



*Rose Kennedy, the mother of President John F Kennedy, once said, "If God takes away everything, please may He not take away my faith." Given the many tragedies and sadnesses this valiant woman experienced during her long life, one has to be impressed with her attitude to life and her relationship with the Almighty.*

*The importance of having faith and the deepening of faith values is becoming more important for everyone associated with our Catholic schools since the world is too often driven by secular values and dismisses anything associated with faith.*

*Faith values open us to learn from the vulnerable and in the process help us to save ourselves from ourselves. It is an extraordinary irony that God chooses the weak, the common and all who count for nothing to confound those who think they are strong.*

*It is critical that our schools be teachers of faith where students are led to connect with God and the things of God. Einstein was of the view that the most beautiful of human emotions is to feel and experience the mysterious which brings individuals in touch with holiness and the sacred.*

*We can show our students and their families that serving with others, rather than for others, is a faith experience and can be an experience of God.*

*At a time in human history where terrorists display utter contempt for human life we are able to stand tall by linking faith and works, which excludes the monstrous selfishness of those who destroy and seek to paralyse others by fear and terror.*

*At rock bottom the power of love which is generated by faith is the only way our world will overcome division and destruction.*

### Greetings

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

**We wish you well for the coldest part of the winter season, knowing you will cope well.**

### Recovery in Matata

Catholic schools throughout the country continue to support and pray for the families in Matata, and for St Joseph's School staff and students, as they work through the aftermath of the devastating floods.

### New Zealand Tour of the Relics of St Therese of Lisieux

The relics of St Therese arrive in New Zealand on September 19 and leave on October 17. A large part of the scheduled tour occurs during the school holidays. This hopefully will not prevent schools from bringing this important event to the attention of their students. A resource has been prepared for schools, and it will be distributed in early September. It includes suggestions for prayers and activities, a powerpoint presentation for use in classes or assemblies and a video on the life of St Therese. Therese, who died aged 24, is a special saint for young people.

**"For it is in giving that we receive."**

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

### Care in the Wording of Advertisements

Those responsible for placing advertisements for teachers in the Education Gazette are reminded that it is important to clarify whether a particular position is a tagged one or not. Phrasing such as "willingness and ability to take part in religious instruction appropriate to the special character of the school **would be an advantage**" could be seen as illegal. Details of correct phrasing for advertisements are available in the Handbook for Boards of Trustees, from any diocesan education office, or from NZCEO.

### Primary School Principals' Sabbaticals, and Scholarships

Principals are reminded that when applying for sabbatical leave and for scholarships they are entitled to undertake study or research associated with Special Character. Scholarship application numbers have been low, so applicants have a good chance of being awarded a scholarship.

### Numbers of Copies of Lighting New Fires Sent to Schools

The Office sends out a number of copies of Lighting New Fires to schools, based on the size of the school. Schools share their copies around among the senior management, the staffroom, and the Board of Trustees. If your school needs fewer, or more copies we can accommodate you, so let us know.

### Catholic Religious Education Unit Standards

After long delays work is now under way with NZQA to explore the necessary structures to enable students to achieve Catholic Unit Standards for senior students. The initial exploratory work is expected to take six months.

**"Service is the hallmark of greatness, never greed or power."**

ANON

## Congratulations

- To all those associated with the establishment of the Marist Education Network, and to the JC Colin team. This initiative will ensure that the charism of Marist schools will be alive for the benefit of future students and will build community among schools.
- To Our Lady of the Snows School, Methven. The school has produced an advertising flyer which captures the joyful spirit of the school and its community.
- To Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Sumner. A new classroom was the occasion for a colourful two page spread in the local newspaper. which stressed the school's unique qualities.
- To St Peter Chanel School, Te Rapa. At the weekly assembly the Gospel for the following Sunday is read by senior students, and the Principal speaks of its significance and symbolism. The weekly newsletters refer to the relevant scripture, and include parish notices.
- To Christ the King School, Christchurch. Staff and students set up a Religious Education Expo in the parish centre, to enable parishioners to gain an overview of the content and teaching styles of Religious Education nowadays.

## Congratulations to Those Appointed to their First Principal's Position in a Catholic School

Susan de Gouveia, St Teresa's School, Riccarton  
Bob Stephenson, St Joseph's School, Oamaru

**"God comes at last when we think  
he is farthest off."**

PROVERB

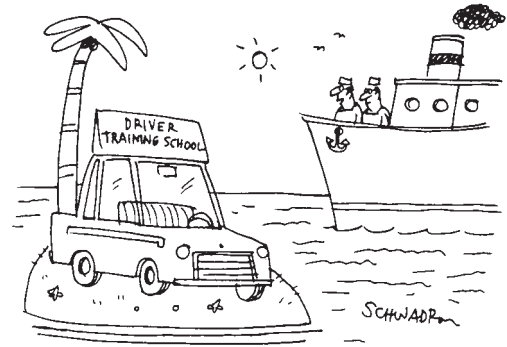
## What Makes My Catholic School So Special

"When I was first told that my parents were sending me to a small Catholic school out in the country, I was not impressed. But after three years of partaking in the school spirit and sticking to the motto 'Hold Fast to Truth' I have found a new side to my life. It's not only the motto that makes our school valuable to the community, it's the six touchstones that we live by – prayer, truth, scholarship, service, joy and family. ... I enjoyed Religious Education so much last year with Mr Field that it has led me to open my mind and accept the Catholic faith. ... I want to thank my parents for their wise choice in sending me to Aquinas College."

*Extract from an essay by Kirsten Maxwell,  
Year 12 Aquinas College, Tauranga*

## News From Australia

In a Roy Morgan Research Survey conducted in March 2005, 62% of Australians surveyed said that religion should be taught in Government schools, and only 30% said it should not be taught. Of those answering who said they had no religion, 35% said religion should be taught in Government schools, with 65% saying it should not be taught.



"I bet there's an interesting story here."

## Publications from the Irish Association of Pastoral Care in Education (iapce)

A reminder of the following valuable publications from iapce. Visit [www.iapce.ie](http://www.iapce.ie) for further details.

'Making School a Better Place', Luke Monahan: pastoral care roles and structures in school.

'Living with Change and Loss', Michael Ryan: practical units for schools on change, stages of grief, issues, suicide etc, with a facilitator's guide.

'Discipline and Stress: Beyond Control', eds Luke Monahan and Ned Prendergast: reflections on the nature of discipline in schools.

'Elly's Onion', Elly McCrea: using process drama in education to transform intractable contexts and enable individuals to change.

## The Power of Branding – It Makes You Think

Brands succeed because they generate significant loyalty. They appeal to some kind of collective attraction for certain things – but it is important to have a consistently great product at the core of the brand. Catholic schools can be aware of the value of developing an authentic and individual "brand", and can also pick up on the need to ensure that the value the schools offer is consistently excellent and unique.



**KONICA MINOLTA**

### Kia kaha, kia maia, kia u.

Pat Lynch	C.E.O.	
Maureen Condliffe	Operations Manager	
Susan Apáthy	Deputy C.E.O.	
Debbie Vreeburg	Adele Pedreschi	Wendy Rozenburg

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: [nzceogs@nzceo.catholic.org.nz](mailto:nzceogs@nzceo.catholic.org.nz)  
website: [www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz)