



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran German pastor killed by the Nazis for his views, was adamant that, "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children."

This is a poignant statement for our Catholic schools to reflect on in terms of how each delivers its education services.

We assert the importance of educating the whole person, body, soul and mind. Of course the challenge is, what do our deliverables actually look like in practice? Assembling stakeholder focus groups to reflect on the outcomes we deliver is an effective way to assess how well we are doing.

Wonderful things occurring in our schools are regularly brought to NZCEO's attention. There is no doubt that the special character difference we expect in each school is being delivered.

A recent high level example was the stimulating O'Shea Shield Competition focusing on the religious dimension of our curriculum, hosted by Garin College in Nelson for all the Catholic secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North. The quality of the presentations made by the students was simply outstanding, demonstrating the strength of the religious dimension of our schools. Similar competitions occur in other dioceses.

It is fashionable to refer to educating the whole child and developing social capital. This process, a vital dimension of our Catholic school culture, is underpinned by our faith and religious practice.

The essence of educational good practice is becoming increasingly well understood: visioning, leadership, inspiration, high expectations, engaging teaching relationships, spiritually based curriculum delivery, clear student boundaries and attention to activities that build social capital within individuals and, lastly, a commitment to excellence monitored by reflection and peer review.

There are many signs of greater collaboration amongst our schools, nationwide. We will continue to grow strong and be effective when we are open to being collaborative and learning from one another in delivering education for the whole person.

Greetings

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

As winter beds in and the challenges that accompany it call out to our reserves of resilience we especially wish to assure our Christchurch colleagues that we are thinking of them and praying that they have the strength to cope with the ongoing issues mother nature is subjecting them to. They can be assured of our active support and good will.

Catholic Education Convention August 8-10 2012, Wellington

Catholic schools are invited to budget for the convention over two years – details about part paying for registrations during 2011 will be sent to schools later in the year. NZCEO is shaping the programme now, and welcomes any ideas for the convention. In particular we welcome any offers of seminars. Note that seminars must have a Catholic Character aspect. Email s.apathy@nzceo.org.nz or p.lynch@nzceo.org.nz with your thoughts.

Let's Pray – Kia Īnoi Tātou 11-13 August 2011

Palmerston North Diocese is hosting a prayer, contemplation and liturgy symposium at the Diocesan Centre, Palmerston North. Speakers include Donna Orsuto, Stephen Kirk, Joy Cowley and Abbot Brian Keogh. Registration information is available at www.pndiocese.org.nz.

Canterbury Earthquake Donation Fund

The Catholic community is thanked for its generous response to the needs of those in the Christchurch area. The NZCEO appeal fund has reached \$85,000, and grants are beginning to be disbursed. A support person for schools will also be provided for 6 months, with funding from Caritas. We are aware that many schools and individuals have also donated to Christchurch schools directly, or have supported other appeals. Those in Christchurch have shown wonderful fortitude, and Catholic schools have been very well led and supported by Mike Nolan and his team at the Catholic Education Office. We offer our continuing support and prayers.

Bishops Conference Letter to Schools on Religious Education

Recently Board Chairs and Principals of Catholic schools received a letter from the Catholic Bishops Conference concerning the time allocations for Religious Education in Catholic schools. We thank the Bishops for their continuing commitment to the Catholic Character of our schools.

Congratulations

Patrick Walsh, Principal, John Paul College, Rotorua, has been re-elected as President of SPANZ.

Marian School, Hamilton: Year 8 student Rawiri Kapa-Hakeney won the Caritas 2011 Sing out 4 Justice song writing competition. His theme was environmental justice. The song is to receive a full studio recording.

Principal Kay Tester, St Brigid's School, Johnsonville, Wellington, was the subject of an article in NZ Principal, June 2011. The special character and values of the school received particular focus.

Catholic secondary schools have, as in previous years, enabled their students to gain excellent results in NCEA. We congratulate them on their pass rates.

2011 O'Shea Shield Public Speaking Competition: winners St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie; Bishop Viard Trophy (runner up): St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie and Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth.

"To love our neighbour in charity is to love God in other people."

St Francis de Sales



"Jason tweets that he has lrn'd to spl his wrds."

Worth Noting

Jonathan Doyle of Choicez Media has launched a free e-journal for Catholic educators. Email info@choicez.com.au and request to receive it.

Parables Today, a weekly lectionary storybook, is available free from the website of Robert Bela Wilhelm, www.parablestoday.com. The site provides a 5 minute story for the Sunday scriptures of every week of the church year, plus a video commentary.

www.sacredspace.ie is run by the Irish Jesuits. It provides daily meditations and various prayer resources. For those who have not yet found out about it, do visit!

Interesting Reading

Auditing our Catholic Schools: A Process of Discernment, Discussion and Action, John Bradley Kostoff. Toronto, Pearson Publishers. This short book provides some interesting thoughts on planning for, supporting and evaluating the Catholic Character of schools, based on the author's administrative experience with Ontario Catholic schools.

An Educational Bridge for Leaders, Andre van Heerden. \$44.95. Contact amd@extra.co.nz or www.powerofintegrity.com. The book provides summaries of key ideas of 60 leaders from Confucius and Plato, through to Pope Benedict and others. Andre is an Auckland who wrote this book to supplement his corporate leadership programmes, but it would be of value to senior students and teachers, or in the school library. Andre is particularly interested in the development of wisdom and character in future leaders.

Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization, Yong Zhao, ASCD, 2009.

St John's College Hamilton, Principal Position

The Marist Brothers have had a long association with this college, which is now advertising for a principal. St John's is a year 9-13 college with an enrolment of 700 boys. The school is located beside the University of Waikato.

Pope Benedict's Speech to NZ Ambassador

Pope Benedict recently received the new NZ Ambassador to the Holy

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitude of mind."

William James

See. In his speech the Pope expressed solidarity with those suffering from the Christchurch earthquakes, and mentioned the impressive outpouring of generosity in the wake of the disaster. He also stressed the importance the Church has always placed on education. He said, "In addition to the pursuit of excellence in academic studies, athletics and the arts, Catholic schools are concerned above all with the moral and spiritual formation of their pupils."

Did You Know?

735 NZ islands are over 1 hectare in size.

Only 43% of Aucklanders are European/Pakeha.

25% of all Māori and 67% of all Pacific people live in Auckland.

65% of Non-English speaking NZers live in Auckland.

By the time our 5 year olds leave high school China and India will be the world's largest economies.

An Interesting Event

In Lent De La Salle College celebrated a Reconciliation Day during which, as well as spending time reflecting and participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, students fasted, receiving just a small bread roll for lunch. Donations were made to Caritas.

Secondary Schools Film Making Competition

"Can You Cut It?" is the 2011 National Secondary Schools Short Film Competition for 2011. Information is available at www.wintec.ac.nz/cut. It would be interesting if many social justice or religious-themed films were received – it's worth thinking about. Submissions must be posted by 16 September 2011.

Student Questions Teachers Should be Aware of Each Lesson

What are we doing today in this lesson?

Why am I doing it?

How can I get better? (SPANZ: President's Comment 10)

Post Modern Students' Response to School Rules

I wasn't sleeping in your class, I was just rationing my consciousness for my mental well-being.

I wasn't late to your class, I just rescheduled my arrival time. Didn't you get my text?

better off
bnz partners



KONICA MINOLTA

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