

St Augustine proclaimed in the 5th Century AD: "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song." This insight is pertinent as the Year of Faith gains momentum.

Easter joy comes from a recognition that Christ rose from the dead with all the hope this reality engenders.

Evangelisation is the responsibility of each of us to proclaim the reality that it is "in Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts)

You might say well, I understand all of this, so why should I do anything special in this Year of Evangelisation and Faith? We all know in our professional lives that if we are not committed to review, reflection and improvement we go stale. Surely this renewal and rejuvenation also applies to our faith. We all need to recharge the flame of our baptismal candle.

This can be simply done by becoming more of a person of joy in our relationships with others: people are sacred; life is sacred and life has worth.

By nourishing our spiritual lives through prayer and sacrament we will renew our relationship with the living God and at the same time renew our relationship with those with whom we live and work.

Joy inevitably is the honey that will attract others to say, "See how they love one another". (Acts) By following this example of the early Christians we can become more joyful Easter people.

"It is precisely in the Gospel of Christ... that the Catholic school finds its definition."

Para 9, The Catholic School

Greetings

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

We wish you well and offer you our active support as you settle into 2013.

National Catholic Schools Day, 22 May, 2013

- "The 'countercultural' work of Catholic schools – forming young lives in virtue, truth and a vivid Catholic identity – remains crucial. Catholic schools offer a path not just to knowledge but to moral wholeness. Catholic schools play an irreplaceable role in making vigorous Christian witness a reality." (Archbishop Charles Chaput)
- Resource information has been supplied by NZCEO. A music festival for the Year of Faith is suggested as a key initiative as part of Catholic Schools Day this year. If you have particular requests or plans please let us know.

Lenten Resource from Caritas

Caritas is congratulated on the excellent Lenten resource prepared for schools. This year's Lenten theme is 'Walk faithfully the Way, Speak courageously the Truth, Live joyfully the Life', and the materials in the school pack amply fulfil this theme.

22 March is the Caritas Global Family Day. Schools are asked to mark this by organising a really simple lunch meal (eg rice or bread and water) and give donations.

Catholic Character Review and Development – Topics of Special Interest for 2013: Information for Senior Staff and Boards of Trustees

Catholic Character reviewers will ask schools about: levels of resourcing for professional development as a whole; for all staff in the Catholic Character dimension; for teachers who hold tagged positions; and for teachers of Religious Education. Boards of Trustees need to be aware of this.

Congratulations

Geoff Ricketts, Chairman of the Board of NZCEO, is congratulated on being made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year Honours.

Proprietor's Appointees on Boards of Trustees – a Reminder

The term of appointment for Proprietor's appointees' ends at the Board election time. Proprietors may re-appoint them, or they may appoint new people to the role.

Congratulations to Principals New to Leadership in Catholic Schools

Margaret Duynhoven, St Joseph's School Opunake

Mary-Angela Tombs, St Teresa's School, Karori

Vanessa Jensen, St Patrick's School, Kilbirnie

James McMullan, St Joseph's School, Picton

Tony Shaw, Catholic Cathedral College, Christchurch

Angela Marshall, St Joseph's School, Fairlie

Tony Lamb, Our Lady of the Snows School, Methven

Teachers Gain Qualifications in Teaching in Catholic Schools

In 2012 approximately 50 students nationwide received Diplomas in Religious Studies, Catechetical Studies qualifications, and other qualifications to enhance their ability to support Catholic Character and teach Religious Education. We congratulate the institutions, teachers and students involved.

The Catholic Institute Prospectus Available

The 2013 prospectus of The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand is available in paper form or electronically. Contact the administrator v.gray@tci.ac.nz, phone 04 819 8380, or visit www.tci.ac.nz. An exciting collection of short term and longer courses, from 'taster' faith updates through to Masters, is available.

The Front End of the Church: School Newsletters, the Church and the Parish

School leaders are reminded that the school newsletter and the school website are the front door of the Church for many parents. It is important that right at the top or the front there is a clear Catholic statement, about the beliefs, values and purpose of the school. It is important also to have a clear link with the parish. Catholic schools are agents of evangelisation, and this message needs to be inescapable for all who make contact with them.

Microsoft and NZ Catholic Schools

Work continues to set up groups to pilot the Microsoft initiative. Progress information will be made available regularly.

Interesting Websites

<http://pinterest.com/emilierose23/church-art> has delightful examples of "churchy art" which might be very stimulating for student artists. Beate Heinen's 'Christmas in a Garbage Truck' and Natalia Moroz's 'Supper at Martha's' are particularly evocative for Religious Education classes.

www.tci.ac.nz, has a number of short videos under its left hand side heading 'Did you Know?' including the singing of the Our Father in Aramaic, the daily language of Jesus, which is still spoken by a number of small communities in the Middle East.

www.faithcentral.net.nz is the website supporting the Catholic secondary schools' Religious Education curriculum. Boards of Trustees, parish priests and parents will also find the site well worth visiting.

www.prayers4gatherings.com provides prayers for staff meetings, classrooms, and other gatherings. A subscription is A\$10.

www.csyma.com is the updated website of Catholic Schools' Youth Ministry Australia (CYSMA).

6th International Conference on Catholic Educational Leadership: Paradox and Possibility, Sydney 12-14 August

Registration for this conference for leaders in Catholic schools and Catholic school systems opens on 1 April. Early bird closes 13 May. See www.acu.edu.au.

A Worthwhile Cause for Prayer and Fundraising – Bethlehem University

Br Peter Bray, formerly of Wellington Catholic Education Centre, is now Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University. Staff and students there face ongoing instability and violence, which makes it very hard for their Palestinian students to continue their education. Prayers are needed, and funds are needed. Contact NZCEO for information about sending donations.

"Our mission is to bring the world to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ to the world."

Archbishop Charles Chaput

Dealing with Teacher Stress

Ian Vickers, Assistant Principal, Sancta Maria College, Auckland, who presented on supporting teacher wellbeing at the 2012 Catholic Education Convention, has developed 'The Good New Habits Book'. He is also available to do presentations for school staff and Boards of Trustees. Email i.vickers@sanctamaria.school.nz.

Did You Know?

The world's population is 32% Christian, 23% Muslim, 15% Hindu and 7% Buddhist, according to a new study from the Pew Research Center. 84% worldwide express a religious affiliation, and 16% express no religious affiliation.

National Ethnicities in NZ Catholic Schools - 2012 July Statistics

Nationally, NZ Catholic school students are 59% European, 13% Māori, 15% Pasifika, 12% Asian, 3% Other, and 1% Foreign Fee Paying students. Proportions differ significantly by diocese. Auckland has almost 40% of the country's Catholic school students, and they are 42% European, 9% Māori, 28% Pasifika, 16% Asian. Palmerston North has the highest Māori percentage, 23%. Dunedin has the highest European percentage, 74%. Complete statistics are available from NZCEO.



"My science project reflects real-world challenges by being behind schedule and over budget."



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Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki.

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