



*The only job worth doing is to build the future. The dynamo for doing this is a strong spirituality which in turn keeps God's creative energies alive in us.*

*Effectively, everything we do changes the world in some shape or form.*

*Stephen Hawkins, the eminent English physicist, has in recent times asked the following question about the secrets that keep the universe intact. "What is there that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe?" He goes on to say, "We are not angels, who describe the world from outside. Instead, we and our models are both part of the universe we are describing."*

*This interesting insight from one of the world's pre-eminent scientists provides some inspiration for us lesser mortals who do our bit to make the world a better place.*

*It is of more than passing interest that our young people are captivated by the magnificence of the Hubble telescope's galactic images, as well as the intricacies of cellular biology, both of which manifest the splendour of God's creation.*

*The challenge teachers and other adults have is to entice our young people into seeing God's hand in creation, along with His work displayed in the good actions of others.*

*Maybe a simple way into both these areas is through the power of gratitude. "To be a saint," says the spiritual writer Ronald Rolheiser, "is to be fuelled by gratitude, nothing more, nothing less." And Gustavo Gutierrez asserts, "Only one kind of person transforms the world spiritually, someone with a grateful heart."*

*"Thank you" is the essence of non violence. A person who can sincerely say, thank you has a healthy vital spirit with a heart that sparkles and affirms life.*

*2008 is a good year to promote the theme of gratitude, since it is at the heart of spiritual growth and growth in Faith.*

**"This year's success was last year's impossibility."**

## Greetings

**Ngā mihi nui ki a koe me tō whānau. Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.**

**We wish you well and offer support and encouragement for the year ahead!**

## Survey on the RE Qualifications of Teachers of Religious Education

Gratitude is expressed to school staff for the time and effort involved in filling out the NCRS-NZCEO survey on the Religious Education qualifications of teachers. The data is still being entered and collated – a large job. We would be grateful for information from those schools that have still not replied.

## 23rd World Youth Day, Sydney 15-20 July 2008

Over 4000 young New Zealanders are now booked to travel to World Youth Day. Catholic colleges and parishes are congratulated for the support they are giving to these young people. While it is a Catholic event, its message is relevant open for all people. The 22 January 2008 edition of Australian magazine, *The Bulletin*, devoted its cover and a major article to what it called "The Pope's party", and to the Pope's message to youth.

National and diocesan organising groups have been doing wonderful work to enable this huge project to happen. The event is expected to have a major impact on the future of the Church in New Zealand.

## New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Priority Plan 2008-2013

The New Zealand Catholic Education Office actively supports the Bishops' plan in those aspects that connect with its work. The Office commends the plan to schools, which will have a part in supporting a number of the strategies.

## Lenten Resources from Caritas

Caritas is congratulated on its excellent Lenten resources for parishes and schools, and for the programme of visits to schools undertaken by Caritas staff.

## Welcoming Those New to Catholic Schooling

Orientation of new families, students and staff into the culture of the Catholic school can be supported by a welcome and friendship team where existing families welcome new families into the school community, and provide practical support if needed. It is helpful if school and parish collaborate positively in this orientation process.

## Reminder – Catholic Education Convention 2009

Readers are reminded that the next New Zealand Catholic Education Convention will be held in Wellington 29-31 July 2009. It is suggested that consideration of budgeting for attendance could begin during 2008.

## Courses for Teachers and Others Interested

- The Wellington Catholic Education Centre provides a large number of tertiary level papers, as part of NZQA-accredited courses. Most papers are available by distance learning. Visit [www.wcec.org.nz](http://www.wcec.org.nz) for details. The next M Ed Leadership intake will be in July.
- Good Shepherd College has papers in Theology, some of which can be taken by distance learning. Visit [www.gsc.ac.nz](http://www.gsc.ac.nz).



"We're a little short on space at this time, Mr Benson.  
This will have to do for now."

### New Edition of 'The Declaration'

The foundational document of our school Proprietors, 'The Declaration of the Proprietors of Catholic Schools in New Zealand on the Essential Characteristics of Authentic Catholic School Education', has recently been given a fresh look. Copies in poster format for school foyers or staff rooms, and leaflet copies for use with parents and for discussion or professional development, have been widely distributed. Extra copies are available from NZCEO.

### Congratulations to Leaders Who Have Recently Taken up their First Appointment as a Principal of a Catholic School

Paul Olsen, Verdon College, Invercargill  
Steve Twomey, St Joseph's School, Orakei  
Mary Zellerman, St Paul's School, Massey  
Jo Brady, St Joseph's School, Whakatane  
Hazel Rayner, St Anthony's School, Huntly  
Elizabeth Whittington, St Patrick's School, Kaponga  
Rose Sawaya, Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth  
Fr Paul Martin, St Patrick's College, Wellington  
Maia Putaka, St Peter Chanel School, Otaki  
Jo Barlow, St James School, Aranui  
Jo Earl, Our Lady of the Assumption School, Christchurch  
Christine O'Brien, St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch  
Aaron Richards, St Joseph's School, Christchurch  
Jenny Jackson, St Joseph's School, Oamaru

### Catholic Senior Principals Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to Peter Fava, St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt, winner of the 2008 Catholic Senior Principals Scholarship, and to Alan Fleming, Principal, St Francis de Sales School, Island Bay, winner of the 2008 Catholic Senior Principals Spotless Award.

Spotless wishes all schools the best for 2008. It is delighted to sponsor its scholarship for senior Catholic principals.

### FaithCentral Recommended to Irish Teachers

In a recent edition of 'R.E. News for Teachers in Irish Catholic Schools' [www.faithcentral.net.nz](http://www.faithcentral.net.nz) was recommended twice, once as a good site on Church history and once because of its excellent resources for schools. Congratulations to all those responsible for FaithCentral.

### Pope Speaks on Education

In an address to a group of diplomats on 13 December 2007 the Pope said, "A technical and scientific training is not enough to fashion men and women who are responsible in their families and on every level of society. To reach this objective, one has to promote education based on human and moral values that enable each young person to trust in himself, to hope in the future, concerning himself with his brothers and sisters, and taking on his role in the development of the nation, with an ever increasing and acute sense of concern for others." (Source: <http://zenit.org>)

### EHSAS Round Three

Congratulations to the 21 Catholic schools selected for the latest round of cluster projects in the Extending High Standards Across Schools initiative.

### Tagged Positions – Gazette Wording

Schools are reminded that when advertising tagged positions it is important to include the full wording of S65 or S66, so that applicants have a good idea of what 'Tagged Position' means.

### 2008 Calendar Supports our Awareness of the Life of the Planet

A contemplative pictorial calendar with excerpts from Anne Powell's poetry is available from the Cenacle. Visit [www.cenacle.org.nz](http://www.cenacle.org.nz).

***"Love is the strongest force the world possesses, and yet it is the humblest imaginable."***

MAHATMA GHANDI



KONICA MINOLTA

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Fax: 04 496 1734 or Email: [nzceogs@nzceo.catholic.org.nz](mailto:nzceogs@nzceo.catholic.org.nz)  
Website: [www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz)