

## GREATER COLLABORATION BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

When we look back to 1877 and recall that New Zealand's Catholic Bishops at that time decided they would deliberately build a national parallel Catholic school system, much has been achieved.

This was done as the country's Parliament embarked on a national framework of schools with the advent of the 1877 Education Act.

The Integration of the Catholic school system into the State system of schools in the late 1970's and the early 1980's followed the passage of the 1975 Private Schools Conditional Integration Act.

Today our 238 schools and their six Dioceses work very well together with an emphasis on the common good, which is a fundamental principle of Catholic theology.

The emergence of the technology revolution with its fibre drop initiative, and the School Network Upgrade Programme (SNUP) for every school by the end of 2016, ushers in another level of co-operation for every Catholic school. Linked to this is the Network For Learning developments, including the Pond structure and the availability at no charge of the Microsoft 365 software with the templates for the SharePoint and Lyne programmes.

While nothing dramatic is to be gained by only concentrating on one school's particular site, everything can be gained through innovative collaboration, particularly in the areas of sharing Religious Education and special character resources. Fortunately, work is going on to enable this collaboration to occur under the leadership of The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand and the New Zealand Catholic Education Office.

It will be wonderful when teachers at, say, St Patrick's School Nightcaps in Southland and those in Pawarenga in the Hokianga, will be able to interact with one another and with all of our other schools in between.

On a broader global front, Catholic teachers and students in New Zealand can already communicate with their colleagues in the United States of America via the vibrant and innovative twitter community at [www.catholicchat.blogspot.com](http://www.catholicchat.blogspot.com). Through such powerful connections we all can gain a more global perspective and learn much from one another.

### Greetings

Kia tau te rangimārie.

Greetings! We wish you well as you plan for the very busy Term 4

### Plan Now to Attend NZ Catholic Education Convention

'Horizons of Hope' New Zealand's triennial Catholic Education Convention, will take place in Wellington, 10-12 June 2015. The form to fill out if you wish to present a seminar is being emailed to every Catholic school, parish, diocesan office, proprietor and interested party. Please send in applications to present a seminar by 12 November.

### Appointment Letters Provided for Catholic Schools

As a result of longstanding concerns with schools' lack of strength to take action if a teacher should fail to uphold the school's special character, an employment law firm was engaged to write template appointment letters (including Schedules defining S65 and S66 requirements), which have recently been circulated to Proprietors, Boards of Trustees, Principals and diocesan education personnel. We strongly urge you to use these formats in future when appointing staff, to ensure that matters of special character are adequately covered at the time of appointment. The letters are also available on the NZCEO website and from the Office.

### National Excellence in Teaching Award to Catholic Educator.

Congratulations to Terry Consedine, Deputy Principal, Aquinas College, Tauranga, who has received a national excellence award in teaching for 2014.

### Congratulations to Principals New to Leadership in a Catholic School

Elizabeth Walker, St Leo's School, Devonport

Geraldine Sumner, St Francis School, Thames

Chris Theobald, Holy Family School, Porirua

### Websites Worth Investigating

[www.think1.tv](http://www.think1.tv), established by the Sisters of Nazareth, provides a collection of top international educational presentations. The Sisters promote innovation in education, worldwide. (Select English, as the website default is Portuguese.)

[www.scholasoccurentes.org](http://www.scholasoccurentes.org) is a website recently launched by the Pope, whose goal is to bring together schools worldwide, regardless of race or religion. (Select English, as much of the website is in Spanish, reflecting its origins in work the Pope did in South America over the years.)

[www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1403144.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1403144.htm) - Pope Francis' 10 tips for happiness.

[www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org) – sustaining Catholic identity in a school.

[www.gpbs.com.au](http://www.gpbs.com.au) GPBS (Gather, Proclaim, Break, Send) is a multimedia website connecting faith, liturgy and life, for School and Parish communities searching for contemporary resources that speak to the hearts and minds of the young.

[www.imissal.com](http://www.imissal.com) provides the Missal readings for the day, also available as an App

[www.creativecommons.org.nz/ccinschools](http://www.creativecommons.org.nz/ccinschools) provides a range of resources to enable schools to share and collaborate, confidently and legally.

[www.catholicstv.com](http://www.catholicstv.com) – 2 minute vignettes from 18-25 year olds on why being a Catholic is worthwhile. Also on twitter, Facebook, Pinterest.

[www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com) - Paulist Fathers (also twitter and facebook)

[www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com) – resources for teaching Religious Education.

[www.thereligionteacher.com](http://www.thereligionteacher.com) - lots of information on lesson planning.

*"We ought to emphasise what nourishes us, not what drains us."*

(Anon)

## Congratulations

- Verdon College, Invercargill: 2014 winners of the Catholic Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition, the Bishop's Shield.
- Sancta Maria Primary School, Flat Bush: wonderful information on Catholic Character and Religious Education on the school website [www.sanctamariaprimary.school.nz](http://www.sanctamariaprimary.school.nz).
- Catholic Cathedral College and Marian College Christchurch: students raised \$2,500 in the Social Justice Week Caritas Challenge.
- Wellington schools St Catherine's College, St Mary's College, St Patrick's College Kilbirnie and St Patrick's College Silverstream: students combined to raise more than \$5,000 in a 'Change for Change' concert, for Chanel College in Samoa. They plan to continue until they reach \$20,000.
- John Paul College, Rotorua: students' continuing work with the St Vincent de Paul 'Full Fill Van' can be seen on You Tube.
- Hato Paora College, Feilding: Student Sonny McLean was a member of the team that won Te Wero Pakihi (The Business Challenge), a national event organised by Māori Women's Development Inc.
- Cullinane College, Whanganui: staged a Concert of Hope for the Marist Mission School in Ranong, Thailand, which teaches refugee children escaping from Myanmar. The concert raised over \$2,320.00, providing a teacher for most of a year.

## 40th Jubilee

St Peter's College, Palmerston North is celebrating its 40th Jubilee at Labour Weekend. See [www.stpeterspn.school.nz/40th-anniversary-reunion.html](http://www.stpeterspn.school.nz/40th-anniversary-reunion.html)

## John Main Seminar 15-18 January, 2015, Hamilton

The annual international John Main seminar, run by the World Community for Christian Meditation, will be held in NZ in January. It will focus on spirituality and religion in a secular age, with David Tacey as the keynote speaker. Register at [www.johnmainseminar2015.com](http://www.johnmainseminar2015.com)

## DRS Vacancy

St Peter's College, Palmerston North - Director of Religious Studies: full time, permanent position, 3 MU and appropriate MMA allocation. Experience teaching NCEA to senior classes is a requirement. A willingness and ability to take part in religious instruction appropriate to the Special Character of the school shall be a condition of appointment. This position is part of the Senior Leadership team of the college. Commences Term 1, 2015. Closing date 12 noon Tuesday 28th October, 2014. Application pack from the Principal's PA, phone (06) 3544198 x721, email [buchananc@stpeterspn.school.nz](mailto:buchananc@stpeterspn.school.nz) or download from [www.stpeterspn.school.nz](http://www.stpeterspn.school.nz).

## University of Otago B Ed Specialisation in Religious Education

The University of Otago has its first students who are doing a conjoint degree. They are undertaking a Bachelor of Education Studies endorsed with Religious Education as an area of specialisation.

They are also completing papers for a Theology degree and will do an internship in some area of Religious Education. Contact Sr Jan Ogilvy to learn more: [jm.ogilvy@otago.ac.nz](mailto:jm.ogilvy@otago.ac.nz).

## Pope Francis Says

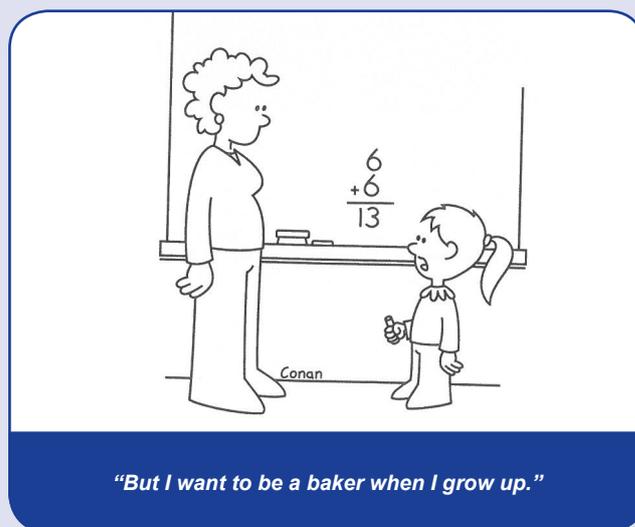
"Do not be afraid to bring the wisdom of faith to every aspect of social life."

"Let Christ turn your natural optimism into Christian hope, your energy into moral virtue, your good will into genuine self-sacrificing love."

"As young Christians you are not only a part of the future of the Church; you are also a necessary and beloved part of the Church's present. You are the present of the Church whether at work, study, have begun a career or have answered calls to marriage, religious life or the priesthood."

## New Zealand Catholic Schools – Noel Leeming Friends and Family Event, 1-7 December 2014

Just in time for the end of the school year and for Christmas buying, there is to be another 'New Zealand Catholic Schools – Noel Leeming Friends and Family Event', on 1-7 December 2014. You are invited to alert your school community to this opportunity. Electronic flyers will be sent to schools on 11 November or thereabouts, to pass on to teachers, Board of Trustees members and parents.



**KONICA MINOLTA**

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

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**"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice."**

Philippians 4:4