



*As planning begins to occur for the 2008 school year it is a good time to reflect on how effective our schools are in forming young citizens who are willing to actively contribute to the wellbeing of the world community.*

*New Zealanders have to be globo sapiens in their outlook, attitudes and behaviours. It is too easy to adopt isolationist approaches to world issues, when the growing reality is that New Zealanders are expected to be contributing global citizens.*

*Education is more than skill and knowledge acquisition - it is fundamentally a moral endeavor. Young people will only become virtuous when they are taught to be so and are able to interact with virtuous people. By paying attention to, and fostering, individual spirituality, teachers and parents encourage students to have reasons for living and reasons for contributing to the wellbeing of others, not only within the country, but internationally.*

*The social virtues, like self control, politeness, decency and the pursuit of ideals, also need to be taught and practised, otherwise social cohesion is diluted, and the moral vision and moral purpose of the State are weakened.*

*It is vital both to acquaint our young people with their civic responsibilities and to promote education which focuses on confronting prejudice, by teaching an understanding of religious and cultural differences. The fundamentals of the world's great religions and the insights of the great civilizations will help to open the minds of our young people to the wider world.*

*This nation's citizens were born in over 150 countries. Not only are we all citizens of New Zealand, we are also international citizens who have an obligation to contribute to the resilience, development and wellbeing of the world's nations and peoples. More than ever, we must now be one another's keepers, if we want to ensure that the world as we know it will survive.*

**Greetings! May the inspiration provided by the visit of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon provide you with energy for the new term.**

**Mō te Atua koutou e whakakaha in ngā wī katoa.**

### Dates for Your Diaries

Next Catholic Education Convention: 29th - 31st July 2009

Next Catholic Schools' Day: 12th May 2010

### World Youth Day Cross and Icon Pilgrimage Round New Zealand

The Tour of the Cross and Icon has been an inspiring experience, and Catholic schools have played a magnificent part in the success of the tour. Thank you! In Wellington, the Cross and Icon were brought to parliament by students from St Patrick's and St Catherine's Colleges, where the gathering of 500-600 was received by the Prime Minister, a number of her senior Cabinet members, and later by other parliamentarians. The Prime Minister talked individually to many of the young people present. This national occasion was a fine event, with Church and State meeting together publicly, in a collaborative spirit. The daily journal of the tour, available at [www.worldyouthday.org.nz](http://www.worldyouthday.org.nz), is a wonderful and colourful read. The Prime Minister's speech is available on the Article Requests page.

### Fostering a Seamless Catholic Education System

A letter on this topic was recently sent to Boards and senior staff of schools from NZCEO. It supports the expressed wishes of diocesan Bishops that Catholic schools in every region and town actively support each other. The letter provides practical suggestions. Request a copy from the Office if needed.

### Congratulations to Bishop Barry Jones

Congratulations are extended to Bishop Barry Jones, on his appointment as the new Bishop of Christchurch.

### Papal Knighthood Awarded

Tony Hanning, Director of the Dunedin Catholic Education Office since 1981, is congratulated on his reception of a knighthood in the Order of St Gregory the Great. The award is a papal acknowledgement of outstanding service to the Church and the wider community.

### Following MOE Guidelines on Spending - a Reminder for Boards

Boards of Trustees are reminded of the need to ensure spending and handling of money follows Ministry of Education guidelines, as outlined in 'Fundraising Advice' and 'Capital Works Expenditure (Regularisation)'. These documents are available at [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz).

### Board Changes at New Zealand Catholic Education Office.

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, Br Joe Lauren was farewelled. Br Joe was the inaugural Chairperson of the Board, to which he has given seven years of visionary service. Geoffrey Ricketts, a longstanding Board member, is the new Chairperson. John Butterfield was welcomed as a new Board member. Continuing members of the Board are Bishop Peter Cullinane, Reuben O'Neill, David Harrington, Michael Finnigan and Mary Neazor.

### Congratulations to Leaders Taking Up their First Appointment as a Principal of a Catholic School

Harata Herbert, Te Kura o Hata Maria, Pawarenga  
Paul Olsen, Verdon College, Invercargill

**"Faith is daring the soul to go beyond what the eyes can see"**

WILLIAM CLARK



"But, Mom! how am I supposed to study insects if I don't live with them?"

## National Curriculum Catholic Values

Directors of Religious Studies are working with the Director of the National Centre for Religious Studies to develop statements on Catholic values, the Religious Education learning area and a range of other statements to complement the National Curriculum. This work will be completed and circulated after the text of the National Curriculum is finalised.

## Catholic Enquiry Centre Resources

In the last two years over 4000 enquirers enrolled for the free reading course, 'What Catholics Believe'. Wonderful resources are available from CEC for adults and senior students – this is worth publicising in school newsletters. Email [info@catholicenquiry.org.nz](mailto:info@catholicenquiry.org.nz) to receive the Centre's regular newsletter, or for further inquiries.

## Attributes of Catholic Schools

A diagram of the attributes of quality Catholic schools, from the American publication Momentum, is available on the 'Article Requests' sheet. It could stimulate school self review, or discussions by Boards of Trustees.

## Villa Maria College 90th Anniversary Celebrations

On 23rd and 24th February 2008 Villa Maria College, Christchurch, celebrates its 90th anniversary. Information is at [www.villa.school.nz](http://www.villa.school.nz), or email [villa@villa.school.nz](mailto:villa@villa.school.nz) to register interest.

## Pope Benedict XVI Calls for a New Evangelisation

In his opening statement to the 5th General Conference of the Episcopate of Latin America and the Caribbean Pope Benedict said: "We must not limit ourselves solely to homilies, lectures, Bible courses or theology courses, but we must have recourse also to the communications media: press, radio and television, websites, forums and many other methods of effectively communicating the message of Christ to a large number of people."

## Religious Education in the Community

As part of a Year 13 Advanced Religious Education Social Justice unit of work students at Marist College, Mt Albert, are working in the community for two hours once a week over a six week period. They say it is "an emotional and thought provoking experience which opened our minds to the Auckland you never see but needs the most attention."

## Helpful Websites

[www.freecatholicbooks.com](http://www.freecatholicbooks.com) is a new site presenting classic Catholic books that are no longer in print or are hard to access.

[www.religiocando.it](http://www.religiocando.it) has word finds, crosswords and Bible colouring pages for primary aged children. While the activities made available by this Italian teacher of religion are simple, the wonderful Home Page is worth a look for its exuberant images! The site is trilingual (Italian, German and English).

[info@choicez.com.au](mailto:info@choicez.com.au) (Choicez Media) is a useful regular email to receive, as it provides useful updates about programmes related to the Catholic view of sexuality, and other health issues.

[www.volunteering.org.nz](http://www.volunteering.org.nz) provides volunteering opportunities across a wide range of skills. It is worth publicising to students, parents, and in parishes.

## Pilgrimage to Wodvice and Budapest 11-25 September 2007

The Catholic Enquiry Centre invites people to join a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Pope John Paul II and to the International Congress on the New Evangelisation in Budapest. Information from Fr Allan Jones wk (04) 385 8518, bookings from: [www.harvestpilgrimages.net.au/contactus.html](http://www.harvestpilgrimages.net.au/contactus.html).

## Memorandum of Understanding between Sarasas Affiliated Schools in Thailand and the New Zealand Catholic Education Office

Schools are reminded that through the above Memorandum of Understanding school partnerships and exchanges between staff and students can readily be facilitated.



KONICA MINOLTA

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

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