



Leaders of schools know that introducing new ideas to staff, students and their communities can sometimes be an easy ride, while on other occasions it is anything but smooth.

How we individually stand in relation to the acceptance and support of new ideas depends on a range of factors, including our personalities and our temperamental disposition. There is one outstanding fact in the equation, however, and that is if we do not continuously change we stagnate at best, or worse, simply wither into ineffectiveness.

We are also aware that if all we do is what we do, then all we'll get is what we've got!! The new Government has signalled publicly that it will better realign its education and economic goals, because the nation is in the 'can do better' category, even though our high flyers can compete with the best in the world.

In our Catholic schools we are coming to know what works to enable all students to achieve, irrespective of socio economic deprivation. Several of our schools are outstandingly successful with student achievement, despite their low socio-economic status.

There is no doubt that the leaders of these schools have persuaded their teachers, students and communities that poverty is not a destiny nor is it preordained.

We all want the best for our children. Yet are we prepared to have courageous conversations at Board and teacher level and to embrace the Best Evidence Synthesis research that is the blueprint for superior student outcome?

Catholic schools across the nation could lead the way in addressing the stubborn achievement gap which is tarnishing our international reputation.

We have to be bold in accepting new ideas and good practice which we know does work, and be courageous in implementing it. Best practice can easily be common practice if the status quo is challenged.

"There is a social duty essentially inherent in the right of private property."

Pope John XXIII, Pacem in Terris, 1963

Greetings

Ngā mihi nui o Te Tau Hōu ki a koutou katoa .

We wish you well as you face 2012 – hopefully, it will treat us better than 2011!

Permanent CEO Appointed to The Catholic Institute

Dr Anne Tuohy is congratulated on her appointment as the CEO of The Catholic Institute.

New Director Leading Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Julianne Hickey is congratulated on her appointment as the Director of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

Caritas Lenten Resources in Schools Now

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, the Catholic Bishops Conference agency responsible for the Church's work and teaching on social justice, has released its Lenten resource pack. Caritas is congratulated on the very successful 'Classroom Prayers for Lent' booklet, and on the wonderful documentary on Palestine and the West Bank, 'The Holy Land, Hearts of Hope'. As well as being in the Lenten pack as a DVD, the documentary is available on the Caritas website. The parish Lenten reflection programme is available in Samoan, Tongan, Tokelauan and English.

FaithCentral – An Excellent Online Resource for Teachers, Clergy, Parish Workers and Students

www.faithcentral.net.nz is the resource site of the secondary schools' Religious Education programme, run by the National Centre for Religious Studies to support teachers and students. See 'What's New' on the home page for a video explaining the public sections of the website.

Senior Principals' Scholarships Awarded

Christine O'Brien, St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch, and Lorraine Howard, St Joseph's School, Feilding, are congratulated on the award of senior principals' scholarships in late 2011.

Congratulations to Those New to Principalship in a Catholic School

John Matthews, Hato Petera College, Northcote, Auckland
Helen McGuigan, Bishop Edward Gaines School, Tokoroa
Shane Tong, St John's College, Hamilton
Joan Woods, St Bernard's School, Brooklyn
Pamela Arthurs, St Peter's School, Beckenham
Josephine Smith, St Bernadette's School, Hornby
Richard Duffy, St Mary's School, Kaikorai, Dunedin
Callan Goodall, St Patrick's School, Invercargill.

More Congratulations

St Joseph's School, Levin gave a wonderful performance on TV1's 'Praise Be'

Deputy Principal Jody Hayes, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Palmerston North, has received the CORE Education Award for Professional Learning and Reflective Practice within a primary or intermediate school for her Student Voice and Choice project.

St Bede's College, Christchurch has instituted an impressive Leaders' Pledge for its Year 13 students, which students keep in a bookmark form.

A Valuable Source of Information

CathNews New Zealand www.cathnews.co.nz provides a valuable bi-weekly roundup of Catholic News, with a particular emphasis on New Zealand and the Pacific. A free email subscription is available at www.cathnews.co.nz/newsletter.

Online CTS Catalogue

The 2012 Catholic Truth Society catalogue is now available at www.cts-online.org.uk. The catalogue includes children's books starting at 'read with children 3 years and up'. Saints' lives, pamphlets, DVDs and CDs, guidance for teens and young adults, and many other categories of information.

The Welcoming Face of Your School – a Helpful Thought

The start of the year might be a good time to consider the welcome that visitors to the school receive from the office staff and teachers. Some schools see a kind and hospitable greeting as a matter of manaakitanga, other see it as the way Christians should greet others, others see it simply as a matter of good manners or courtesy. A "secret visitor" in person or on the phone can help you to be sure about the impression the school gives to strangers.

A Beautiful Book for Lent – for schools and parishes

'Days of Passion, Reflection on the Stations of the Cross' is an unusual and delightful meditative and poetic look at the climax of our Lenten journey, by Australian Vic O'Callaghan. Each page contains wonderful artwork by Susan Daily. To buy, contact Francine.Pirola@thepmrc.org.

Centenary Celebration

St Mary's School and Parish, Kaikorai, Dunedin, celebrates its centenary at Labour Weekend, 2012. Register at St.MarysKaikorai@xtra.co.nz.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

A 16 day pilgrimage journey to the Holy Land will depart from NZ on 19 September 2012. For information phone co-ordinator Pat McCarthy on 09 480 4463, or email patsuzie@slingshot.co.nz. Also visit Pat McCarthy's website www.seetheholyland.net. Bishop Colin Campbell is the chaplain for this pilgrimage.

Christianity Fans Out

The total number of Christians worldwide is now 2.18 billion, or 31.7% of the world's population. Nearly 34% of Christians can be found in North and South America, 26% in Europe and 13.1% in Asia-Pacific.

Pope Benedict Speaks

In an address to students on 28 November 2011 Pope Benedict said, "Respect for the human being and respect for nature are one... There will be no good future for humanity on earth if we do not educate everyone to a more responsible way of life for creation."

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed."

Isaiah 54: 10

In a Mass on 1 January 2012 the Pope said, "Educating young people in justice and peace is a task for every generation." He stated, "To assume responsibility for educating young people in knowledge of the truth, in fundamental values and virtues, is to look to the future with hope." Speaking on the education of conscience, which begins in the home, he said, "It is essentially about helping infants, children and adolescents to develop a personality that combines a profound sense of justice with respect for their neighbour, with a capacity to address conflicts without arrogance, with the inner strength to bear witness to good, even when it involves sacrifice, with forgiveness and reconciliation. Thus they will be able to become people of peace and builders of peace."

Strengthening the Culture of Catholic Schools

Schools with a strong Catholic culture: highlight the seasons of the Church year; celebrate major feast days; provide a Catholic calendar in the staffroom and classrooms (e.g. the Columban calendar) and refer to it; provide Catholic images and symbols in public places throughout the school, including crucifixes and statues, candles and bibles; frequently practise with staff and students a range of prayers and devotions, both contemporary and traditional; provide significant Catholic material in every newsletter; integrate Catholic Character into curriculum statements and lessons across the curriculum area.



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