



## THE YEAR OF FAITH

The Year of Faith began in October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The Holy Father writes that the Year of Faith “is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world.” It is a chance to take stock and ask – how does being Catholic make a difference in our lives today?

Pope Benedict states that the “Church exists to evangelise” by sharing the Gospel with people who have never heard of Christ, strengthening the faith of those who already have been baptised and reaching out to those who “have drifted away from the Church.”

Many in the western world are now agnostic and/or atheist. God does not seem relevant to these people and their public champions who delight in saying that believers are deluding themselves. But religion is still dominant in the lives of vast numbers of people in the world. We join with other Christians in proclaiming the Gospel in our lives and passing on the Gospel message to those in our schools and Church communities.

The Second Vatican Council was adamant that the mission of the Church is the salvation of human kind. We can feel strongly grateful for the gift of faith, which enables us to know who we are as children of God and why we are here on earth, and provides an understanding about our final destiny.

Being able to share all of this with others is what evangelisation is about. Let us remember, also, what St Francis Assisi said, “Preach the Gospel and if necessary use words.” What a challenging responsibility! As 2013 unfolds each Catholic school can plan special events to celebrate the Year of Faith. You will shortly be alerted to the possibility of schools getting together to organise festivals of heritage Church music which is a stirring legacy in the western world. It would be wonderful for students to be inspired by the Alleluia Chorus, Panis Angelicus, and the Ave Maria.

## Greetings

**Ki a tātou te hunga ora, ngā mōrehu o rātou mā, tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou katoa.**

**We wish you well as end of the year activities start impinging on our lives.**

## National Catholic Schools Day, 22 May, 2013

Resource information will be supplied by NZCEO shortly. If you have particular requests or plans please let us know.

## Synod for the New Evangelisation

Archbishop John Dew, who attended the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelisation as President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania, was one of 36 papally-appointed Synod Fathers. He was also elected by the Synod as a member of the committee responsible for the Final Message of the Synod. In his speech to the Synod, Archbishop John said that in New Zealand “we have witnessed a new vitality of Catholic life through growing ethnic diversity, as a result of the migration of peoples.” He spoke of the vibrancy of youth in this part of the world, and their “sincere and sometimes painful search for meaning and spirituality as they bridge traditional cultural values and the excitement of the technological age with the swipe of an iPad or smartphone. ... This new technology is a vital agent of the New Evangelisation.”

Bishop Charles Drennan spoke at the Synod about Catholic education in New Zealand. He stressed that Catholic schools are agents of the Church's mission and spoke of the following pillars for committed Catholic schools: the encounter with Jesus Christ, in schools animated with prayer, liturgy, respect and charitable service; the diakonia of truth in which our schools stand out as beacons of hope; the spirit of wisdom which is a foundation to strengthen discernment; the sense of belonging to God's people when the school reverberates with the Church's ecclesial life of faith. He said that “young people touched by the wonders of God's life of truth, goodness and beauty, become powerful witness in their own families to the life in Christ that the New Evangelisation proposes afresh to each and every one of us.”

## Teenager Declared a Saint for Oceania

Philippino youth St Pedro Calungsod worked as a catechist. He was martyred in Guam at the age of 18 while on a missionary trip with Jesuit priests.

## NZCBC Letter to Catholic School Leaders

The NZCBC has recently written to Catholic secondary school principals, DRSs and HODs RE to let them know that a curriculum advisory group is to be established by NCRS on various aspects of Religious Education. The Bishops also express the wish that Year 12 topics 12F and 12H, which are not always taught, be considered as vitally important.

## Congratulations to Principals New to Top Leadership in Catholic Schools

Ben Fuller, St Mary's School, Tauranga  
Deidre Gray-Edwards, St Mary's School, Otorohanga  
Suzanne Downey, St Joseph's School, Te Kuiti  
Karolina Surynt-Tapik, St Teresa's School, Featherston  
Deborah Brosnahan, Villa Maria College, Christchurch

## Promoting Interfaith Relations in Aotearoa New Zealand

With this newsletter secondary schools have received a copy of the above booklet, from the NZ Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations. It could be useful in Year 9-10 Social Studies and Year 12 and 13 Religious Education. A further resource is ‘Discovering Diversity: how the diverse values and beliefs of world religions are shaping our identity’, by

**“Let your speech be always with grace.”**

*Colossians 4:6*

teacher Jocelyn Armstrong (student book and teacher resources on CD Rom). Prepared mainly for the Year 9 and 10 Social Studies curriculum, Level 5 Achievement Objectives 3, 4 and 7, it focuses on how the introduction of Christianity helped shaped New Zealand as a bicultural nation, how more recent immigration is transforming our country into a multicultural society, the six major world religions: Judaism – Islam – Sikhism – Christianity – Hinduism – Buddhism, and personal histories of young people following these faiths. This colourful resource might also be helpful in Year 12 and 13 Religious Education. See [www.pearsoned.co.nz](http://www.pearsoned.co.nz) for information.

### Microsoft and NZ Catholic Schools

A focus group of invited Catholic principals recently considered the development of a collaborative Catholic online learning environment, through MS 365. Those present could see significant potential for the project and benefits for schools to develop educational clusters. A vision statement is being developed and a teleconference will be held shortly, with invited teachers, to discuss further developments. Schools can investigate MS 365 now, to begin to discover its possibilities. Boards and principals will be kept up to speed with developments. The goal of the exercise is to initiate a national Catholic Education learning resource

### Interesting Websites

[www.la-petite-therese.com/en/](http://www.la-petite-therese.com/en/) allows virtual access to the childhood house of St Therese of Lisieux, and provides a range of thoughtful resources.

[www.truthandlifeapp.com](http://www.truthandlifeapp.com) provides a free app for iPhone, iPad, Android PC etc, which accesses a dramatised Catholic Audio New Testament.

### Prayer for Meetings

Staff Prayer Fire is an excellent prayer resource kit available from [catchingfire@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:catchingfire@bne.catholic.edu.au).

### Submarine Catholics

Kieran Fouhy, principal of St Peter's College, Auckland, wrote a recent school newsletter message on this topic. He noted that many Catholics enrol their sons at St Peter's and indicate they have a range of Catholic connections. It seems that parents see the real value of a religious-based school and want their children to belong to our 2000 year Catholic tradition, even if they

themselves find it difficult. Grandparents play an important role: they know that forgiveness and reconciliation trump ego, status and power, that loyalty and ritual make families and institutions work, and that personal and communal faith allows, encourages and enables risk taking. Kieran believes that the Catholic tradition must be presented to students and parents in a way that makes sense intellectually and makes sense on a heart level.

### Papal Address to United States Bishops on Religious Education and Faith Formation

In May 2012 Pope Benedict XVI said: "Catholic schools remain an essential resource for the new evangelisation. ... The deposit of faith is a priceless treasure which each generation must pass on to the next by winning hearts to Jesus Christ and shaping minds in the knowledge, understanding and love of his Church."

### Year of Faith

The Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education intends to publish in 2013 a document called 'Education for Intercultural Dialogue in Catholic Schools'. This document aims to reconcile intercultural dialogue with the preservation of the Catholic identity of schools, and recognises that the teaching of the Catholic religion is an integral part of that dialogue. A 'Book of Experiences' will also be published, which will present the most important experiences of intercultural education in Catholic schools.



"Can you hang on a sec? I think I just took another picture of my car."



KONICA MINOLTA

*"We are largely the playthings of our fears."*

*Hugh Walpole*

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

**Pat Lynch**, C.E.O.

**Susan Apáthy**, Deputy C.E.O.

**Maureen Condliffe**, Operations Manager

**Donna Campbell**, Financial Controller

**Jane O'Connell**

**Adele Pedreschi**

**Wendy Rozenberg**

Lighting New Fires is published by the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, PO Box 12307, Wellington. Phone: 04 496 1739  
Fax: 04 496 1734 or Email: [nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz](mailto:nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz)  
Website: [www.nzceo.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.org.nz)