



*The Catholic Character Reviews of our schools provide high praise for the way in which teachers instil values in our pupils, both in primary schools, where there is much explicit teaching of values, and in secondary schools where social justice activities are very well promoted.*

*Catholic schools base their work on some well articulated values and can be proud of what they do. What then, is the next step, in relation to values and the Catholic school, and how is values teaching influenced by the fact that a school is Catholic?*

*For Catholic schools the religious and the spiritual animate values teaching, taking it to a higher and more integrated level. Teachers are aware that they teach their students by every word, look and gesture throughout the school day. This is what makes teaching such an awesome responsibility. In the teaching of values, the behaviour and spirit of the teacher is central. Therefore personal reflection on this responsibility is crucial.*

*The reflection that teachers will undertake about the new curriculum will be a wonderful opportunity for them to take time in personal reflection about the deeply-held convictions that they bring to their lives and to their teaching. For instance, as they work to enable young people to develop the skills of self-management, and self-knowledge, they will perhaps ask themselves the same sorts of questions that they ask their students to consider. What are the things that matter most to me? Who are the people I admire most? What kind of person do I definitely not want to be? What are the values I would not compromise under any circumstances?*

*These personal reflections combined with the wisdom of the Church teaching promoted in our schools will enable both individual teachers and schools as a body to further enrich the education they offer to students.*

### Greetings

**Tēna koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.**

**We trust you had a restful and blessed Easter holiday.**

### Congratulations on Catholic Schools' Day 2007

We trust that you had a wonderful Catholic Schools' Day. Reports from throughout the country suggest that many schools joined with neighbouring schools and early childhood centres to celebrate community, and to support the energy, hope and faith that are at the heart of Catholic education. Two examples of activities were:

In Central Otago students, staff, parents and parishioners from Wanaka, Ranfurly, Alexandra and Queenstown celebrated Mass together, followed by lunch and games. The Mayors of both districts were invited.

Marian School, Hamilton, prepared a prayer sponsorship card. Each student put his or her name on a card, then asked members of the parish to volunteer to pray for the student. The cards were placed on display at the Mass in the cathedral for Catholic Schools' Day.

### Handbook for Boards of Trustees of New Zealand Catholic Schools

As new Boards of Trustees take up their roles the Office has already received inquiries about the next edition of the Handbook. The next edition is due out in July 2007, and orders will be handled by diocesan education offices in due course. The current (yellow covered) edition is still accurate, and is available to download if needed, from [www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz).

### Corrections to the 2007 Catholic Directory

Catholic Communications expresses apologies for an incorrect listing on p170 for Sacred Heart School, Addington Christchurch. The principal is Mrs Trish Sleeman.

Also, St Joseph's School Balclutha was omitted in error. Please amend p189: Dunedin diocese, Balclutha, St Joseph's School, 18 Stewart St, Balclutha, 9230, Ph: 03-418 2548, Fax: 03-418 2549, Email [stjos@ihug.co.nz](mailto:stjos@ihug.co.nz), Deirdre O'Flynn (Principal), Belinda Hood (DRS).

### Essential Good Practice When Appointing Teaching Staff

Since the early days of integration it has been normal good practice to protect the Board of Trustees and the Proprietor by providing teachers coming onto the staff of a Catholic school with the document 'The Character of a Catholic School: Brief Statement for the Information of Teachers'. It is customary to ask new teachers to read and sign that they are prepared to accept what that document lays out. This document is in the Handbook for Boards of Trustees of New Zealand Catholic Schools (see the NZCEO website if necessary). A copy of the document is also enclosed with this mailout. It would also be helpful to provide new employees with a copy of the New Zealand Catholic Schools' Code of Ethics, and a copy of The Philosophy of New Zealand Catholic Schools. Both these documents are available on the NZCEO website [www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz](http://www.nzceo.catholic.org.nz).

### Boards of Trustees Dealing with Difficult Personnel Issues

From time to time difficult personnel issues arise for Boards. The NZCEO Office has built up a lot of institutional memory and experience in dealing with particularly sensitive cases, and is very willing to provide confidential advice to Boards if desired.

**"A kind word is like a spring day."**

RUSSIAN PROVERB



"How My Parents Made Me Spend My Vacation."

## We Welcome Principals New to Catholic Schools

- Rosemary Kemp, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Epsom
- Dianne Porter, St Mary's School, Otorohanga
- Tom Sheehan, St Matthew's School, Marton
- Wendie Hildred, St Mary's School, Foxton
- Dee Luckin, St Joseph's School, Opunake

## 2006 Census Information Available

The latest population figures, broken down by local areas, have been sourced from Statistics New Zealand, and prepared by NZCEO in a format that will be useful for Catholic schools. Schools that would like the statistics for their area are invited to contact NZCEO requesting this information.

## Test Bank of Catholic Bible Questions Available

Secondary school teachers of Religious Education may be interested to know that retired teacher Br Malcolm Melcher has made available, free on the internet, his test bank of over 900 Bible questions. Visit the home page at [www.boshf.org/biblebank](http://www.boshf.org/biblebank). If you would like to get into the full site email [bmalcolmm@yahoo.com](mailto:bmalcolmm@yahoo.com) for a password.

## Did You Know?

Africa and Asia now account for over 20% of the Catholics in the world, according to figures released by the Holy See. Overall, the Church is keeping pace with the rate of population growth around the world.

India has 1 billion plus people, speaking an estimated 400 languages.

About 80% of the population is Hindu, and 25 million - about 2.4% - are Christian.

## An Interesting Website

[www.staygreat.com](http://www.staygreat.com) is a spirituality site for young adults, developed by Fr Mark Link sj. It is the equivalent of Sacred Space, [www.sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie), the daily prayer site for adults.

## A Big Thank You

We recently asked schools who had not been sending in their newsletter whether they would like to consider doing so. A big thank you to those schools that responded with newsletters. The congratulations section has expanded to include a separate sports insert, in part as a result of receiving newsletters from more schools.

## Fostering Links between Catholic Schools – a Good Idea

Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton, as part of its service dimension, is sending two volunteer groups of year 13 students to Marian Junior School and Jubilee Catholic Early Childhood Centre once a week at interval or lunchtime. The students work with small groups of children, as directed by staff, and build up good relationships as well as assisting the children's educational development.

## Help Applying for Contestable Funding, Attracting Trustees, Staff Recruitment

Cognition Consulting (Multi Serve Education Trust), which has a Memorandum of Understanding with NZCEO, has worked successfully with Catholic schools to enable them to gain contestable funding, to attract and retain BOT members, to plan projects and to recruit senior management. Contact Carolyn MacDonell, [cmacdonell@cognitionconsulting.co.nz](mailto:cmacdonell@cognitionconsulting.co.nz), or phone 09 638 4815 to discuss your needs.

## Worthwhile Reading

'Nourished by Eucharist', ed. Helen Bergin and Susan Smith, 2006, Accent Publications, Auckland. This is a useful resource for school, parish communities and individuals.

## An Excellent Website on Vocations

[www.calledtoday.com](http://www.calledtoday.com) is an excellent UK vocations site for teenagers. Although the details on the site are not New Zealand ones, the site is very appealing, and would be worth using in Religious Education or Careers classes. It is run by the UK National Office for Vocation, [www.ukvocation.org](http://www.ukvocation.org).



KONICA MINOLTA

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

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