



Anybody who does an analysis of the way post-modern people make decisions about others who are going to be in positions of leadership, in whatever setting, easily comes to the conclusion that inspiration, energy, confidence, enthusiasm, and engagement with others are the cluster of attributes that electors are attracted by.

These same attributes apply to making any relationship superior. Fundamentally, individuals in leadership positions in whatever setting in our Church community are challenged as members of the People of God, the Church, to be magnanimous, gracious and creative towards those they serve.

Leadership drives progress when it is authentic and makes things happen.

Leadership is well distributed in any community, with everyone having more than a spark of leadership in them. It has many diverse voices and can move an institution from good, to better, to best.

Of necessity, a leader has to be a champion of hope since hope is the potent force that provides the inspiration, enthusiasm and energy which enables individuals to grow and develop. If hope is not visible in the leader the organization however small or large will only limp along.

Ultimately, hope harnesses the cluster of attributes that enables people to think and plan over the horizon, which is a fundamental prerequisite in today's world.

Catholic schools are authentic when they endeavour to live by the vision of the Gospels. God's presence shines through the lives of those who know and follow God.

Tomorrow can be better than today. As long as we breathe we hope.

"Peace is the tranquillity of order."

ST AUGUSTINE

"Have a heart that sees."

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Greetings

Mō te Atua koutou e whakakaha i ngā wī katoa.

The month of the Holy Souls is a good time to reflect on the wonderful heritage we have received from those who have gone before us in our Catholic schools. Thank you for the contribution you are making to add to this heritage.

Catholic Schools' Day Date Now 19th May 2010

Owing to a clash of dates with a major Oceanic Region meeting of Catholic Bishops, which our Bishops will be attending, the date for next Catholic Schools Day has been shifted to 19th May 2010.

World Youth Day

Congratulations to those Catholic secondary school students who have enrolled to go on pilgrimage to World Youth Day, as part of a school group, or as part of their local parish youth group. Over 3,000 New Zealand pilgrims are registered to attend. Students will appreciate ongoing support from their communities to transform that initial registration into actual attendance at WYD. See www.worldyouthday.org.nz to catch the spirit of the event.

Diocesan Appointment

Congratulations to Lynette Roberts, who has been appointed as Manager for Schools in the Catholic Education Office, Palmerston North. Lynette will take up the position at the start of 2008.

A Reminder of Essential Good Practice

The Board of Trustees, the Principal and the Proprietor are all better protected if teachers offered a position in their school(s) are asked to read and sign assent to 'The Character of a Catholic School: Statement for Teachers'. This document is in the Handbook for Boards of Trustees 2007 edition (Appendix 15), and is available at www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz.

Congratulations

Jenny Kim, St Joseph's School, Orakei came 1st in the Auckland Region Korean Speech Competition. Tangirere Hokai, St Anne's School, Manurewa won the Auckland Primary Schools Speech Competition for Year 5/6 students with his speech on poverty. Matthew Thomas, St Mark's School, Pakuranga gained 1st place in the Zone Finals of the English Speech Competition.

Ben Connor, Sacred Heart College, Auckland and Pia Yi, St Dominic's College, Auckland had work published in the College Herald 18th September 2007.

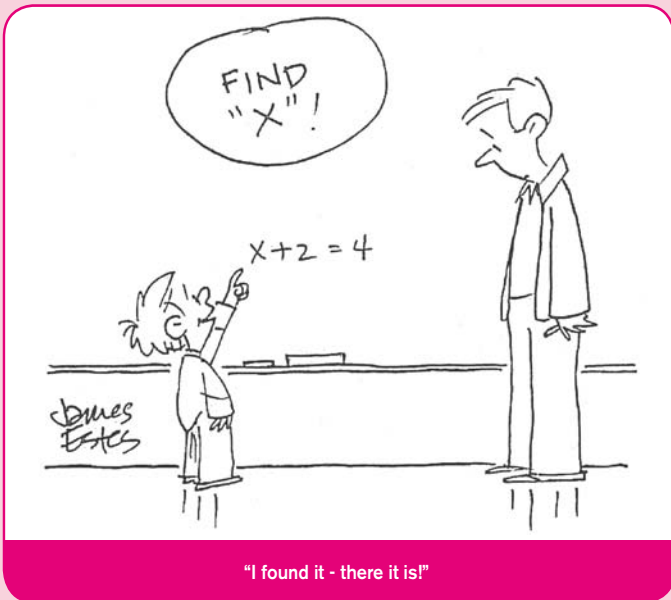
Congratulations to those schools and colleges with active programmes that enable increasing numbers of students to participate or be initiated into the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. This is wonderful evangelisation.

An Idea Worth Considering

St John's College, Hamilton, has parish co-ordinators who liaise with parish priests to facilitate the participation of their students in local Masses.

Sarasas Ektra Schools Thailand

Schools are reminded that NZCEO has a relationship agreement with this group of schools, and can help to facilitate student or teacher exchanges.



The Environment

Technology can create environmental problems, but it can also open up new solutions. It depends on the breadth of information we bring to our decision making, and the depth of our understanding of the moral choices we confront. Pope Benedict has reminded us that “courageous choices” are required to restore “a strong alliance between man and earth before it is too late.” He asks for “a strong commitment” on the environment.

Secondary Futures Launches ‘Inspiring Teachers of the Future’

In September Secondary Futures launched its second theme paper. It describes teachers’ four roles as: catalysts of knowledge; heralds of change; champions for Aotearoa; and scaffolders of self worth. Download the full paper from www.secondaryfutures.co.nz.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Primate of Ireland, on Catholic Education

“There is a viewpoint which tends to look at religious education as something ideological, divisive and doctrinaire and perhaps not really a good thing for young people and certainly alien to what should belong to a school curriculum in a modern pluralist democracy.

“The contrary is true. True religious education leads to an opening of children’s minds and helps them along the first steps to reflection on the meaning of their own lives and values. It stimulates that openness to the transcendent that encourages the young person to go beyond him or herself. It invites young people to experience the love of God which insists on love of one’s neighbour.

“Religious values can be the best antidote to a culture of consumerism and superficiality. A religious sense will help the young person to break through some of the dominant patterns of reflection in our society. Religious education should help overcome the difficulty of understanding community and communion in the face of narrow individualism, or the difficulty of speaking about solidarity and gratuitous love in a market-dominated culture in which everything has its price and you get just what you pay for.”

Universities Need More Religion

Monash University sociologist Gary Bouma (UNESCO Chair of Inter-Religious Relations) says that university curricula need to be re-written to incorporate a better understanding of religion, and to recognise the increased role of religion in national life.

Boys Learn More When Teachers ...

- Talk less
- Use joking and humour
- Are captivated by the great themes that engage male minds and hearts – facing adversity and danger, embarking on great adventures, attaining strength and competence, fighting battles for good and glory, testing yourself and becoming a hero, and learning how to make the physical world do your bidding.

Proclaiming the Gospel

“The proclamation of the Gospel remains the primary service that the Church owes to humanity, to offer the salvation of Christ to the man of our time, who is in many ways humiliated and oppressed, and to orientate in a Christian way cultural, social, and ethical transformations that are unfolding in the world.” Pope Benedict XVI

Understanding Sexuality Professional Development

Proprietors and Boards of Trustees are reminded that one of the ways to help support Catholic Character in the school is to encourage as many teachers as possible to take the professional development course Understanding Sexuality. Designed as a less time-intensive course than Christian Family Life Education, it is accessible and relevant to all teachers in Catholic schools.

Resurgence of Confucian Teachings in China

Chinese people, dismayed by the corruption, materialism and values clashes of the new China, are turning again to the ethical and spiritual teachings of Confucius. In Beijing, the Education Ministry has approved more courses in Confucian culture.



KONICA MINOLTA

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

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