



“Hope is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good.” Václav Havel, first president of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The pivotal importance of infusing hope into people's lives is becoming an increasingly common theme in the utterances of Pope Benedict XVI and political leaders of substance. The legendary United States Senator, the late Edward Kennedy, often spoke of the politics of hope. President Barack Obama also comes back to the topic of hope very frequently. The motivating power of inspiration is understood by great leaders.

Inspiring hope in our young people is today's major challenge. Hope is the soul of education and the dynamo of life. Christian hope directed to our loving God is never hope for me alone, it is always hope for others. Such hope unites us in goodness, provides meaning and trust in life and stimulates us to educate one another in truth and love.

All too often students' lives are mired in blame and fruitless negativity. Our task is to provide them with a revivifying hope. Our Catholic intellectual heritage is strongly built on the combination of intellect and hope.

Enabling students to see how they can connect ideas that have never been connected before encourages them to be positive and creative. This is a vital fruit of thinking which can ultimately nurture the growth of hope in people's lives.

Greetings

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou.

Springtime greetings!

Dates for Your Diary

- Catholic Schools Day, 19 May 2010.

New Zealand Catholic Education Convention

Thank you to all of you who attended, and to the many of you who gave seminars, brought students to take part and to perform, and committed your time and energy to the organisation of convention. Representatives from 90% of our Catholic schools attended this wonderful celebration. You, our community, made the convention a wonderfully positive and successful gathering. A record number of senior secondary school students were present as full delegates to the event. School administration and boards of trustees are thanked for the commitment they made to these young people.

The Minister of Education, the Honourable Anne Tolley, addressed the gathering, offering encouragement to the teachers, principals, trustees and others associated with Catholic schools. She urged us to continue to deliver high quality special character education.

The recent edition of Good News and the News provided some details of the convention. Papers, photos and other convention materials are available at www.conference.co.nz/cathed09.

Laureate awards for their outstanding contribution to Catholic education were presented to Paul Ferris, Kavanagh College, Dunedin; Michele Lafferty, Wellington Catholic Education Centre; John Coulam, Marian School, Hamilton; Liz Horgan, St Joseph's School, Otahuhu. We thank them for their committed, effective leadership.

NZCBC Guidelines on Preference and on Parish-School Collaboration Circulated

The NZCBC has launched guidelines on preference, preference enrolment forms and a paper on parish-school collaboration. The papers are being distributed by individual bishops. Copies can be sought from diocesan offices.

Congratulations to Principals New to Catholic School Leadership

Richard Stanton, Pompallier College, Whangarei

Chris Comeau, Roncalli College, Timaru

Carolynn Phillips, St Michael's School, Remuera

Gina Benade has been appointed to be the foundation principal of Sancta Maria Primary School, Botany, Manukau City. The school opens at the start of 2010.

Congratulations

Caritas has provided an excellent educational pack on Social Justice: the Courage to Forgive. The material will be of use to every school, and some of the visuals on the CD Rom might be shared with parents and the parish.

In response to community need, Verdon College, Gore, and Catholic Social Services jointly instituted community cooking classes. The course was free, provided crèche facilities and transport if needed. Classes focused on low cost, healthy meals.

De La Salle College hosted the inaugural Catholic schools' 'Battle of the Burettes'. Five Auckland Catholic secondary schools took part in the titration competition, which was won by Carmel College.

Auckland Catholic colleges received congratulations from the Hon Bill English, Deputy Prime Minister, for their excellent academic results, as reported in Metro magazine.

“A leader must be a dealer in hope.”

Confucius (attrib.)



Ministry of Education 2010-2020 Projections Available

School statistics for each region of the country, 2010-2020 are available for Boards of Trustees and Proprietors wanting them.

Gardasil Vaccination – Further Information

An article entitled The Gardasil Vaccine – Is it Safe and Effective? was recently published by the Nathaniel Centre, and is available at www.nathaniel.org.nz/?sid=194. It provides a useful and detailed summary of the research.

‘Caritas et Veritate – Love in Truth’ Urges Ethical Financial System

Pope Benedict’s recent encyclical reminds us that the economy needs a people-centred ethics if it is to function correctly. Wealthier nations must help poorer ones with increased aid. The intention to do good must not be considered incompatible with the effective capacity to produce goods. The encyclical also explores issues of the environment, renewable energy, energy efficiency, technology and bioethics.

Books on Suzanne Aubert

The Sisters of Compassion have recently celebrated the publication of Suzanne Aubert’s Letters on the Go. The Story of Suzanne Aubert has been reprinted also, and the two books can be purchased at a special combined price of \$99.99. Enquiries to Craig Potton Publishing, PO Box 555, Nelson, ph 03 548 9009, email info@cpp.co.nz.

Cause of Mary MacKillop

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the foundress of the Congregation of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Mother Mary MacKillop. Final processes are currently under way for her canonisation. Many New Zealanders have been taught in schools she established in New Zealand.

At John Paul II High School’s leadership assembly the topic was striving for excellence, and the speakers were all current students who had reached excellence in a range of academic, cultural and sporting fields. They focused on the commitment needed to reach their goals. A letter from a former student showed how lack of success at school could be turned around later once goals and commitment were established.

From the 13th July Education Gazette: St Mary’s College, Wellington hosted “a large contingent of English teachers” for the Wellington Curriculum Support Day.

From the 27th July Education Gazette: Lisl Prendergast, principal of Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, represents the NZ Secondary Principals Council on the team working on the revision of the professional standards for secondary principals.

At the ‘Gathering of the Clan’ of the Dunedin Diocese, which took place during the Catholic Education Convention:

- Anne Kennedy was presented with an award from the NZ Catholic Primary Principals Association for life long leadership in Religious Education.
- Sr Jan Ogilvy was presented with an appreciation award from the Diocese of Dunedin in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contribution to the education of many young teachers who are now working in Catholic schools.
- Colin McLeod and Alan Watts were presented with appreciation awards for their leadership in Catholic education.

Restorative Justice Practices in NZ Catholic Schools

Ron Cronin-Lampe has been working at St Columba’s School Frankton and Sacred Heart College Hamilton trialling a programme for classroom teachers on restorative justice practice in the Catholic school classroom. It is hoped that this programme will be extended to other Catholic schools in the Hamilton diocese in 2010. Ron is also available to work in schools in other dioceses. See www.restorativepractices.co.nz or email info@pilgrimpractices.co.nz for more information.

“The future belongs to those who give the next generation hope.”

Teilhard de Chardin

better off
bnz partners



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