



The 2006 Catholic Education Convention is fast approaching, and registrations are now being received. Thank you for the support you have given in the past to this important event in the national life of our Catholic education system. It is a magnificent opportunity to re-energize our collective identity as Catholic educators and to strengthen commitment to our faith and to the highest standards of education provision. It would be great to see you at the gathering and to be able to learn from you as you share your experiences and insights with others.

One of the strengths our Catholic schools were once universally renowned for was that our teachers ensured students had a good general knowledge about New Zealand and for that matter, the world.

For instance, most adult Catholics who are graduates of Catholic schools know the location of New Zealand's major towns, great rivers, mountains, national parks and other important natural features. The same applies to international geography and history.

It is disappointing to sometimes hear that this tradition is not as strong as it used to be.

A mark of educated people is their general knowledge, which has an effect on their ability to initiate and carry on conversations in social settings.

It doesn't stack up to say, "Oh, students can find out this information from the internet if they want to." No one denies this, but it is not the point. Educated people know as much as possible about a wide range of topics because they have learned it. Being hungry for knowledge is the mark of a student educated in a Catholic school.

Our schools are increasingly being regarded as standard setters in New Zealand education, which is wonderful. Having a good general knowledge is part of standard setting. Thank you for the part you play in extending high standards and enabling our young people to reach for the stars. After all, excellence is at the centre of the Christian message.

Greetings to you all

Tēnā koutou. Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koutou.

We offer you our encouragement and support in the great efforts you make to ensure successful education outcomes for your young people.

Catholic Education Convention, Wellington, 31 August – 2 September 2006

Registration brochures have now been distributed widely. Information and online registration is available at www.conference.co.nz/cathed06. Early bird registration closes on 14 July. Principals are reminded that they can send in posters and powerpoint presentations showcasing their school, and can offer performances by their students. Contact NZCEO for further details.

Building Information about Teachers Who Might be Suited to Senior Management Positions in Catholic Secondary Schools

For some time principals have worked with NZCEO to establish a confidential list of prospective principals, to assist Boards when they are trying to ensure a good pool of applicants for positions. At the request of principals who are aware of the scarcity of suitable applicants to fill deputy and associate principal positions in Catholic schools, the Office is now seeking, confidentially, names of suitably qualified and experienced teachers in the state school sector who might be able to be approached to widen the pool of applicants for appointments to senior staff positions in Catholic schools. Suggestions can be made to the CEO, Pat Lynch.

St Teresa's School 75th Jubilee

You are invited to the 75th Jubilee of St Teresa's School, Karori, Wellington, over Labour Weekend, 20-22 October 2006. To register interest, email office@stteresas.ac.nz, phone 04 939 1725, fax 04 939 1274, or write to 299 Karori Rd, Wellington.

Congratulations to Dioceses Instituting New Forms of Professional Support for Principals

Hamilton Catholic Integrated Schools Office and Hamilton Catholic Principals' Association have developed an innovative professional support plan for principals, funded jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Hamilton Catholic Integrated Schools Office. The plan will enable leaders in schools to meet in clusters to share best practice and support each other in a range of aspects of school life, including Catholic Character.

Catholic principals' professional learning groups have been set up in Christchurch, under the leadership of Maureen Kerr of the Christchurch Catholic Education Office. These groups will enable principals to reflect regularly in small groups on current thinking on leadership.

A New Publication by Bishop Peter Cullinane

I believe in the Church – a personal witness presents deeply reflective prayers that locate Bishop Cullinane's personal faith within the context of Christian community. A wide spectrum of people will find this is a book that they can use in their own thinking and praying. Published by Veritas, Dublin, 2006, copies are available from Pleroma, email management@pleroma.org.nz, freephone 0508 988 988, freefax 0508 988 989.

"People who see the big picture expand their experience because they expand their world."

JOHN MAXWELL

Beatitudes for Teachers

Blessed are you who are called to teach, for you walk in the footsteps of the Master.

Blessed are you who sow peace and harmony in the staffroom, yours will be the joy of the Lord.

Blessed are you who plant seeds of hope in youthful hearts, for they yearn for the coming of the Kingdom.

Blessed are you when you share your faith with others, for your name is written in my heart.

Blessed are you who anguish now because your students are difficult, one day they will thank you for your loving concern.

Blessed are you when efficiency gives way to compassion, for the deeper secret of education is yours.

Blessed are you when you reach out to me in your students, for you will surely find me and rejoice.

Blessed are you who lead young people in paths of justice and peace, for you will shine like stars for all eternity.

Congratulations

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt and Garin College, Nelson were joint winners of O'Shea Shield. St Patrick's College, Wellington and St Patrick's College, Silverstream were joint runners up.

Jan Pratt, recently retired Principal of St Columba's School, Frankton, has been presented with a Laureate Award for her dedicated service to Catholic education.

Useful Resources

<http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/bullying/>, the website of the Parramata Catholic Schools Office, contains simple clear information about bullying, which may be useful to schools preparing material for parents.

Bullying Solutions: Evidence-based approaches to bullying in Australian schools, eds Toni Noble (Australian Catholic University) and Helen McGrath (Deakin University), was published in September 2005 and distributed to all state schools in Victoria, Australia. It provides practical advice on the delivery of anti-bullying programmes, and reflects research proving that schools can contribute to the resilience of young people by providing a safe, caring environment, high but achievable expectations, and opportunities to learn and practise effective coping skills within the academic curriculum.

Six times a year the Catholic Adult Education Centre in Sydney publishes a 4 page newsletter, *'Inform, Faith and Life Matters'*. A recent issue is devoted to the bioethics of cloning, and would be useful in senior Religious Education and Biology classes, and for teachers. See www.caec.com.au or email info@caec.com.au.

www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au has a catalogue of material published by the Sydney Catholic Education Office. The resources include the series *'A Sense of the Sacred'* consisting of individual books integrating Christian values into subjects such as Economics and Science, an excellent set of *'Helping Your Child'* leaflets, and a wide range of videos.



"Some might call it daydreaming; I call it multitasking."

Publications Available from the Catholic Enquiry Centre

The Catholic Enquiry Centre, 140 Austin St, Wellington, carries an excellent range of publications about the Catholic Faith which could be of interest to families, students and teachers. Email cecnz@global.net, phone 04 385 8518 or fax 04 385 8598 for a catalogue, or visit the website, www.catholic-enquiry-centre.org.nz.

An Interesting Thought

Alex Fala, a former student of St Patrick's College, Wellington and the second Pacific Islander ever to win a Rhodes Scholarship, believes that his greatest responsibility right now is to be successful in his profession and in doing so, to raise the aspirations of those following behind him.

Good Ideas

- A School Charter for parents, outlining what the school agrees to deliver to students and parents.
- An annual 'Take Your Parent to School' Day
- A Keynote Speaker Week, with one notable speaker per day.
- Community Support surveys
- Asking parents, students and staff all to participate in school improvement groups
- Never stop questioning "Can we do better?"
- "If all you do is what you do, all you'll get is what you've got."



KONICA MINOLTA

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