



The recent Catholic Education Convention was a wonderful celebration of the national identity we cherish as members of the New Zealand Church. Our diversity is our strength, no matter wherever we live and work. Thank you for the support you gave to this significant event in the life of our education system.

Our institutions mark out their specialness in a variety of ways, but fundamentally our common strength is that we endeavour to accord profound reverence, awe, love and respect for all those in our communities. This is fundamental to our Faith.

What we seek to do is not to just build respectful relationships, it is much deeper than this. It is built on our reverence for individuals. Out of reverence graciousness emerges.

Graciousness enables us to make allowances for the behaviours of others, when they are discourteous, cool or distant. It is on this foundation that our schools are committed to human excellence, a concept which conveys the sense of "rising out of" or "rising above", to allow potential to blossom.

A commitment to glittering excellence is noble and aspirational. It enables everyone to rise above themselves to ensure high expectations about what can be achieved – it pushes boundaries. Our challenge is to deeply imbue high expectations in the culture of our schools, along with our other fundamental values and virtues.

Great ideas and great strategies are not enough, be big hearted, and propagate big spirited ideas that deliver the 'goods' in our students' lives.

We not only need to believe in these ideas, but to enable them to be embedded in our hearts and in our behaviours. This is spiritual capital, the precious dynamo which generates our energies as educators in Catholic schools.

Greetings

Maka atu o koutou manukanuka katoa ki runga ki a ia; e whakaaro ana hoki ia ki a koutou. (1 Pita 5:7). Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7). We hope that you are still on top of things despite the hard winter we have experienced.

For Your Diaries: National Catholic Schools Day, 22 May, 2013

Resource information will be supplied by NZCEO later this year or at the start of 2013. If you have particular requests or plans please let us know.

Second Anniversary of the First Earthquake in the Christchurch Region

The prayers and support of the whole Catholic community continue to be with the teachers, students and families of the Christchurch region.

New Zealand Catholic Education Convention – Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who came to convention. You made it a wonderful success with your enthusiastic and generous participation and the positive messages you brought from your areas and schools. We were pleased to greet a significantly increased number of Board of Trustees members and parish priests. We particularly thank all those who provided seminars – without your leadership and excellence we could not run the convention. A particular thank you to our Bishops, for their continuing wonderful support of Catholic education.

We have just received the survey comments on the convention. Thank you so much. We are reading them carefully and will action what we can next time.

Pacific Island Students in Catholic Schools

By 2050 approximately 57% of school-aged New Zealanders will be of Māori-Pacific Island heritage. In Catholic schools in the Auckland area Pacific students now make up 29% of enrolments, twice the percentage of enrolments in the wider State system in Auckland. In May 2012 the Education Review Office published 'Improving Education Outcomes for Pacific Learners', which provides information on good practice. School leaders and Boards of Trustees are strongly encouraged to read this important document, to build on the good work they are already doing. It is available at www.ero.govt.nz.

A Website Worth Exploring

www.prayers4gatherings.com is a website of reflection and prayers for Catholic schools, set up by Australians Rachele and Gabby Tullio.

The Church Reaching out to People in the Digital Age

An article by Fr James Martin SJ in the November/December 2011 issue of Momentum, reminds us that the Church is still in digital media catch-up. Fr James wants to show young people that he takes their means of communication seriously, and so he tweets 140-character "thought for the day" homilies every morning. Parish priests, teachers, students, might consider reading or writing something similar?

Information for Schools Available from Caritas

'A Guide to Caritas in Schools' is an excellent recent publication with information, contacts and inspiration for students, teachers and leadership. 'Caritas Can You Cope? Challenge', just published, can be incorporated into the 'Survive a Slum' experience of solidarity. The 2011 resource 'On Holy Ground' can be used each year for the Feast of St Francis – it has recently been taken up in the United States. www.caritas.org.nz has a schools section, with a dedicated subsection for students. Earlier electronic and print resources are still available.

Kiwikarma a New Venture for Caritas

Catholics now have another way to support Caritas. Register with www.kiwikarma.com, and then, when booking accommodation use the website, which will give a donation to Caritas. Details are in the Spring 2012 Caritas Update.

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing."

Albert Schweitzer

Word of God Symposium 12-14 October, Auckland

From Fri 12 October 7pm to Sunday 14 October 12.30pm, the Word of God Symposium on the Bible's impact on our lives and faith will be held at the St Columba Centre, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby Auckland. Keynote speakers include Bishop Colin Campbell, Joy Cowley, Br Kieran Fenms and Dr Alice Sinnott. A children's programme will occur on Sunday.

Noel Leeming Offer for Catholic Schools

Schools are reminded about this agreement, which enables Catholic schools, families and friends to purchase goods from Noel Leeming at a reduced price. Contact NZCEO for details.

Five Key Challenges for Leadership in Catholic Schools for the 21st Century

In a recent article on www.acu.edu.au Kevin Treston states that the five key challenges are:

- Intersection points between compliance issues and authentic Catholic identity.
- The relationship between the Catholic school community and the 'birth-to-death' tradition of Catholic education
- The theological and philosophical underpinnings of curriculum in Catholic schools
- Promotion of the concept and experience of work as a vocation
- Self-care for leadership and staff.

The paper would be worth downloading for a Board of Trustees or senior management discussion. (It is easier to google the title rather than searching the ACU website.)

Jubilees

St Mary's Church and School, Kaikorai, Dunedin, are holding centenary celebrations, 19-21 October 2012. Register at StMarysKaikorai@xtra.co.nz or write to: Colleen Liddell, 35 Middleton Rd, Dunedin, 9012.

Registration for the 125th Jubilee of St Joseph's School Rangiora, 19-21 October 2012, is now open at:

www.stjosephsrangiora.school.nz or Ph 03 313 7828, or admin@stjosephsrangiora.schoolzone.net.nz.

'God's Honours Board' - book

At the Catholic Education Convention Brendan Schollum's book on people who have shaped Catholic education in New Zealand was launched. It would be a valuable source of information for Board of Trustees Proprietor's Appointees, in particular because of their role in supporting the 5th Schedule of the school's Integration Agreement.

To buy, contact schollums47@hotmail.co.nz or 3G/220 Victoria St West, Freemans Bay, Auckland 1011.

Women Doctors of the Church – book

Australian academic Christine Cameron has recently published 'Leadership as a Call to Service. The Lives and Works of Teresa of Ávila, Catherine of Siena and Therese of Lisieux'.

See www.connorcourt.com to order. (A\$34.95 plus \$12 postage.)

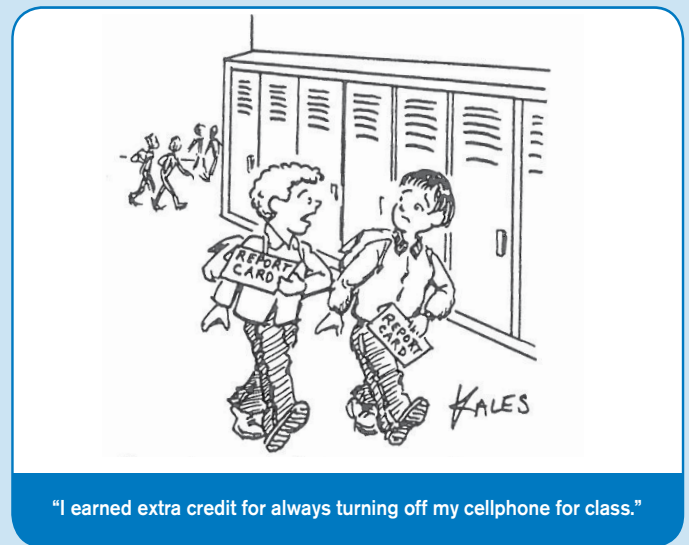
Well Done

St Joseph's School, Picton has been highlighted in the ERO report 'Working with National Standards: Good Practice'. The school's positive approach to including parents was held up as a model.

St Patrick's School, Waimate won trophies in the junior performing and visual arts section of the annual Flava Festival in Aoraki (South Canterbury), showing their commitment to Takata Whenua and te reo.

The Need for Correct English – Worth Noting for Teachers and Students

There are significant disadvantages for those who use incorrect spelling and grammar. British newspaper The Independent reports the head of an online graduate recruitment agency stating that the agency rejects one third of all job applications from graduates with good degrees from good universities, because errors in English in their CVs and covering letters show ignorance, carelessness and a bad attitude.



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"It is only when we struggle that we move on."

Unknown