

It is always a joy to visit schools and see the work teachers do to engage young people in caring for the school and its environs. Some go even further and facilitate discussion and activity that takes their world view outside the school to generate and interact an active response to saving the planet.

In October we celebrated the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the great Italian saint who draws our attention to the gifts in creation and our responsibility for its care. That feast day coincided for me with the reading of *Laudato Si*, the encyclical from Pope Francis, which addresses the question of the survival of the planet.

I am often moved by the psalmist who wrote, "I lift my eyes to the mountain, from whence shall come my help". I chose to live in the mountains because of the inspiration such beauty and creation give but I also know that lifting my eyes and enjoying the view does not abrogate my responsibility to play a part in caring for the planet. I need to be proactive and not rely on someone else to fix it. The challenge for schools is to find opportunities which can help our students find that focus.

In *Laudato Si*, Francis talks about "unchecked human activity" and the need for us to protect our world and share its resources more equally. He shows that the care of the planet for the enjoyment of all is part of the Church's teaching and understanding about the Common Good.

In this debate, Francis is asking all of us to take affirmative action to ensure we don't leave an uninhabitable planet to another generation. As Catholic schools it a great opportunity for debate, discussion and action. Francis asks us to engage with the care of the planet so that we can give meaning to our "earthly sojourn".

The moral imperative here is to respond and engage.

***"Man has slapped nature in the face."***

Pope Francis

## Greetings

**Tēnā koutou. Ngā mihi nui kia koutou.**

**We wish you well as the days lengthen and springtime reinvigorates us.**

## World Youth Day

"You are the future of our church..." Encouraged by Pope Francis' words, 160 students and teachers joined together for the first South Island World Youth Day celebrations hosted by Catholic Cathedral and Marian Colleges. They gathered for prayer, catechesis, giving service, a pilgrimage through the inner city of Christchurch, and to enjoy fellowship among young Catholics. Bishop Colin Campbell accompanied the youth throughout the day. The day ended with the live-streaming of the Papal Mass in Poland.

## Te Whakaruruhau mō ngā iwi katoa – Shelter for All – a Mercy Initiative

About five hundred people, mostly school students, gathered outside Parliament recently, to call on the government to do more to help tackle homelessness. The hikoī was organised by the Catholic Institute Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy and used the rallying cry "shelter for all". Students from St Mary's College Wellington, St Catherine's College Wellington, Villa Maria College Christchurch, Carmel College Auckland and St Mary's College Auckland spoke at the hikoī. Organiser Richard Kerr-Bell said homelessness was an important issue for everyone and as an issue included inadequate housing and overcrowding.

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

Cate Wafer, Principal, St Michael's School, Taita

Mary-Lou Davidson, Principal, Marian College, Christchurch

Viki Trainor, St John's School, Mairangi Bay

## Congratulations

- 8 year old Byron Casson of Marian School, Hamilton, was a winner of Sanitarium's Weet-Bix 'Nominate Your Champion Award'. His attitude and kindness were rewarded with a visit from three All Blacks who presented him with a certificate and an All Blacks jersey. He was also featured in an article in the Waikato Times.
- St Peter's College, Gore, were awarded the Bishop's Shield as winners of the Dunedin Diocese Catholic Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition.
- Patrick Walsh, Principal of John Paul College, Rotorua, has been nominated as New Zealand's representative on the Education Advisory Committee of the Australia Scholarship Group (ASG). He will be responsible for reporting on trends, issues and initiatives from the New Zealand education sector.
- Tim Muir of St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch, is now in the Cyclone PLD team as a Microsoft Teacher Ambassador and will be running sessions around New Zealand.
- Former Head Boy (2015) Lachlan Bartlett, of St Bede's College, Christchurch, has won the prestigious runner-up prize in this year's Cochlear Graeme Clark Scholarship for Australia and New Zealand.



- St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie student Jacob Farr has been selected as a finalist in the 2016 Eureka Awards. The Sir Callaghan Eureka Awards are a science, technology, engineering and mathematics speech competition. His presentation on the potential of synthetic spider silk was the only presentation to be placed on the Eureka website.
- Bishop Viard College, Porirua has taken in more refugee students than any other Wellington school.

### Research Report on Retreats in Australian Catholic Secondary Schools

This is a recent and important piece of research. It is informative for school educators interested in school retreats, and may also be useful for people concerned more generally with youth retreats and youth ministry. There is an excellent executive summary. See <http://e-learn.acu.edu.au/grossiter/retreats/index.html>.

### Did You Know?

The average American produces about 4.4 pounds of trash daily or 1606 pounds per year, which would total 48,180 pounds, or 21,854 kilos over 30 years. New Zealanders too produce rubbish, particularly plastics, which can end up in the oceans. (We have no New Zealand statistics.) The oceans are currently filled with 46,000 plastic pieces per square mile. For more, see [www.ncronline.org/blogs/young-voices/my-48180-pound-trash-pile](http://www.ncronline.org/blogs/young-voices/my-48180-pound-trash-pile).

### Catholic Schools' Participation in Asian Language Learning in Schools (ALLiS)

Hon Hekia Parata has announced funding for new or expanded Asian language programmes at 63 schools across the country, of which six are Catholic schools. Carmel College Group includes St Joseph's Catholic School Takapuna, St Leo's Catholic School Devonport, St Mary's School Northcote, and Stella Maris Primary School Silverdale. It is the only group of schools that teaches three languages; Japanese, Korean and Mandarin. Christ the King School, Burnside is also a participant school, in the Waimairi-iri Group, and teaches Mandarin.

### Catholic Schools Portal Closed Down

After a brave launch, the Catholic portal has regrettably proved to be of little interest to Catholic schools, with data showing little uptake. As a result it has now been closed down. NZCEO has plans for work in 2017 to refresh the NZCEO website, and make it more interactive.

### Suzanne Aubert Website a Treasure Trove

[www.suzanneaubert.co.nz](http://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz) is a dedicated website for our New Zealand Saint in the making. The New Zealand Bishops Conference lent its support to the first Suzanne Aubert Celebration Day on Oct 2, to coincide with the 90th anniversary of her death on 1st October 1926, and the website provides a link to Cardinal John Dew's presentation for that day, as played in Catholic churches throughout the country. The site also provides access to a number of resources, including statements by people who personally knew Suzanne Aubert, or who were touched by her actions. The progress towards canonisation is also recorded. Bookmark the website for frequent reference.



*"I've lost track. Am I taking you to basketball practice, hockey practice, wrestling practice, or band practice?"*

### UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report Summary 2016 – Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All (the GEM Report)

This 60 page document has recently been launched by UNESCO NZ. It would be excellent for secondary school students. There is also a 10 page comic book for primary students or younger secondary students. Both resources are available online at <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2016/education-people-and-planet-creating-sustainable-futures-all/page>, or go to [www.unesco.org.nz](http://www.unesco.org.nz). Hard copies may also be available from UNESCO NZ.

### From Pope Francis – on the Environment

*"We appeal to all people of goodwill to consider ways of living less wastefully and more frugally, manifesting less greed and more generosity for the protection of God's world and the benefit of His people."*



**KONICA MINOLTA**

**Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia ū!**  
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*"Let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment."*  
 Pope Francis