

WHAT DOES POPE FRANCIS MEAN WHEN HE OFTEN EXHORTS US TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF JESUS?

The fundamental reason the Catholic Church is deeply involved with Catholic schools is to ground their students in the faith. Without this solid life-giving bloodstream their identity is suspect.

For many, many years the emphasis in religious teaching has been about the Faith i.e theology, sacraments, history, scripture, liturgy and so on. At the same time the ethos of our schools has been based on scholarship, service, justice and the common good, amongst other things. We have always aspirationally talked about a holistic education for students so they are able to take their place in society as contributing citizens.

In today's world with its competing and conflicting messages, young people will only be persuaded to actively live out a Catholic life style when they are motivated by conviction arising from meeting the person of Jesus in the Gospel and in committed people around them.

And this is where Pope Francis's message is focused. Many do not know very much about the historical Jesus and why he was appealing to so many in his own time. His interaction with people was life giving. "I am the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6).

The challenge of our approach to evangelisation is a simple one. Fundamentally we need to focus more on the Gospels and those writings in the New Testament, like the Acts of the Apostles, which shine a light on Jesus. These books are the basis of faith development and ultimately the development of convictions about the authenticity of Christian belief.

As we start 2015, trustees, principals and teachers may care to reflect on our Pope's rather salient message about the need to focus more on the person of Jesus as the basis of our Faith.

Greetings

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe me tō whānau.

Hopefully the year so far has been good to you! We offer you our support and goodwill.

Registrations Have Opened for the NZ Catholic Education Convention

'Horizons of Hope', New Zealand's triennial Catholic Education Convention, will take place in Wellington, 10-12 June 2015. Registrations open on 4 March at www.cathedconvention2015.co.nz

Congratulations to New Cardinals

Warm congratulations are extended to Cardinal John Dew of Wellington and to Cardinal Soane Mafi of Tonga. We offer our prayerful support.

Congratulations to New Bishop

Congratulations are also extended to Bishop Stephen Lowe, recently consecrated as the Bishop of Hamilton.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Br Patrick Lynch, CEO of the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, on his knighthood (KNZM), announced in the New Year Honours. The knighthood will be bestowed in May, after which Br Pat's official title (formal occasions only!) will be Brother Sir Patrick. The Catholic Education community is deeply grateful for Br Pat's many years of outstanding work for Catholic education and for the wider educational community, which have led to this honour.

CEO of NZCEO to Step Down from his Role

On 29 January it was announced that Br Patrick Lynch will step down from his role as CEO later in the year, at a time to be determined. The position has been advertised.

Appointment Letters for Catholic Schools

Last year template appointment letters (including Schedules defining S65 and S66 requirements), were circulated to Proprietors, Boards of Trustees, Principals and diocesan education personnel. The letters are also available on the NZCEO website and from the Office. As a result of requests from some principals, template appointment letters are now being developed for fixed term appointments. They will be circulated later in the year.

Congratulations to Principals New to Leadership in a Catholic School

Jan Waelen, Marcellin College, Auckland

Nixon Cooper, Rosmini College, Takapuna

Louise Moore, Sancta Maria College, Flatbush, Auckland

Susan McDonald, St Therese's School, Three Kings, Auckland

Michael Piper, St Mary MacKillop Catholic School, Mangere, Auckland

Anton Heyns, St Mary's School, Gisborne

Wynita Roberts, St Joseph's School, Patea

Paula Wells, Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth

Maria Potter, Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt

Jennifer Muth, St Teresa's School, Featherston

Tom Wallis, St Patrick's School, Bryndwr, Christchurch

Frank McManus, Sacred Heart School, Addington, Christchurch

Lorraine Francis-Rees, St Joseph's School, Pleasant Point.

"Do not walk through life without leaving worthy evidence of your passage."

St Pope John XXIII

National Guidelines for the Realignment of the Year 7-10 Religious Education Curriculum

These guidelines have now been approved. Congratulations to NCRS on this achievement. Only the four original trial schools are approved to use the realigned curriculum in 2015, but other secondary schools can begin to prepare for realignment in 2016. Religious Education Advisors will be available to assist. Further information is available from NCRS.

New Catholic Primary School for Christchurch

A new Catholic primary school is to be opened. The school will serve the new St Francis of Assisi parish, Mairehau. It will replace two schools, Our Lady of Fatima School and St Paul's School. It is expected that the new school will be operational at the start of 2016.

Investing in Educational Success

Eleven Communities of Schools have been set up, with a number of Catholic schools included within them. The Office considers that it is worth making use of the significant Government funding available.

Interesting Websites

www.mercyschools.org.nz is a new collection of resources for NZ's Mercy Sisters-founded primary schools. It may be of interest to other Catholic schools, and to secondary schools with Years 7-8 students.

www.wordonfire.org is the website set up by Fr Robert Barron. It is full of interesting material. You Tube also contains many short presentations by Fr Barron.

Did You Know?

In the United States of America there are 250 Catholic universities and (tertiary) colleges. See www.accunet.org.

Holy Land Pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and the Palestine Territories

A Holy Land pilgrimage will take place in September-October 2015, led by Pat McCarthy, former editor of NZ Catholic, with Fr Bernie Thomas of Auckland as chaplain. The 20-day pilgrimage will visit holy places in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee and Jordan, including Petra. For a free brochure phone Pat on 09 480 4463 or email patsuzie@slingshot.co.nz. Visit Pat's excellent website www.seetheholyland.net for information and photos of sacred sites.

Caritas Singout4Justice Song Writing Event

The 2015 competition has been launched for Year 7-10 students and Year 11-13 students. Entries are due by Friday 24 April. See www.caritas.org.nz/singout4justice.

Te Warawara: Te Wairua o te iwi o Te Rarawa

This resource has recently been prepared for teachers in the North Hokianga. It provides activities that could be used by other schools seeking to preserve their natural taonga. For more information contact crispin@caritas.org.nz.

Scholas Teams with Google, IBM and Microsoft

The Pope's international educational initiative, Scholas has now developed into the programme Scholas Labs. Supported by the Pope, its mission is to improve education on a global level. It includes Scholas Citizenship. See www.scholasoccurentes.org.

"We get deeper into Christ by allowing him to get into us."

John Jowett

Did You Know?

The words of our national anthem, God Defend New Zealand, were written by Thomas Bracken who had a close association with Bishop Patrick Moran. He also wrote for The Tablet. The music was composed by John Joseph Woods while he was head teacher of St Patrick's School, Lawrence.

Catholic School Teaching Positions across England

Primary, secondary, early childhood and special needs positions are available for September 2015 and January 2016. See www.teachingjobslondon.com.au or email teacher@teachingjobslondon.com.au.

Investing in Educational Success Teacher-led Innovation Fund

School leaders are reminded that it would be worth putting in an application for a project that could be funded in this way. The current application round has closed, but another round will open late in 2015.

Open-to-Learning Conversations Workshop

The University of Auckland Centre for Educational Leaders is to run a two-day workshop on open-to-learning conversations in Wellington, 12-13 May 2015. The workshop deals with building relationships based on respect while tackling significant work tasks and problems. See www.uacel.ac.nz/courses or contact uacel@auckland.ac.nz.



"My teacher said I don't pay enough attention in class. At least I think that's what she said."



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

Jane O'Connell 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: nzceooffice@nzceo.org.nz Website: www.nzceo.org.nz