

VERY USEFUL AND INNOVATIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPECIAL CHARACTER WEB SITES BEING USED IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following are very useful resources for New Zealand Catholic School Principals, Directors of Religious Studies and Religious Education teachers. They have been gleaned from the recent National Catholic Education Conference held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which attracted 8,000 Catholic educators.

2.0 RENEWING YOUNG CATHOLIC IMAGINATIONS

2.1 www.catholictv.com - follow on twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, etc - two minute vignettes on why being a Catholic as an 18 - 35 year old is worthwhile i.e. via story telling.

- The best way to engage young people is to tell stories about their faith journey in a light hearted manner
- Where do you find God outside of the Church? We are all co-owners of faith. We are all shareholders of the Church. What is a slogan for the Catholic Church? - ask the young people
- Catholic TV's Matt Weber provides a weekly contribution on YouTube. His book *Fearing the Stigmata* contains humorous spiritual stories of a young Catholic's search for a culturally relevant faith

2.2 www.bustedhalo.com - Paulist Fathers
(There is also a twitter and facebook address.)

3.0 **Sustaining Catholic Identity in a School** See the St Mary's Press web Site www.smp.org (There is also a twitter and facebook address.)

3.1 Delivered by email - "The Word Among Us; Living Faith".

4.0 Good Ideas/Resources for Religious Education Teachers and DRS's

- www.thereligionteacher.com - the Religion Teachers Guide to Lesson Planning
- www.livingfaith.co, - Living Faith Devotional focus
- www.wau.org - The Word Among Us Devotional
- www.magnificat.com - the Magnificat Devotional
- www.faithfirst.com - Benziger publishers
- www.blestarewe.com - Silver Burdett Ginn

- www.webelieveweb.com – Sadlier
- www.twitter.com – Pope Francis (@Pontifex); USCCB (@uscgb); James Martin SJ (@JamesMartinSJ); Cardinal Dolan (@CardinalDolan). YouTube and Twitter are good for small clips on specific topics.
- Google rosary CD - there are several possibilities. Use at school and recommend to families
- History Channel – The Bible Mini Series – excellent resource. 2015 Mini Series ('Acts of the Apostles')
- Use Google Earth to see the Holy Land
- Open Bible – www.openbible.info
- www.bible.com or www.youversion.com – free bible, and free bible apps (the site doesn't specify what translation is used)
- www.imissal.com – missal for the day, bible reflections, prayers, Saint a day (kindle, apps, for macs, android etc)
- www.ibreviary.com (for iPad, etc)
- www.catholicnews.com Catholic News Service e.g. YouTube
- www.romereports.com - daily feed of news on the Pope, Vatican and religion (also on twitter, Pinterest and Facebook)
- www.custodia.org – information on the sites of Jesus in the Holy land (Franciscan Friars)
- www.youtube.com/user/vatican - contains many video clips in English, on Vatican matters, the Pope etc.

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