



*The challenge to Catholic educators today is to recognise the cultural and religious realities of the world and seek to persuade students to accept that absolute truth does exist and that various faiths do have deep wisdom and hopefulness about life, about who we are, why we are here and where we are going.*

*Gandhi observed, "When in despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can even seem invincible, but in the end they always fall." Hope was the foundation of Gandhi's active life.*

*For students to become people of hope they must be given opportunities to make the world they know a better place through service initiatives they are able to identify and connect with. Religious education programmes will need to become more intellectually engaging, and schools will need to better address the spiritual development of students. Education to develop students' Emotional and Spiritual Intelligence is vitally important, empowering them to be hopeful and happy in spite of their circumstances and not because of them.*

*Albert Einstein said, "The most beautiful emotion is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of all true art and science. To sense that behind anything that can be experienced there is something that minds cannot grasp, whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly: this is religiousness. In this sense and in this sense only, I am a deeply religious man."*

*We know that our students will not necessarily take on some aspects of the Catholic tradition. However, if they can develop some commitment to the deepest values of our religion, and can also recognise the importance of religion to the vast majority of the world's population, then we will be moving along the right track.*

**"In God's will is our peace."**

DANTE

### Greetings

**Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou.**

**With Spring starting to appear we trust your energy levels are keeping pace with the new life that is emerging.**

### Catholic Character Review and Development Document 2007 Edition

The 2007 edition of the Catholic Character Review and Development Document is now available on the NZCEO website [www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz). There are no major changes, but a number of indicators have been refined. Bishop Peter Cullinane, the Bishop's Deputy for Education, has provided a preface, for which we thank him.

### Caritas Social Justice Week Information

Caritas has recently provided schools with excellent resources on caring for the land, to highlight Catholic Social Justice Week.

### Sport in Catholic Schools

This document was recently reissued to schools. A respondent suggested that it could also refer to prayer by individuals and teams. Another respondent suggested that principals could promote student access to Catholic sports clubs, ahead of access to clubs that have no Catholic affiliation. Thank you to the providers of these responses.

### Congratulations to a Leader Taking Up Her First Appointment as a Principal of a Catholic School

Julia Johnson, Reignier School, Taradale.

### Catholics Best at Australian School Principal Support

A survey of Australian primary school principals showed that Australian Catholic primary schools provide more support for their principals than state schools or private schools. In general, principals indicated that counselling services for principals were needed, and paid sabbatical leave.

### Did You Know?

'Trade Me' is now the preferred site for those seeking appointments as teachers.

### An Interesting Thought

Some people regard praying as if it were a medication – useful only when you have a headache. Some treat it like surgery – only as a last resort. Prayer should be treated as eating and drinking – a daily necessity, and done at regular intervals.

### Understanding Disaffected Catholics – an Australian paper

A paper presented at the Curia Leaders' Workshop conducted by the Diocese of Broken Bay in May 2007 suggested that 'disaffected seekers' seek out those who understand their spirituality, engage in activities that demonstrate their concern for others, and look for a local 'church of choice' where they can feel comfortable. They want a spiritual home that reflects equality, tolerance and understanding, teachings that stand the test of reasonableness and relationships that reflect the love that Jesus showed and spoke about. The full document is available on the 'Article Requests' sheet.



## Three Interesting Documentary Films – Available on DVD/Video

'Chasing God' – a journey through the places that are central to the world's great religious traditions

'Eternity' – this word chalked all over Sydney provoked many reactions.

'Mary' – the life of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint.

## An Idea Worth Considering

Monte Cecilia School, Hillsborough, invites mums and dads to meet to pray once a month for the school and its community. A box for prayer intentions is placed in the school foyer. Other schools have similar systems, some meeting once a week.

## Catholic Early Childhood Education Supported in New South Wales

NSW Bishops have backed a plan to trial the introduction of Catholic pre-schools, to help to reinforce Catholic identity and religious literacy. The Bishops are beginning to realise that more needs to be done to promote the spiritual development of baptised children before they reach school, according to Australian Catholic News.

## Europe Leads the Way in Religion-State Balance

Many in the West and in Muslim-majority states believe a functioning democracy requires a strict separation between state and religion. However, in most longstanding European democracies there is a complex and intertwined rapport between state and religion, with high degrees of legislation related to religion.

## Vatican Signs up for a Carbon Offset Forest

In a symbolic gesture, the Holy See has accepted an offer from a climate solutions company to plant a forest in Hungary to offset the Vatican's carbon dioxide emissions.

## Positions in Catholic Schools in Kimberley and Rural Western Australia

Please see the flyer accompanying this newsletter.

## Fostering a Seamless Catholic Education System

Schools are reminded of the letter on this topic sent to Boards and senior staff in May 2007. It focuses on ways that Catholic schools can work together, including linking primary and secondary schools. The letter can be requested from NZCEO.

## School Capital Expenditure Moratorium (excepting the Christchurch Diocese)

Bishops, Proprietors and Diocesan Property personnel have recently been advised of a moratorium on school capital works, established in order to ensure that Attendance Dues do not have to be increased more than a moderate amount. The moratorium will remain in place until current discussions with the Ministry of Education reach a conclusion, when it will be reassessed. The action, while naturally unwelcome in schools, is appropriate to safeguard the sustainability of the system in the long run.

## Congratulations to Australian Catholic Education Leader

Greg Whitby, the Parramatta Diocese Executive Director of Schools, has been named by the 'Bulletin' magazine as Australia's smartest and most innovative person working in education today. Greg believes that effective 21st century schooling requires personalised learning and a commitment to technology, particularly broadband networks.

## Non-profit Sector is Big in NZ

Nearly 100,000 non-profit institutions were operating in New Zealand in 2005, 10% of which are religious organisations. "Such organisations are critical to building strong, sustainable and connected communities," according to the Community and Voluntary Sector Minister, Luamanuva Winnie Laban.

## Religious Education and Theology

- Planning is occurring for work on Religious Studies Curriculum and Achievement Standards, with a Ministry of Education Steering Group being established.
- Congratulations to all those Catholic secondary schools that enable Year 13 students to study one or more theology papers through Otago University.



KONICA MINOLTA

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

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