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New Zealand

21 February 2014

**To: Boards of Trustees  
Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools  
Catholic Diocese of Christchurch**

**Re: Symposium for Catholic School Boards of Trustees (Saturday 22 March 2014)**

Dear Friends in Christ

I offer you my warm greetings and also my sincere gratitude for your willingness to serve as trustees on the Catholic school boards throughout the Diocese of Christchurch.

I wish also to strongly encourage each board member to attend the training symposium for all members of boards of trustees of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Christchurch.

The date for this already advertised symposium is Saturday 22 March 2014; and the venue is the Villa Maria College auditorium (21 Peer Street, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch).

This symposium is provided for all trustees, it is not simply a training symposium for Proprietor's appointees. I am inviting, therefore, all trustees to attend. Each and every trustee has a personal, as well as a collective responsibility for the Catholic Special Character of the Catholic school community they serve.

The symposium covers the Catholic Special Character dimensions of your role – bearing witness, the history and future direction of Catholic schools, prayer, parish school partnerships, etc.

Most importantly, the keynote address by Bishop Charles Drennan will “unpack” the very recently released NZ Catholic Bishops Conference's document, *Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, which sets out the NZ Bishops' thinking, vision and priorities for Catholic education.

The symposium also covers some of the other important facets of board life – ethical governance, finance, legal obligations, personnel matters, etc. I enclose a copy of the symposium flyer, the symposium programme and the symposium workshops.

Finally, I invite you to join with me in the celebration of holy Mass at the conclusion of the symposium.

I look forward to meeting you at this important event in the life of the Diocese.

Yours sincerely

† Barry Jones  
Bishop of Christchurch

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