



The recent Catholic Education Convention had as its theme our schools radiating hope. People respond to inspiration and hope in their lives. "The people's hope is the last to die" is an observation which is reflected in all sorts of settings.

The hope that fuels our lives has some fundamental dimensions, namely: faith, innovation, vision, positive relationships, skill development, optimism, leadership, intellectual firepower, enthusiasm, diplomacy, boldness and hard work. These are all crucial to the development of New Zealand's Catholic schools.

Thomas Jefferson was right when he said, "A nation cannot be ignorant and free." Our Catholic approach to living, however, is not simply a reflection of a humanitarian vision, it is primarily based on the experience individuals have of Christ who enables them to generate hope in their lives, to have a zest for living and a love for others, in Pope Benedict's phrase, "having a heart that sees".

We ought not to back away from promoting the idea that getting people into Heaven is part of the Catholic way of seeing the world – this is all part of radiating hope.

Maybe a way to strengthen the hopeful message our schools promote would be for each school to formulate a Charter for Parents, which is different from a school's prospectus and is up front about what a school aims to deliver religiously for parents and students. It is vitally important that our schools have a clear point of view which differentiates them in the education market place and is strong in its Catholic message.

Robert Kennedy's inspiration is always poignant. "There are those who look at things the way they are and ask why? I dream of things that never were and ask why not."

Greetings!

We recently experienced a wonderful Catholic Education Convention – THANK YOU, most sincerely, for the part you played in its success – it will go down in our history as quite an occasion.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō te whānau.

Catholic Education Convention – Appreciation

We are deeply grateful for the wonderful support of schools, parishes, diocesan education offices, our Bishops and our whole Catholic community, which made Catholic Education Convention event such a success. Thank you. Over 800 people attended with delegates from 85% of our Catholic schools present. Thank you to schools that sent in posters, photos, videos and power point presentations, and thank you to those schools whose students performed. We trust that you all found it memorable and a great celebration of Catholic education in New Zealand.

Congratulations

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes are extended to Monsignor Barry Jones of Greymouth on his appointment as Coadjutor Bishop of Christchurch.

Congratulations to new Catholic principal Michael Dowd, St Joseph's School, New Plymouth.

Pandemic Influenza Protocol for Parishes

In July the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference issued protocols to be adopted by parishes in the event of a pandemic. The material includes details about hygiene in relation to liturgical procedures which will be relevant to schools celebrating Mass on site, and also provides information about the availability of priests during a Code Red period. The protocols are available under Avian Flu on www.catholic.org.nz.

Non Teacher Police Vetting – Chaplains

A recent newsletter from the Teachers Council states that chaplains would only need to be vetted through the NTPV (Non Teacher Police Vetting Unit of the Teachers Council) "if the chaplain was in a non-teaching role and was employed by a Board of Trustees. Otherwise the chaplain's diocesan body would be responsible for vetting." You are also reminded that Section 69 of the PSCI Act states that the Proprietor is responsible for employing a chaplain, and that the salary of anyone employed as a chaplain shall not be paid for out of State moneys.

Meditation Pilot Programme at St Paul's School, Massey

Over the last two years children at St Paul's School, Massey, have been introduced to daily meditation, based on the work of Fr Laurence Freeman OSB of the World Community of Christian Meditation (WCCM). Children find that the practice makes them feel peaceful. Fr Peter Murphy of Massey parish is the national co-ordinator of the New Zealand Christian Meditation Community. He reports that there is interest in formally introducing meditation into the school curriculum in Hamilton diocese. In Australia, the Catholic Education Office of the Diocese of Townsville has recently put in place a diocese wide programme led by WCCM to teach meditation to children at all levels of primary and secondary school. Further information is available from Petermurphy54@hotmail.com or from cmc_sthau@hotmail.com.

Edmund Rice Schools Publicise Legacy and Particular Charism

The Edmund Rice schools in New Zealand, St Kevin's College Oamaru, St Thomas of Canterbury College Christchurch, St Peter's College Epsom and Liston College Henderson, have recently published a flyer describing what an Edmund Rice school stands for. The key elements of New Zealand Catholic schools, as described in the Review and Development for NZ Catholic Schools, have also been placed alongside a special Edmund Rice emphasis.

Congratulations to Schools Selected for Extending High Standards Across Schools Projects Commencing in Term 2

St John the Evangelist School, Otara; St Joseph's School, Dargaville; McAuley High School (lead school), Otahuhu and De La Salle College, Mangere; Mary MacKillop School, Mangere; St Joseph's School, Takapuna; St Francis School, Thames, St Peter's School, Cambridge, St Pius X School, New Plymouth; Kavanagh College, Dunedin; Garin College, Nelson; St Benedict's School Khandallah and St Brigid's School, Johnsonville; St Patrick's School, Taumaranui; Marian College (joint lead school) and St Bede's College and Villa Maria College, all Christchurch.

A Wonderful Idea

St Anne's School, Manurewa, recently held its second retreat day for its Board of Trustees, at Tyburn Monastery, the community of the Benedictine Sisters in Bombay. This very special day of prayer, sharing and reflection on the Mercy story is likely to become an annual event for the Board.

St Thomas of Canterbury College leads the Way in Health Teaching

The innovative health programme of St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch, was the subject of an article in the August edition of the Canterbury District Health Board's publication, Health Promoting Schools. Health teachers from across Canterbury attended a forum at the school to hear about Te Huarahi Pai (Pathways Forward), a positive male development programme incorporating principles from the Dutch Rock and Water resilience programme; the Young Enterprise Scheme; and Health in Peers (HIP) projects. St Thomas's places a strong emphasis on peer mentoring and support, the creation of role models, and acceptance.

Catholic Teachers Care

American research published in "Education Next" (Summer 2006) stated as its basic finding that first grade teachers who take personal responsibility for children's learning make the most difference to children's learning. Teachers in Catholic schools scored highest on the measure of how responsible teachers felt for children's learning.

A Good Idea

The enrolment pack of Holy Family School Porirua provides bi-lingual information on Catholic Character, and a bi-lingual enrolment form.



"We weren't cheating. I'm Bob's fact-checker."

Spirit of Generation Y Australian Research Results

Australian researchers have released findings from a national study of spirituality among Australian young people in their teens and twenties which show that 48% believe in a God, 20% do not and 32% are unsure. Of the second two groupings, two-thirds believe in a "higher being or life force." Only 19% of all those surveyed attend religious service once a month or more, but many more believe in God or Jesus, and pray regularly. They are not more self centred than older generations, with 27% involved in some kind of volunteer work per month. Those who are actively involved in service to the community and have positive civic values are far more likely to come from the ranks of those who have spiritual and religious beliefs and actively practise them.

Did You Know?

Lessons in happiness are to be introduced for 11-year olds in State schools in England, in an effort to combat the record numbers of teenagers suffering from severe depression. American psychologist Martin Seligman will oversee the training of teachers.



KONICA MINOLTA

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

Pat Lynch, C.E.O.

Susan Apáthy, Deputy C.E.O.

Maureen Condliffe, Operations Manager

Donna Campbell, Financial Controller

Debbie Vreeburg

Adele Pedreschi

Wendy Rozenberg

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

Website: www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz