



A recent newsletter from Carmel College provided an excerpt from Anne Frank's diary that is worth pondering. "It is really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out... yet if I look up to the heavens, I think that it will all come right. ...I must uphold my ideals."

Our willingness to encourage students, staff and the community to carry out our ideals when it seems impossible to do so is one of the great hallmarks of our Faith. It arises from the journey we follow from the depths of Good Friday to the joy of the Resurrection.

Our Bishops provide us with strong and positive leadership, and we are continually grateful to them for that. The positive commitment and work of everyone associated with our Catholic schools is a treasure for our Catholic community and for our nation.

As you face the new term we pray with you that, led by you, your students will grow in knowledge, wisdom and faith. We trust that you will all feel supported and rewarded in the wonderful work that you do.

There are always negative forces and actions around us, but the knowledge that you build the future every day will, hopefully, enable you to feel in touch with the hope and glory of the Resurrection. The optimism and idealism of our students is a gift they give us, and a gift we can nurture in them. Their youthful idealism helps us in our commitment to building a better world.

Greetings

Tēna koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.

We trust you had a restful and blessed Easter holiday and that the new term has started well.

For Your Diary

- 8-10 August 2012, NZ Catholic Education Convention
- Catholic Schools Day, 19 May 2010. We wish you well for the day, and look forward to receiving news about it.

Terminology around School Fees, Levies and Donations

The Ministry of Education has provided information to schools indicating that it is very important to clarify to parents that levies and fees are in fact donations or contributions and need to be referred to as such. Proprietors and Boards of Trustees would do well to review the wording in school prospectuses, websites, and accounts sent to parents, ensuring they refer to donations, not to levies or fees. All donations are tax deductible. Attendance dues are not donations and are not tax deductible.

The Value of Youth Mentoring

Mentoring is a straightforward, volunteer-driven approach to providing young people with at least one caring individual who will make a difference in their life, and who will make a long term commitment to them. Many young people today are starving for some attention and support. Those involved in mentoring find it is deeply rewarding.

Mentoring Project in Auckland

This year AUT has expanded its MEN (Males in Education) mentoring project to include 150 secondary school boys. St Peter's College, St Paul's College and Sacred Heart College are among the six Auckland schools chosen to participate.

Discovering Your School's Charism

Timothy J Cook of Creighton University believes that charism is embedded in every school, not just in schools associated with a religious order. It can be regarded as the school's focused identity, particular spirit, and unique gift to the Church and society. Pope John Paul II stated that discernment of charisms is always necessary. One way to do this is by asking questions in three areas: Experience: What energises the school community and gives it joy? What direction does the school intuitively take? Effectiveness: How are the school and its graduates successful? What is the evidence of school impact? Feedback: How is the school perceived? What draws people to the schools? How do members of the school community describe their experiences with the school?

Congratulations to a Principal New to Catholic School Leadership

Kathryn Hira, Principal, St Joseph's School, Orakei, Auckland

A Correction

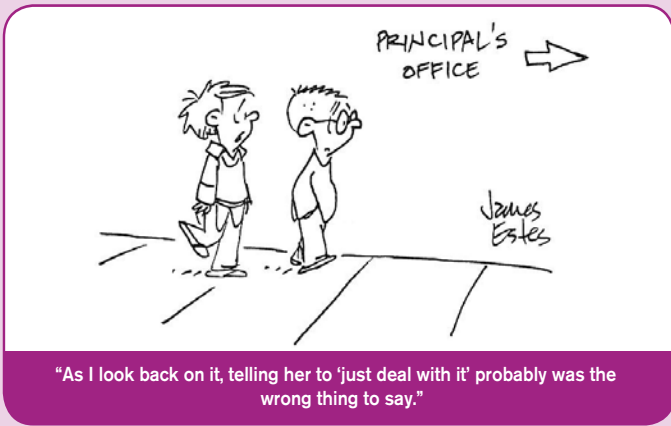
In our last issue we congratulated Michelle Mill on being appointed as principal of Pompallier School. By mistake we stated that the school was in Whangarei. It is, of course, in Kaitaia. Our apologies.

Insights: a National Conference on Girls' Education

There is still time to register for this conference, which occurs in Melbourne 16-18 June. Visit www.insights2010.com for more information. The conference is supported by the Australian Catholic University.

"Of all created comforts, God is the lender; you are the borrower, not the owner."

Samuel Rutherford



"As I look back on it, telling her to 'just deal with it' probably was the wrong thing to say."

Spiritual Link between Auckland and Dunedin Dioceses

Sancta Maria College, Botany, Manukau, has received a special piece of rock taken from the rock on which Bishop Pompallier first said Mass in the Dunedin Harbour area in the early 1840s. The rock is now going from school to school in the diocese. Sancta Maria College has a special connection with Bishop Pompallier. The college is named after the boat used by Bishop Pompallier.

Seasons for Growth Training

Teachers and Boards of Trustees are reminded that Seasons for Growth training counts as professional development, when fulfilling the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference requirement that every teacher takes part in 12 hours of Catholic Character professional development per year.

Teachers Needed in Rarotonga

Nukutere Catholic College in Rarotonga needs teachers now for Year 7-11 Mathematics, Year 7 English and Year 7-11 Religious Education and French. Details are available from the principal, Donna Nahu, email nukutere@oyster.net.ck.

An Idea Worth Considering

Sacred Heart School, Thorndon, has a programme in which each class, on a weekly roster, has lunch with the school pastor, Fr James Lyons. This enables Fr James and the students, some of whom come from the greater Wellington area, to get to know each other. During lunch every child gets to talk to Fr James individually.

Muslims in Catholic Schools

The Director of St Dominic's Institute, a school in Rome, has spoken in an interview in Zenit of the positive effect of enrolling Muslim students in a Catholic school. Muslim students have a strong spirituality and commitment to the religious character of the school, and their respect for the sacred is a valuable challenge to some Catholic students.

Congratulations on New Saint

The Sisters of Saint Joseph are congratulated on the announcement that their foundress, Australian Blessed Mary MacKillop, will be canonised on October 17th 2010. New Zealand

"The task of a Christian is to endeavour to humanise humanity."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

has a large number of schools founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and we rejoice with them and their communities.

World Population of Catholics Continues to Grow

The latest Vatican Yearbook states that from 2007 to 2008 Roman Catholics grew from 17.33% of the global population to 17.40%. The number of priests worldwide also continues to rise.

The 12 Apostles – an Original Board of Trustees?

A former NZ Catholic school principal has written an interesting reflection on Catholic social teaching and school boards of trustees. See the Article Requests form accompanying this newsletter.

A Thought to Ponder – "New Zealand is the Clever Country"

Ray Avery, the scientist, inventor, Third World benefactor and social entrepreneur who was recently announced as the New Zealander of the Year, says: "If Aussie is the lucky country, then New Zealand is the clever country." An Englishman by birth, Avery thinks that New Zealanders simply do not understand how phenomenally clever they are. He also loves the number eight wire Kiwi 'can do' attitude.

A Reflection for New Boards of Trustees

The National Centre for Religious Studies has provided a helpful reflection on Catholic Character, which could be used at the first meeting of the new Board of Trustees. Schools will receive a copy with this posting.

Theology on Tap

Did you know that in Auckland people come together regularly in a public hotel or other licensed premises to talk about current theological and spiritual issues? This initiative is worth supporting and emulating.

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