



Catholicism can and ought to be lived in the market place of life. Christians are called to an inclusive life-centred spirituality.

This is the genius of Catholicism. In James Joyce's words,

"Catholic means 'here comes everyone'."

Given the prevailing culture our young people are immersed in, they are not normally moved and impressed by academic tomes or pronouncements from whomsoever. The reality of their lives is that they do pay attention to stories and experiences of others before being ready to accept the academic dimensions of our faith, or for that matter, the academic disciplines, generally.

This all means that educators have the challenge of preparing the ground before attempting to sow any seeds. Befriending the passion of young people who are flooded by the prevailing culture and demonstrating how the power of discipleship can make the world a better place, are good places to start. Young people want to unearth reasons for living and reasons for seeking to befriend the world, so they can find their place in it.

Poets and saints have spoken of the earth being alive with the grandeur of God. God reveals himself through our culture, and of course through the grandeur and intricacies of creation. As Karl Barth put it,

"All a teacher needs is the Bible and the newspaper in order to bring God into the lives of others."

God, who is all inclusive, manifests Himself in a multiplicity of ways. Maybe the best way to lead our young people to Him is through their everyday experiences so their hunger for the spiritual can be ultimately met by a gradual exposure to the truths of our Catholic faith, which embraces the world and does not shun it.

Greetings

Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koe me te whanau.

Greetings! We trust Term Four is going well for you despite inevitable pressures.

Dates For Your Calendars

- Catholic Schools Day, May 2nd 2007. Resource information will be supplied early in 2007.
- World Youth Day, Sydney 15-20th July 2008. The event will involve many young New Zealanders, and will include visits to New Zealand by up to 10,000 young Catholics from many countries. About 500,000 are expected to attend the Papal Mass.

Launch of Tu Kahikatea

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference document, Tu Kahikatea, the Framework for Catholic Ministry with Young People in Aotearoa New Zealand, was recently launched at the Catholic Education Convention. It expresses the goals of Catholic ministry with young people as: to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community; to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. It says: "Catholic schools create a living faith community. ... In partnership with parents and parishes, Catholic schools prepare young people to become full and active members of the Church; parishes, families/whanau and schools need an ongoing process to keep strengthening their relationships."

Catholicism to Become the Most Practised Denomination

Based on a 20-year trend in census figures, it is believed that Catholics are likely to overtake Anglicans as New Zealand's most dominant religious group. The number of Catholics will grow only slightly in that time, however the numbers of Anglicans and Presbyterians are dropping dramatically, so that Catholics will overtake them by 2011.

Congratulations

Tui Pascoe, Associate Principal of St Teresa's School, Bluff, has been elected National President of the New Zealand Catholic Women's League.

Caritas New Zealand provided excellent material for schools on environmental justice.

St Theresa's School, Invercargill promoted their Open Day in the Southland Times with a vivid half page advertisement featuring the children's artwork.

The Bishop's Bake Christmas Cake – an Excellent Fundraiser

The Catholic Caring Foundation and Aotea Bakeries have set up a fundraising opportunity for schools, through the sale of Christmas cakes. The larger 1kg cake costs \$29.95 (cash rebate \$5 to the school or parish), the 500g cake costs \$17.95 (rebate \$2). Further information is available from the Catholic Caring Foundation, 09 360 3045, email jessicap@cda.org.nz.

3dom Cards Available

Rye Tusani, a Hamilton social worker, has designed inspirational cards to help children realise how special they are. The cards have been made available free to a number of schools. To find out more visit www.3domcards.com, or phone Rye at 027 475 6548, or email rye@3domcards.com.

**"Praise youth and
it will prosper."**

IRISH PROVERB



Ground-Breaking Catholic School in Sydney

A school currently being built in Parramatta, West Sydney will be open from 6am to 10pm, will offer online tutorials from 8-10pm, will have a radically different lesson timetable, and will transmit study materials by mobile phone. A copy of the Catholic News article on this project is available on the Article Requests page.

The Spirit of Generation Y

Generation Y are what their parents and culture have made them: they mostly believe that an individual's views and preferences, provided they harm no-one else, should not be questioned or constrained, and that spiritual/religious beliefs are personal lifestyle choices, and in no way necessary. Despite moving away from traditional religious affiliations they have a strong sense of purpose in their lives and there is no evidence of a widespread plague of meaninglessness or social alienation among them.

Restorative Justice Training Courses

Following the success of the development of restorative justice principles and methods in New Zealand Adult Courts, some prisons, the Youth Justice system and some schools, professional training and education courses will become available from 2007 at the Auckland University of Technology. This would be an excellent opportunity for school staff to gain skills or to upskill in this area.

Worshipping Under Southern Skies - Rediscovering the Beauty of the Mass

Module One, Our Beginnings, was launched on 15th October.

Minister of Education Praises Catholic Schools

At the recent New Zealand Catholic Education Convention the Minister of Education, Hon Steve Maharey, praised Catholic schools for the quality of their education and for the strength of their special character, including their commitment to social justice and equity, and their concern for individual students' wellbeing.

Worthwhile Information and Websites

'Ready to Go Scripture Skits', Michael Theisen, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, St Mary's Press, Washington DC. These skits actively involve young people in the stories of our faith. Contact michaelt@nfcym.org for details.

Cybersafety: Individual copies of the papers presented at the July 2006 NetSafe Symposium are available at www.netsafe.org.nz. 'Safer Cyberspace' (the published proceedings of the symposium) is available from queries@netsafe.org.nz.

www.catholicmom.com/puppet_bio.htm is the site of a Catholic actress and writer who has prepared puppet shows for her young daughter's religion class. The delightful scripts would be suitable for Years 1-3, and it would be easy to create other scripts in a similar format. The site contains simple information about how to present the scripts, and their effectiveness. The scripts can be printed out free of charge.

'The School Mentor', Seamus O'Brien, describes senior students mentoring junior students. It is practical, and could be used by the teacher as a workbook when developing the skills of senior students. Contact Centre for Education Services, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Ave, Dublin 9. www.marinopartnership.ie.

Catholic Enquiry Centre Helps the Spiritually Curious

For 45 years the Catholic Enquiry Centre has promoted the Catholic faith through the media and through its responses to enquirers. Last year 2000 enquirers were enrolled for the free reading course of 10 booklets, 'What Catholics Believe'. It would be worth publicising the Centre's website, www.catholic-enquiry-centre.org.nz.

Governor-General Looks Forward to Visiting Catholic Schools

A recent communication from the new Governor-General, the Hon Anand Satyanand, expressed his delight that he already has some visits to Catholic schools booked in his diary.



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