

Catholic theology is strong in emphasising that all of creation is good. Our spirituality is one that affirms the world. The world and society are not bad!! As members of the human race we live out our lives as Christians in the world, since we are on a spiritual journey.

None of us has a monopoly on enlightenment. We are part of a world of immense diversity with different cultures, ethnicities, religions, philosophies and ways of doing things. It is not overly difficult to seek out progress and solutions to problems, most of which can be negotiated.

Very clearly, we always need to be Timothy Schaeffers listeners, interacters and affirmers of life which is fundamental to being human.

Pope Francis keeps urging us to engage with the world and not simply navel gaze in relation to ourselves and our particular community. It is from this simple view that the strong Catholic 'common good' principle emerges. Goodness is found in many places and amongst diverse people.

The world's most effective diplomats commence with the premise that peace begins with a smile. This sounds simplistic, but it is indeed profound.

In the final analysis we will be judged by others on what we do as opposed to what we say, and this equally applies to our relationship with our God.

*"To give up hope is to give up on life."*

Les Brown

### Greetings

**Ki a tātou te hunga ora, ngā mōrehu o rātou mā, tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou, tēnā tātou katoa.**

**Winter is a time for hard work and looking ahead as the year scampers along. We offer you our support and good will in your important educational work.**

### Catholic Schools Day – Thank you!

Thank you for your participation – the range of initiatives throughout the country was heart-warming. You have strengthened our individual, regional and national identity by presenting the face of Catholic education to our society.

### Microsoft – NZCEO MS365 Initiative for Schools

Planning is progressing on this initiative, and information has recently been circulated to every Catholic school in the country. Final negotiations with Microsoft are taking place before up to ten schools in the Auckland/Waikato/Bay of Plenty regions are invited to become pilot schools, adopting Microsoft 365 in whole or in part. It is envisaged that any Catholic school will be able to join the project from early in 2014. Information about the progress of the initiative will be delivered on a regular basis to all Catholic schools, so everybody is up to speed with developments.

An offer from Microsoft has been circulated to Catholic Schools. The Surface RT (tablet) is available at highly reduced prices until the end of September. Contact [m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz](mailto:m.condliffe@nzceo.org.nz) for more details.

### New Apostolic Nuncio Welcomed

The new Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand, His Excellency Archbishop Martin Krebs, is welcomed to New Zealand.

### New Boards of Trustees in Catholic Schools

Our new trustees are welcomed to our schools, both the elected parent representatives and the Proprietor's Appointees. Trustees have a hugely important role in sustaining and strengthening the excellence of our schools, in particular their Catholic Character.

### Handbook for Boards of Trustees, Principals and Staff of Catholic Integrated Schools 2013 Edition Circulated

The 2013 Edition of the Handbook for Boards of Trustees of Catholic Integrated Schools has been printed and circulated. Boards should seek copies from their diocesan Catholic education office in the first instance. The document is also on the NZCEO website, and extra hard copies are available at \$5 each (plus post and packaging) from NZCEO.

### Consultation on Review of the Religious Studies Achievement Standards

Secondary schools are encouraged to take part in the consultation on the draft standards matrix by going to <http://ncea.tki.org.nz/Religious-studies-consultation>. The review aims to align the standards with the outcomes of National Curriculum Levels 6-8, to address any issues of duplication of standards, and to address any issues of credit parity. It is important that every school puts in a response. Note that the consultation is open until 9 August.

### Catholic Secondary Schools Do Well in NCEA 2012

The NCEA results published in various publications show how well our Catholic secondary schools are performing. Teachers and leadership are congratulated and thanked for the vision, high expectations and hard work – the solid Catholic culture – which has made this possible.

## Congratulations

- St Peter's College, Epsom, and St Therese School, Three Kings, featured on Campbell News on 19 June, in a good news story showing the St Peter's boys assisting the Year 1 children with their reading.
- St Joseph's School Rangiora, in a school newsletter, provided a page for parents on how to help and educated their children before Mass, during Mass and afterwards. The same newsletter had a lovely prayer of commitment, in both Māori and English.
- Stella Maris Primary School, Silverdale has a commentary on the coming Sunday Gospel at the start of every school newsletter.
- The winners of the 2013 Caritas Singout4Justice Songwriting Competition were Elena Siljic, Year 13, Carmel College, Auckland with her song 'Land of the Lord' and Lucy Wilkins, Year 10, Kavanagh College, Dunedin, with her song 'One Human Family'. Hear the songs on [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz).
- Catholic Cathedral College, Christchurch Year 13 Religious Education students have been working with a Year One class at St Mary's School.
- St John's School, Mairangi Bay is the first school in New Zealand to receive Silver Accreditation with Investors in People New Zealand. The school was praised for outstanding resilience, strong leadership, robust planning and an excellent coaching model for staff.

## Christian Meditation for Children: Address Correction

We apologise for giving the wrong email address for Fr Peter Murphy in our last newsletter. His correct email is [frpetermurphy64@gmail.com](mailto:frpetermurphy64@gmail.com). Fr Peter notes that he is seeing staff of at least 2-3 new schools each term to introduce Christian meditation for children.

## Websites to Check Out

[www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com) for daily Mass and the Prayer of the Church.

[www.CTSbooks.org](http://www.CTSbooks.org) to order a poster-sized photo of Pope Francis, and other Catholic resources.

[www.magisreasonfaith.org](http://www.magisreasonfaith.org) to see a fascinating range of resources aligning the latest work in the sciences with our understanding of religion. Secondary school teachers, and parents of secondary school students, might be impressed with what is available.

## Help Caritas through Kiwikarma

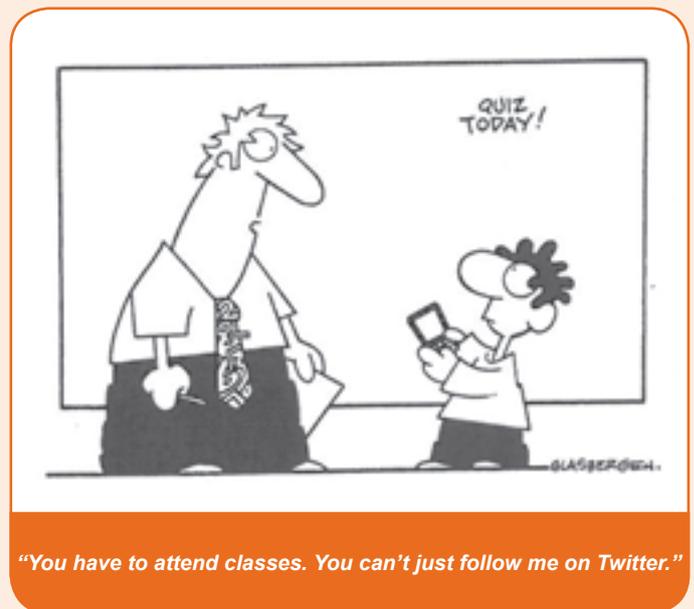
Schools could use [www.kiwikarma.co.nz](http://www.kiwikarma.co.nz) when making accommodation bookings, as the site will give 3% of the cost of the room to Caritas. It could also be helpful to recommend this site to parents and associates.

## Inclusion 4 Autism – You Tube

A simple and touching educational YouTube documentary called Inclusion 4 Autism shows a family talking about how their autistic family member was helped by simple inclusion by classmates. It will be a hit with any class working on justice, inclusion, and related topics.

## Pope Francis Says – Recent Quotes

- “Don't forget: never a closed Church, but a Church that goes out to the peripheries of existence.”
- “When you give alms, do you touch the hand of the one to whom you give alms?”
- “The principal element in school is to learn to be magnanimous... to have a big heart, to have greatness of mind, to have great ideals, to desire to do great things to respond to what God asks of us, and to do well the little things of each day with a great heart open to God and to others.”
- “To educate is not a profession but an attitude, a way of being... to be in the midst of young people to give them hope, optimism for their journey in the world... above all be witnesses with your life of what you communicate.”



**KONICA MINOLTA**

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

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*"From the little spark may burst a mighty flame."*

Dante Alighieri