the cultural consequences of basic religious ideas" is important. He called for confronting "in a public forum the cultural consequences of basic religious decisions." ([www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=10330](http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=10330) 25 November 2008)

## Wisdom to Ponder

- The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners; it is in making winners out of ordinary people. K. Patricia Cross.
- A child's teachers during the first six years of school will largely determine the nature of that child's attitude to authority and the educational climate in junior and senior high school (and beyond). James C. Dobson
- There are many things in this world that we have absolutely no control over and there are a few things that we do. This is our 'Circle of Influence'. We need to know what things fall within our circle of influence and focus on these tasks. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.
- "A prudent person avoids unpleasant things; but a wise person overcomes them." Michael Lipman

better off  
**bnz partners**



**KONICA MINOLTA**

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