



The New Zealand Catholic school system will survive and thrive only if the Church is clear about and stresses the values that the system offers to its people. That is to say, the schools will only thrive if the Church continues to be successful in convincing its people that our faith has a fundamental value in their lives.

Our Catholic school system will do well only if the Church community recognises that it is a community of communities, and that the needs of the various communities that it is called to serve are different. The Church is now being called to more significantly recognise and cater to the needs of Pacific Catholics, Asian Catholics, and Catholics from any part of the world who come to settle in New Zealand. The obligation to Māori is taken as read.

Our Catholic school system will thrive only if it is able to believe in, nurture and build community-based schools in which a sense of ownership is shared by the parish community, principals, school staff, trustees and the parent body.

In the pluralistic and competitive environment in which Catholic people live, they have a dazzling array of choices for their children. Therefore, Catholic schools have to be remarkably successful in the work they do. If they are, they will be magnets for families who are looking for the "brand" that will make it possible for their children to be successful in life. And this is where the schools can become instruments of evangelisation. Students will come in the door expecting one thing (namely an entrée to a successful life) and will discover something far richer: a treasure beyond all telling, a system of meaning that will enable them to make sense of their lives, that will bring them into contact not only with the wisdom of the past but with the Author of All Wisdom. The "brand" will bring them in; the success they seek will keep them in the seats; and the wisdom of love will make them whole.

Based on a reflection by Rev. Joseph McShane SJ, Fordham University, New York

### Greetings

**Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koutou.**

**With the mid winter holiday time about to begin, we hope that you are really able to enjoy the break.**

### For your Diaries

- Next Catholic Education Convention: 8-10 August 2012.
- Next Catholic Schools' Day: Wed 15 May 2013.

### Good Ideas

- Some schools have a Catholic Character reflection area in their performance appraisal document, and provide self review indicators with a continuum from "needs developing" to "effective". Staff also indicate how they intend to fulfil the Bishops' expectations of twelve hours of professional development annually.
- One school has invited two other local Catholic primary schools to join them in an enrichment programme. Selected students work together and share resources, enabling all three schools to further develop their commitment to Gifted and Talented Students.
- One school's take-home classroom prayer pack includes a booklet in which to write family prayers that can be shared with the class the next day.

### Catholic School Deciles March 2010

23% of Catholic schools are in Deciles 1-3 (cf. all state schools 30%)

44% of Catholic schools are in Deciles 4-7 (cf. all state schools 40%)

33% of Catholic schools are in Deciles 8-10 (cf. all state schools 30%)

A more detailed breakdown is available from NZCEO on request.

### Catholic Schools from Good to Great

Boards of Trustees and Proprietors some months ago received a paper prepared by the Board of NZCEO, 'Catholic Schools from Good to Great'. They also received a paper about the changing ethnicity of the Catholic Church in the United States. Both papers are useful for thinking about planning the future. Please contact NZCEO if you need a copy of this material.

### Congratulations to Catholic Secondary Schools

The latest round of NCEA results continues to reflect the excellence of Catholic education. The July 2010 edition of Metro Magazine provided statistical analysis of NCEA results of schools in the Auckland area, and included specific praise for the way Catholic colleges ranked so very well. School leaders and teachers are congratulated for the high expectations, pastoral care and hard work that led to these wonderful results.

### Congratulations to Catholic Primary Schools

The year 6 team from Our Lady of Lourdes School, Palmerson North won the Manawatu Mathex Competition, and the team from St James School, Palmerston North came 2nd equal in the Year 5 section of the competition.

### Congratulations: First Principalships in Catholic Schools

Kevin Shore, Cullinane College, Wanganui.

Jarlath Kelly, Verdon College, Invercargill.

### Caritas Resources for Social Justice Week

The Caritas parish resources for Social Justice Week 12-18 September have the theme "Your people will be my people: Creating inclusive and connected communities." This message sits well beside our goals of honouring the cultural diversity within school communities, and educating our students to take their part in a culturally diverse world. Resources for schools are being provided separately. We congratulate Caritas on these excellent materials.

**"God can be described as  
mystery, majesty and mercy."**

*St Thomas Aquinas*



"My goal is to one day have my art hanging on a refrigerator in the Louvre."

## Mary MacKillop, a Saint for Australia and New Zealand

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842, and died in Sydney in 1909. The Institute that she and Father Julian Tenison Woods founded, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, was committed to the education and welfare of the poor of both Australia and New Zealand, particularly those in rural and isolated areas. Within 17 years of the Institute's foundation she responded to the call to send Sisters to New Zealand, to Temuka. Within ten years another nine schools had been opened here, and by 1917 a further 13 schools were opened throughout the country. She visited New Zealand four times, travelling from Auckland to Invercargill to see the newly founded convents and schools, and to look after their needs.

Catholics in New Zealand owe much to her generous and practical spirit and the caring style of education she developed for Josephite schools. In the 20th century the Sisters extended their work into secondary education, Catholic catechism correspondence lessons, CCD, motor missions and holiday camps for rural children. They also became involved in parish ministry and social works. In more recent years Sisters have been employed in diocesan Catholic education offices, working on the faith formation of teachers and Boards of Trustees, in other programmes for the faith formation of Catholic adults, teaching tertiary students at CIT, and one Sister became a Professor in the School of Theology of the University of Auckland. They have also been involved in the writing of our Religious Education programmes, and have recently established an alternative education facility, Mary MacKillop House, in West Auckland. We thank the Sisters for all they have done in New Zealand, and join in their delight at the canonisation of their beloved foundress. You are urged by our Bishops to celebrate her canonisation on 17 October 2010.

Mary MacKillop Resources: Please note that the address to request these booklets and the DVD, advertised in the last Lighting New Fires, is [sisters-of-st-joseph@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sisters-of-st-joseph@xtra.co.nz), (not [sosjkebble@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sosjkebble@xtra.co.nz) as previously stated). Mary MacKillop stamps and reflection cards are also available.

**"There can be no leadership without optimism."**

*Jack Hayhow*

## Payroll Giving

A reminder that schools and Proprietors can become donee organisations for this scheme, which enables donors to make donations directly from their pay and have their tax deductions automatically credited back to their accounts. Information is available on the Internal Revenue Department's website.

## Jubilees

St John's Primary School, Mairangi Bay will celebrate its 50th jubilee on 18-20 March 2011. To find out more, and to register, visit [www.stjohnsjubilee.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsjubilee.org.nz).

St Mary's School, Foxton will celebrate its centenary on 11-13 February 2011. To register, contact 06 363 8177 or email [info@stmarysfoxton.school.nz](mailto:info@stmarysfoxton.school.nz).

## Catholic Character Reports

Schools do well to share their Catholic Character reports with their communities, including parents and prospective parents. The recommendations of the reports will normally be incorporated into the school's annual plan.

## MissionNZ

MissionNZ is the National Office for the three Pontifical Mission Societies. Catholic schools can support a range of initiatives, including becoming a 'Children's Mission Partner'. Mission Money Boxes, prayer booklets and other items are available, also regular newsletters. Contact Fr Paul Shanahan at [pmsnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pmsnz@xtra.co.nz). Mission Sunday will be in October.

## Pope Benedict on "New" Technologies

Speaking in particular of digital technologies, Pope Benedict, in his message for the 2009 43rd World Communications Day, said, "These technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavour to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities." The whole message is very worth reading.

better off  
**bnz partners**



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