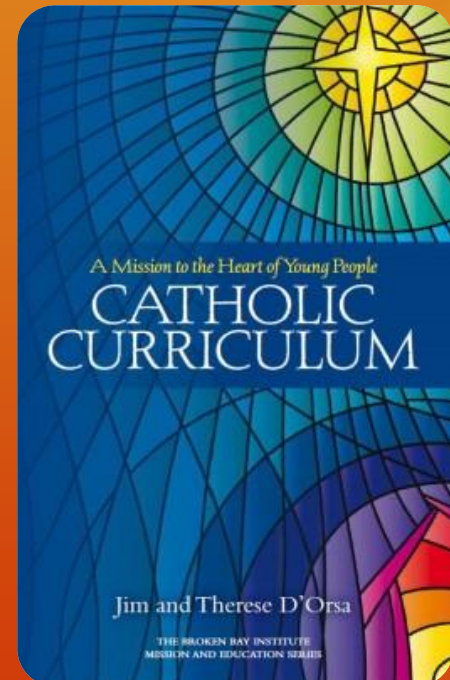
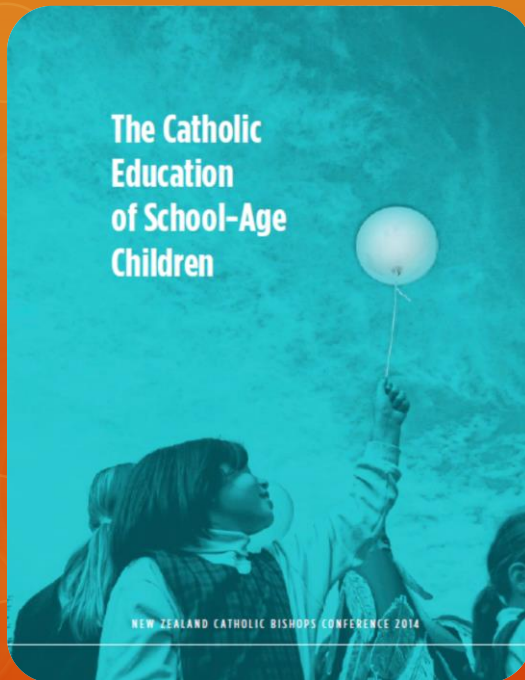


# **A Catholic Pedagogy?**

**What is it? What does it mean for you as a Board of Trustees, School leader or teacher in a Catholic environment?**

# By the end of this session you will be familiar with...

- a 'Catholic Curriculum.'
- One or two principles of a 'Catholic Curriculum.'
- what is meant by the term 'pedagogy' and
- what this might mean in a Catholic context.
- some 'tools' to assist with your critiquing of your school's curriculum.



# Pope Francis emphasised that...

- **“Catholic education is one of the most important challenges for the Church, currently committed to new evangelisation in an historical and cultural context that is undergoing constant transformation.”**
- *Plenary session, Congregation for Catholic Education, 13 February, 2014*





# Pope Francis said effective teachers will...

- Value dialogue.
- Be well formed.
- *"Express the living presence of the Gospel."*
- *Plenary session, Congregation for Catholic Education, 13 February, 2014*



# The Catholic Education of School-Age Children

NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE 2014

NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE 2014

# We need to appreciate that...

**“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.”**

- *Text taken from Pope Francis' address to Jesuit Schools 7 June 2013*



# Curriculum in general





# Leadership...



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- ***"Real educational leadership involves and inescapable dilemma ...***
- ***to plan for a future that can only be dimly discerned."***

# A Catholic curriculum assists young people to:

*engage constructively* with the  
*wisdom and faith of the community*  
in a way that is *meaningful* to  
them, living as they do in a  
particular **cultural and historical**  
**setting** with the life chances this  
setting has to offer, and the  
constraints that it imposes in the  
process of **establishing their**  
**identity as individuals and as**  
**members of the community.**

# Principles of a Catholic Curriculum...



A word cloud of Catholic curriculum principles. The words are arranged in a cluster, with 'Pivot-Principle-Jesus' being the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'mission', 'Gospel-values', 'faith-and-culture', 'social-justice', 'encounter', 'Kingdom', 'faith', 'life-world-of', 'context', 'the-young-person', and 'Sacramental'. The words are in various shades of gray and black, set against a white background with a green border.

mission  
**Pivot-Principle-Jesus**  
Gospel-values faith-and-culture faith  
life-world-of social-justice encounter  
context Kingdom the-young-person  
Sacramental

# Pivot Principle...

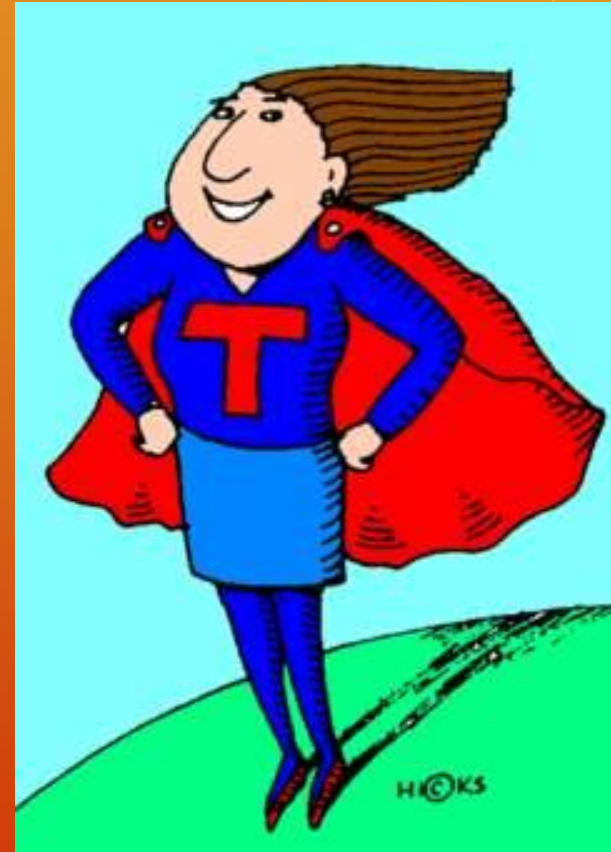


**A Catholic curriculum places Jesus, his message, his mission, his community, and his ethos, at the centre of all learning, whether dealing with public meaning or personal meaning.**



# Pedagogy...what is it?

- Derived from the Greek term '*paidagogos*'
- ...*meaning teacher of children...*
- And so broadly speaking refers to the 'art and science' of teaching.



# Effective Pedagogy...

Creating-a-supportive-learning-environment  
Facilitating-shared-learning  
opportunities-to-learn

Encouraging-reflective-thought-and-action  
Enhancing-the-relevance-of-new-learning

Making-connections-to-prior-learning-and-experience  
Providing

# So the question arises....

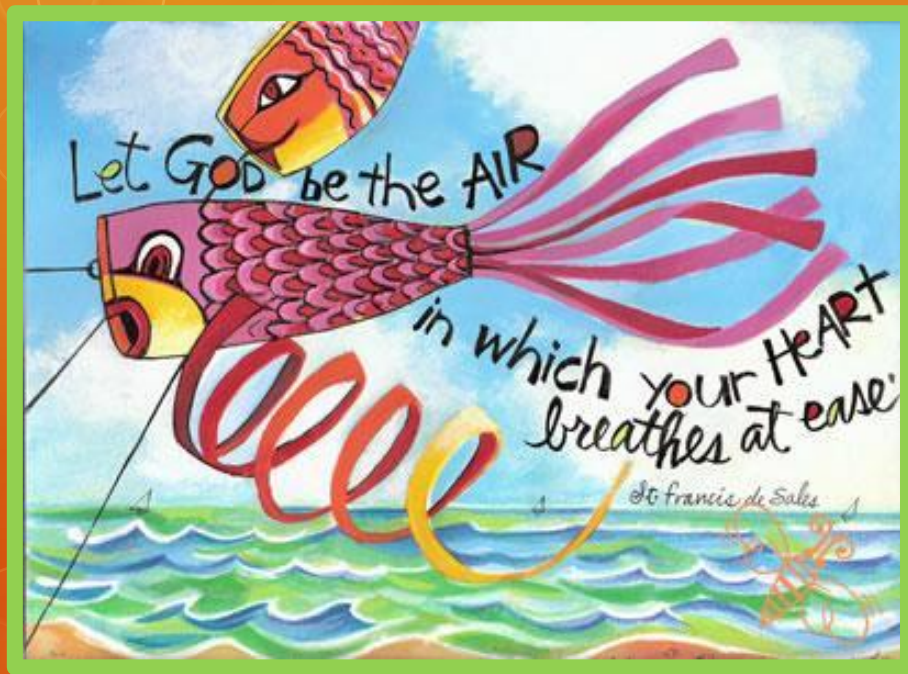
○ Is it sufficient in Catholic schools, to simply replicate secular pedagogical practices?

~~Creating a supportive learning environment~~  
~~Facilitating shared learning~~  
~~opportunities to learn~~

~~Encouraging reflective thought and action~~  
~~Enhancing the relevance of new learning~~

~~Making connections to prior learning and experience~~  
~~Providing~~

# Or...



- Should there be an authentically unique Catholic approach to pedagogical practice?





# What do these images tell us about the journey these people are taking?



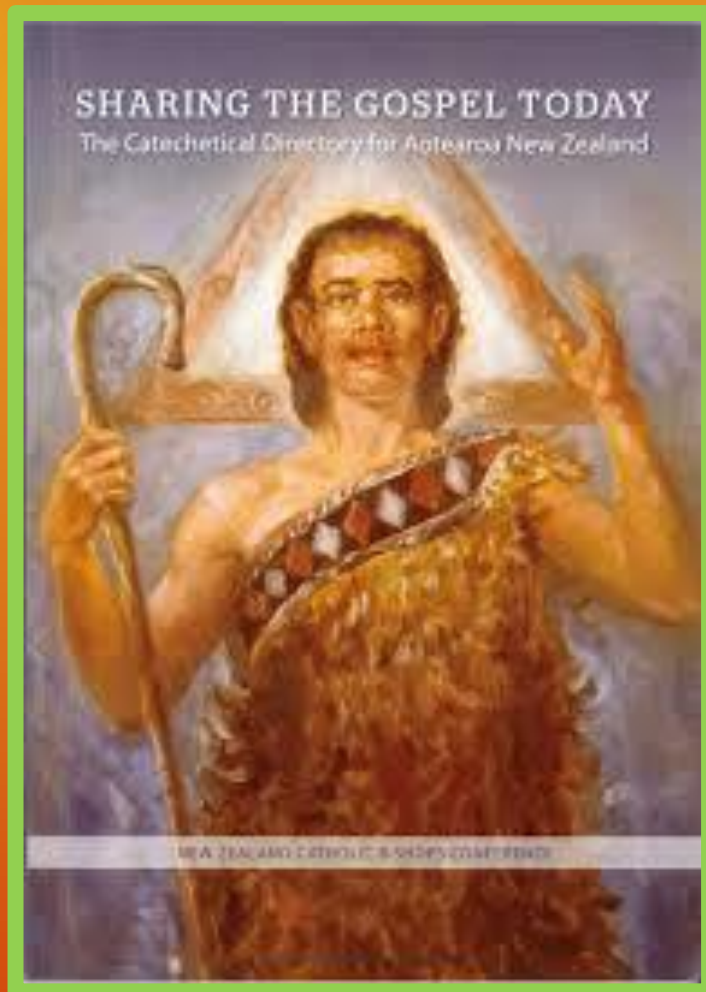
# Catholic Pedagogy



**Secular**

**Divine**

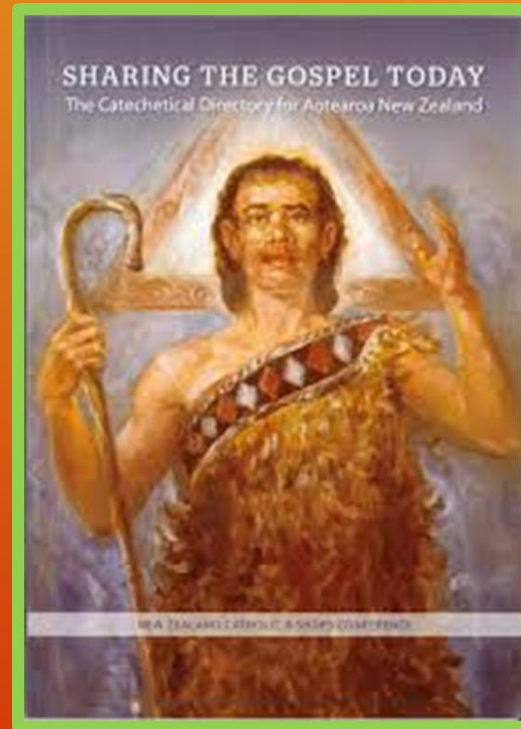






# God's way of teaching is...

- **Based on relationship with persons, initiated by God.**
- **Uses the events of life as formation.**
- **Is gradual and progressive**



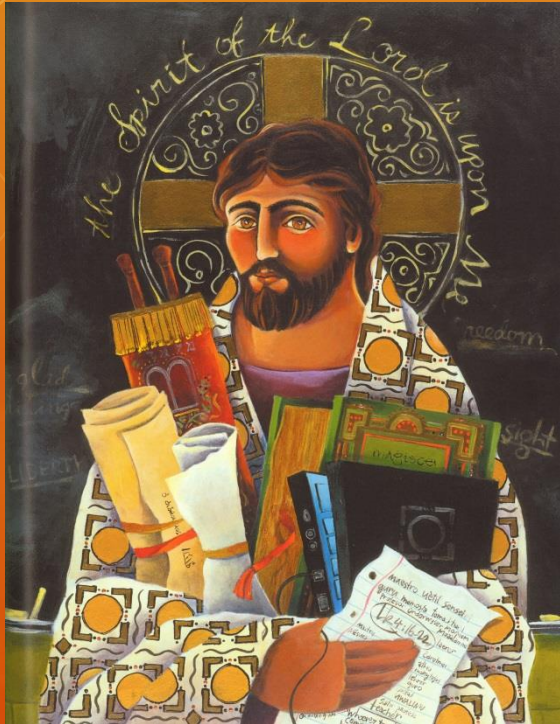
Creating-a-supportive-learning-environment  
Facilitating-shared-learning  
opportunities-to-learn

Encouraging-reflective-thought-and-action  
Enhancing-the-relevance-of-new-learning

Making-connections-to-prior-learning-and-experience  
Providing

- God had it sorted first!!
- And his way of teaching are seen in the way that...

# Jesus Christ carried out his saving mission. Teachers can learn from...



- The way he received others as people loved by God.
- His undiluted proclamation of the Reign of God in word and deed.
- His invitation to a way of living sustained by faith in God.
- Love of neighbour
- His use of all the resources if interpersonal communication.





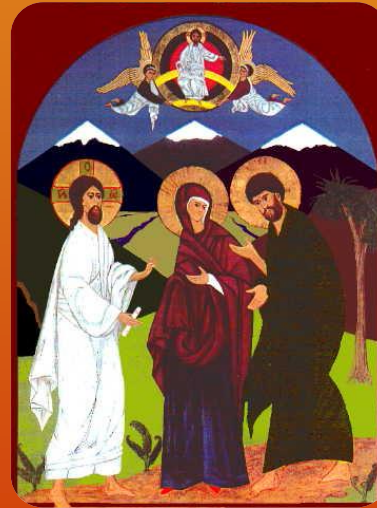
# A Catholic pedagogy...

Making Real Jesus  
Sustaining-disbelief-engaging-with-mystery  
Nurturing-Pilgrims  
Searching-for-truth-Celebrating-truth  
Asking-God's-Questions

Facilitating-shared-learning  
Creating-a-supportive-learning-environment  
Providing  
Making-connections-to-prior-learning-and-experience  
Encouraging-reflective-thought-and-action  
Enhancing-the-relevance-of-new-learning  
opportunities-to-learn

# **Our Catholic pedagogy tells us that...**

**...when a child walks into a classroom, this child is someone, created by God, for God and these children are on a journey home to God.**



# Key Characteristics of Catholic Pedagogy

- **Suspending Disbelief: Engaging in Mystery**
- **Balance Searching for Truth and Celebrating the Truth**



These pedagogies are from Catholic pedagogy: Nurturing Pilgrims or education tourists? Dan White (2008) Journal of Catholic School Studies, Vol 80. Issue 1 May /June 2008

# Key Characteristics of Catholic Pedagogy



- **Asking God's Questions: Nurturing Pilgrims or Educating Tourists**
- **Making Jesus Real: Fostering Relationships**

These pedagogies are from Catholic pedagogy: Nurturing Pilgrims or education tourists? Dan White (2008) Journal of Catholic School Studies, Vol 80. Issue 1 May /June 2008



# We need to answer this question...

- Does our current pedagogy nurture 'spiritual pilgrims' or 'educate tourists'?



# The art of teaching the faith is

- **“the art of assisting others return to God the Father in love and holiness of life”**
- Bishop Raymond Burke (2000)



# **A divine pedagogy**

**is a place where words  
and deeds, teaching and  
experience are  
interlinked...a revelation  
experience whereby the  
beauty, mystery, majesty  
and love of God is  
gradually proclaimed to  
human beings.**

# Pope Francis on schools....



**“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 ask of us, and to do well the little things of each day with a great heart open to God and to others.”**