



September 1st, 2009, marked the seventieth anniversary of the commencement of World War II. Representatives of the combatant nations met in Gdansk to commemorate the six year ordeal in which 65 million people lost their lives. One central theme which has emerged since 1945 is the politics of hope. Those who survived the extreme horrors of concentration camps were more likely to have strong hope than those who were overwhelmed by their ordeal.

The fear and confrontation of the Cold War era, followed by more recent impressive international gains in lifting the world's standards of living, have convinced many of today's political leaders that resourcing enthusiasm amongst their peoples is the way of the future. Strengthening the bonds of human flourishing is a vital high level aspiration, not only within individuals, but also between nations.

Hope is deeply rooted in the human spirit. It is much more than optimism. It is based on the ability to seek out something because it is good and truthful. Leaders know that providing inspiration is fundamental to their success. Words can be cheap, yet hope-filled words delivered in an engaging way have the capacity to inspire and lift lives. Well crafted words, followed by action, enable change to take place in people's lives.

Building social capital through frequent acts of co-operation and altruism is a feature of hope-filled societies. New Zealand has an international reputation for making its contribution within the family of nations, because of our belief in a hope-filled future.

It is vital to teach our children that hope is not simply focussed on one's own individual life, it is always hope for others. Such an attitude unites people in goodness and provides meaning and trust in lives. Fundamentally, hope is the life-giving spirit of all education and is the reason why education is the life blood of society and of the world.

Hope is the beacon that energises life.

### Greetings

**We ask the Lord's blessing on you as you attend to the myriad details the last few weeks of the year place before you.**

**Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.**

### For Your Diary:

8-10 August, 2012, NZ Catholic Education Convention

### Catholic Schools Day, 19 May 2010.

We suggest getting together with other Catholic primary and secondary schools in your area for Catholic Schools Day. An information pack will be sent to schools in February 2010, but you may wish to start planning before the end of 2009.

### Tagged (\$65) Positions, Religious Education and Religious Instruction

Tagged positions are advertised as requiring ability to take part in the religious instruction of the school, not simply the religious education of the school. The distinction is important – ability to teach religious education refers only to a subject, whereas religious instruction refers to supporting and contributing to the Catholic life of the school. We are fortunate that the Integration Act enables us to specify in advertisements that a teacher must be able to support the religious instruction of the school – it covers a wider spectrum than teaching religious education.

### Did You Know?

In 1910, 66% of Christians lived in Europe.

In 2010, 75% of Christians live outside Europe. Christianity is a global phenomenon.

### Congratulations to Principals New to Catholic School Leadership

Anne-Maree Manson-Petherick, St Joseph's School, Taihape

Suzanne Harrison, St Joseph's School, Patea.

### Congratulations

- **St Bernard's College** featured in the 21 September Education Gazette for the school's handling of the AH1N1 pandemic.
- Principal Alan Fleming and teacher with responsibility for Special Education Mandy Serci, **St Francis de Sales School, Island Bay**, have been commended by the Ministry of Education for the school's leadership and expertise in working with students with Special Education Needs.
- Chanel Wright, the new chaplain for **St Patrick's College, Silverstream** and **St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie**, featured in a major article in the Dominion Post's Boarding School Awareness supplement.
- **St Joseph's School, Hastings**, included in a newsletter an excellent sheet on varieties of prayer in the family.
- **Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt**, published a Values document in which the school's Catholic values are closely linked to key Māori values.

### A Reminder

Principals and Boards of Trustees are reminded of the need to follow due process when contemplating any expenditure relating to capital works with a value of \$2,500 or more. Failure to follow due process could result in significant difficulties with school auditors, the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Auditor General. Guidance is in the Handbook for Catholic Schools Boards of Trustees, and the Ministry of Education website. Local Proprietors may provide additional guidelines.

**"The grace of God is in courtesy."**

Hilaire Belloc

Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii J



"You know you were elected class president, but that doesn't mean you're in charge..."

### International Studies in Catholic Education – New Publication

Professor Gerald Grace has just published the second edition of 'International Studies in Catholic Education'. The personal subscription rate for this biannual periodical (print only) is US\$64. For subscription inquiries contact [tf.enquiries@tfinforma.com](mailto:tf.enquiries@tfinforma.com). Professor Grace is also seeking articles (5,000-7,000 words). Submit articles to him at [crdce@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:crdce@ioe.ac.uk). General information about the publication is available at [www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rice](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rice).

### Resources from 'Māori Postal Aotearoa'

A range of resources including posters with a single scripture verse or a prayer, children's books, stickers, bookmarks and colouring pictures (texts in Māori, with English translations) is available for very reasonable prices from [www.maoripostal.co.nz](http://www.maoripostal.co.nz), or PO Box 10, 13 Lowther St Wanganui, Ph/Fax 06 343 7957, email [mpss@acp.org.nz](mailto:mpss@acp.org.nz).

### Thoughts about Blessings

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said a blessing is "a visible, perceptible, effective proximity of God."
- John O'Donohue said, "To bless someone, literally, means to speak well of him or her. More deeply, it means to see someone's energy and honour it as a source of joy and delight."

### Catholic Church and 'Climate Justice'

A significant Catholic delegation to the United Nations talks on climate change in September will be followed by a major presence at the Copenhagen Conference at the end of this year. The Church sees climate change as an issue of justice, because change is likely to cause most suffering to the poor.

### New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference Interfaith Committee

The NZ Bishops are congratulated on the establishment of a committee to work on interfaith matters. The changing face of New Zealand and the world makes this a timely move.

*"The right word spoken at the right time sometimes achieves miracles."*

### Religious Education for Children with Special Needs

The Archdiocese of Brisbane's Faith and Life Vicariate has a number of resources which may be of use, particularly in relation to the preparation of children to receive the three sacraments of initiation. Contact Deacon Anthony Gooley at [gooleya@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:gooleya@bne.catholic.net.au) for more information. Also, a three book set, Hearts to Dance (Old and New, A Time for Everything, Gifts Galore) for Religious Education of children aged 6-18 with an intellectual disability, is available to order from <http://bne.catholic.net.au/faithlife/fl.php/store>. Themes covered include life, prayer and relationships through the Old and New Testaments, journeys through seasons of nature, life and Church, names and celebrating the multitude of life's gifts.

### A Useful Reminder

Senator Teddy Kennedy, at the end of his life, gave this message to his grandson: "If you'll persevere, stick with it, work at it, you have a real opportunity to achieve something. Sure, there will be storms along the way. And you might not reach your goal right away. But if you do your best and keep a true compass you'll get there."

### Points of Agreement in the Great Spiritual Traditions

- The spiritual quest is union with God, everyone and everything else
- The path to union comes through compassion and wisdom
- The route to compassion is paradoxical, requiring that we lose ourselves to find ourselves
- Spiritual progress requires hard discipline and some painful renunciations
- It is a lifelong journey with no shortcuts, or hidden secrets, and it requires both personal integrity and social justice.

### Text for a Prayer - TXTGOD

Carmel College's 'Mums in Touch' 'Request a Prayer' box has been developed to include a confidential text service for the same purpose.

better off  
**bnz partners**



**KONICA MINOLTA**

### Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

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