



CATHOLIC

Sometimes we can lose focus on the single role of our lives and that of our Church. We are called to be living signs of God's Kingdom, where we all will be sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.

The Second Vatican Council stated unequivocally, "The Church has a single intention: That God's Kingdom may come, and that the salvation of the whole human race may come to pass" (Gaudium et Spes 45a).

Clearly this aspirational goal is at the centre of the vision in each Catholic School's Charter.

Our schools are unabashedly religious schools, which focus on creating a learning and achievement culture built on the recognition of each student's spiritual nature. Additional to this recognition is our Catholic faith, in which we are enjoined to treat one another as other Christs— as stated in the Lord's imperative to "love one another as I have loved you."

The best international educational research highlights the fundamental importance of positive relationships between all those in a school community in order to deliver superior learning outcomes for students. When one appreciates the fundamental parameters of a Catholic school's culture and operations it is easy to see why our schools have a head start in graduating students who are committed to achievement and to creating a better world.

In order to fully appreciate all of the above, courageous conversations have to be entered into by trustees, staff and proprietors, to enable this common vision to be enacted in practice.

Greetings

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe me tō whānau.

We trust that the winter has not been too tough on you and your family.

Catholic Education Convention August 8-10, 2012, Wellington: Ngā Taonga – the Living Treasure

Catholic schools are invited to budget for the convention over two financial years. NZCEO has advisory information for any school uncertain how to account for next year's expenditure in this year's budget.

On Holy Ground Day, October 4th

Caritas has invited Catholic schools to mark October 4th, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology, with liturgy and appropriate symbols and actions. See the wonderful new Caritas website for details: www.caritas.org.nz.

Congratulations

Principals New to Leadership in a Catholic School, Terms 2 and 3 2011:

Caron Olivier, St Patrick's School, Greymouth

Christine Allen, Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton

Stand Up and Sing Out against Poverty

Monday October 17th is the annual International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. www.just1.org.uk/singoutagainstopoverty provides an initiative joining students around the world in singing and thinking about poverty and its eradication (see the song Count on Us and the Promises to the Poor). Catholic schools in New Zealand might choose to do this at the end of term 3.

Promoting a Seamless Catholic Education System

Schools are encouraged to support each other and form strategies with other Catholic schools in their local area, in order to strengthen education and Catholicity. This task needs to be led by the principals if it is to succeed. There are some excellent examples under way, including examples of relationships between secondary schools and their contributing primary schools producing joint promotional material, secondary schools advising primary schools about the progress of their former students, Catholic primary and secondary schools promoting one another as first choice destinations in their promotional materials and newsletters, primary and secondary schools working together on strategies to ensure that students transition from Catholic primary to Catholic secondary (wherever possible).

Useful Websites

<http://digitalcatechesis.ning.com> and <http://acyberpilgrim.org> for parish catechists rather than RE teachers, but of interest to both

www.finalsite.com/ncea a software site with resources and videos

www.missiontolearn.com interesting educational ideas

www.freetech4teachers.com a very helpful site.

Appointments to Tagged Positions

Boards and principals are reminded that the processes for appointing teachers to tagged S65 and S66 positions are laid out in the Handbook for Boards of Trustees of Catholic Schools. If you cannot find the latest edition, (bright green cover), contact your diocesan office or NZCEO, or go to www.nzceo.org.nz where the whole text is available.

A Reminder

When capital work is done on the school site the Integration Agreement may need updating. Boards of Trustees and Proprietors work together on this important process to ensure that legal requirements are fulfilled.

"Criticism is something we can easily avoid – by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing."

Religious Studies an Approved Subject for University Entrance from 2012

Secondary schools recently received a letter from NCRS and NZCEO noting that Religious Studies will be on the list of approved subjects for University Entrance as from 2012. NZQA circular S2011/030 gives details. The school's Principal's Nominee has the responsibility for ensuring that NZQA procedures are followed for Religious Studies, as for other subjects, that internal moderation for Religious Studies follows the school's policies, and that Religious Studies is allocated the time required to deliver the curriculum according to NZQA guidelines.

On a Level Playing Field: Social Justice Week Resources

Caritas is congratulated on the quality of its Social Justice Week resources. A new initiative this year is a dedicated blogsite, <http://socialjusticeweek.org.nz/blog/>, which contains social equality rankings, and articles about the countries whose teams are playing in the World Cup.

Columban Calendar Art Guide

The 2012 Columban Calendar is accompanied by an Art Guide: download from www.columban.org.au/about-us/columban-videos/2012-columban-calendar-video/. Other videos on the website would also be of interest to schools.

Pope Benedict XVI's Address to the Teachers of the United Kingdom, Sept 17th, 2010

The Pope said, "You [teachers] form new generations not only in knowledge of the faith, but in every aspect of what it means to live as mature and responsible citizens in today's world. ... The task of a teacher... is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for 'both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill and crafts.' (Wis 7:16) The... Catholic ethos needs to inform every aspect of school life. This extends far beyond the self-evident requirement that the content of the teaching should always be in conformity with Church doctrine.

It means that the life of faith needs to be the driving force behind every activity in the school, so that the Church's mission may be served effectively, and the young people may discover the joy of

entering into Christ's 'being for others.'" (Spe Salvi, 28)

Youcat Published

Youcat, the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, was launched at World Youth Day 2011. It provides an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic faith. It deserves to be in every secondary school classroom. Copies are available from Ignatius Press.

Updating Your Website

The school's website is a highly important information and advertising tool. It is worth getting some "outside eyes" to assess it. It needs to contain clear, upfront information on Catholic Character, and the Religious Education programme. The school's newsletter, information booklet for parents and staff handbook should similarly have Catholic Character information up front, clearly spelled out, and updated as appropriate. Also, the school's annual Catholic Character goals could be widely circulated.



"Ms Morgan, let me explain again the meaning of the term 'homeroom'"

better off
bnz partners



KONICA MINOLTA

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

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**"The word which God has written
on the brow of every person is
hope."**

Victor Hugo