

# The Catholic Education of School Age Children

Re-imagining our schools for a secular age

+Charles Drennan



Diocese of Palmerston North





# Why now? The Airport Meeting

- The **relationship with Christ** is the **highest priority** issue for all involved in Catholic education.
- Questions about the expansion of the Catholic education system are **secondary** (38).

# Our response?

- If *encounter with the living God who reveals himself in Jesus* is the heart of our school communities then the measure of our effectiveness is what?



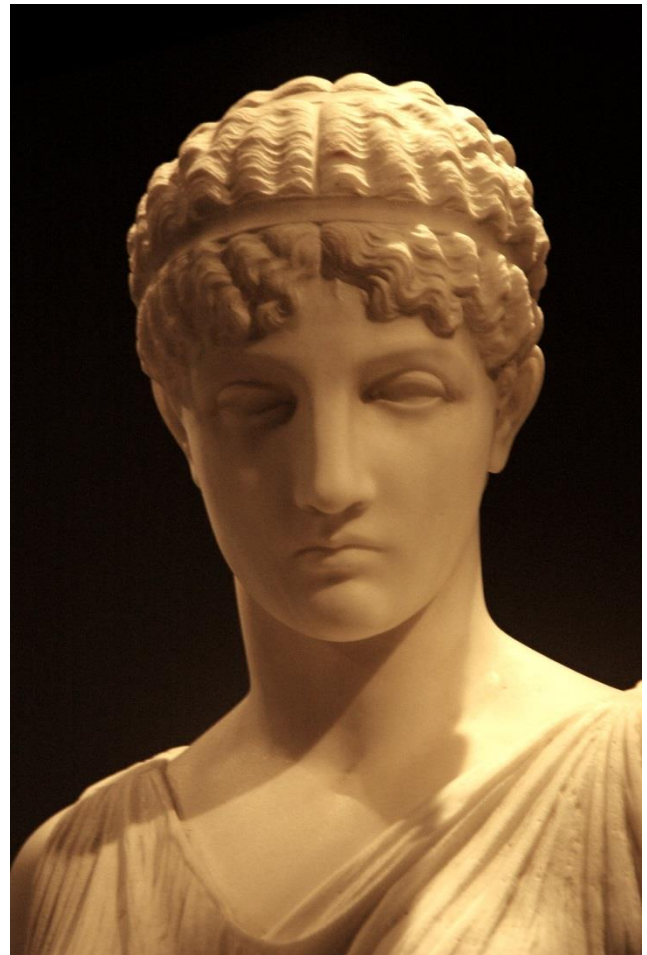
Faith

- The **only** way to come to believe that first and foremost every Catholic school is a place to encounter Jesus (12), is through faith



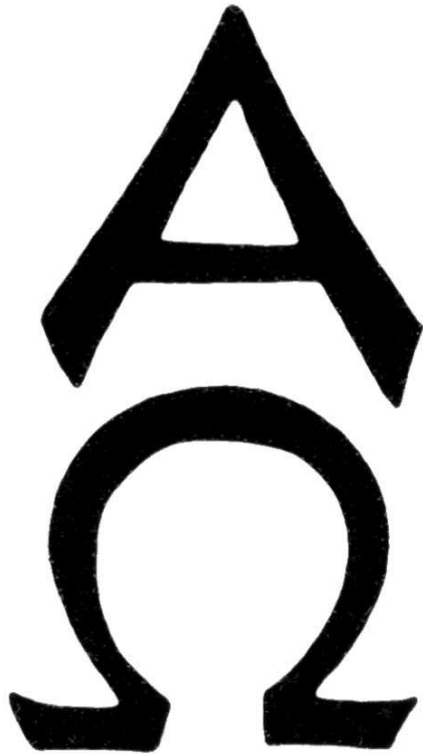
# Faith sets us apart:

- “...many of the Jews became believers, and so did many Greek women of high standing and a number of the men” (Acts 17: 12)





# Faith sets us apart:



- Faith is our starting point and our goal, just as Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega

- More than anything else this defines and describes our schools:  
**communities of faith.**



- Faith gets us on board.
- Doesn't depend upon parents. It is the ticket to “the pilgrim journey here on earth” (**Dei Verbum, 7**).

- Faith is our lifeblood, is dynamic, makes us contributors to Tradition through our “growth in insight” (Dei Verbum, 8), and so enables us to engage afresh, anew in partnership with...



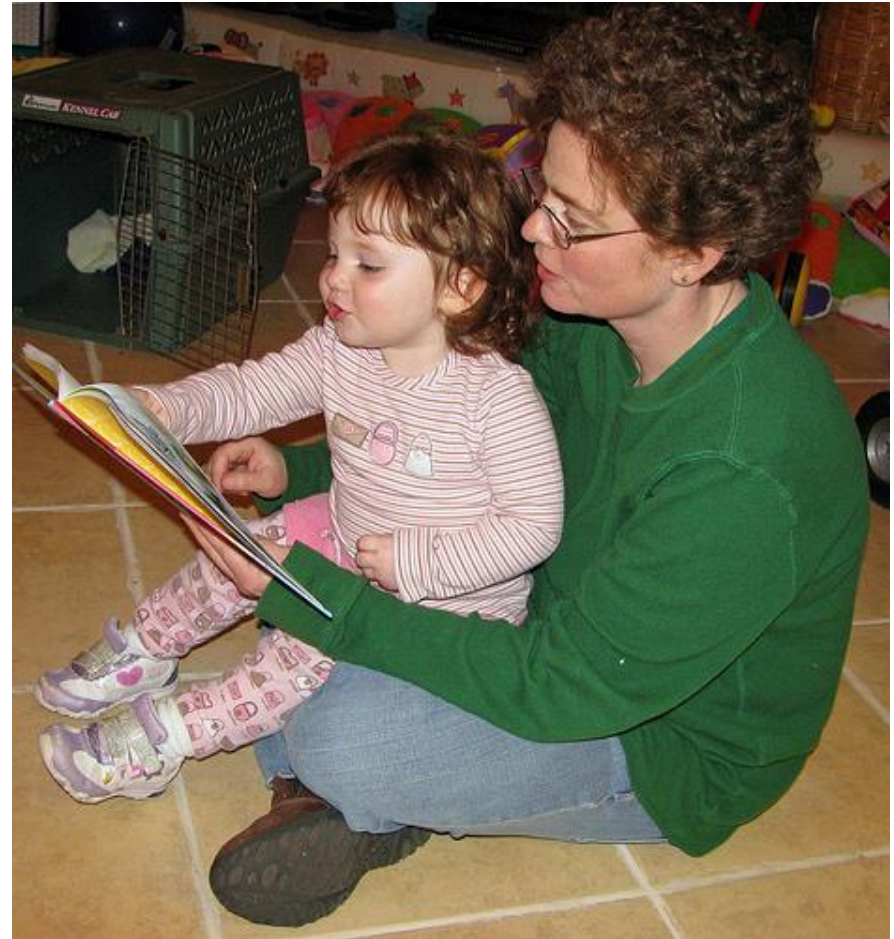
- The Holy Spirit who “constantly perfects faith, with gifts and fruits” (DV 5).





- You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbour.
- Do you clearly understand what you are asking?
- **We do** (Rite of Baptism)
- **Yeah right**

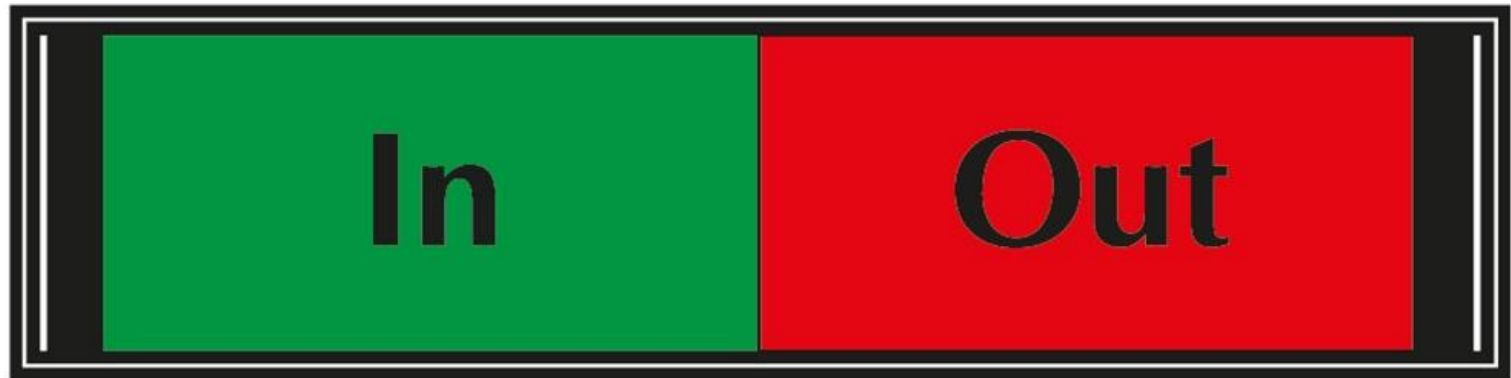
- Baptism the gateway to faith, step forth





- Parents have the right to choose how their children are educated outside their home.
- In assisting parents with their obligation to educate their children in the faith, the Catholic school makes the Church as “mother and teacher” a reality (10).

# 0 Blessed Preference Forms



# 0 Blessed Preference Forms

- **Mission possible**
- Every 5.5, 5.4, 5.3, and 5.2 preference child becomes a 5.1.





EXIT

JESUS COMFORTS THE MOURNERS OF JERUSALEM

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

# Baptism as initiation into a life and community of faith



- Is it your will that N. should be baptized *in the faith of the Church?*

- This is our faith.  
This is the faith  
of the church.  
We are proud to  
profess it, in  
Christ Jesus our  
Lord.





# The deepest nature of the church

- is expressed in her **three fold responsibility** of:
  - \* **Proclaiming** the word of God (*kerygma-martyria*)
  - \* **Celebrating** the sacraments (*leitourgia*)
  - \* **Exercising charity** (*diakonia*) (6, 7)

# We live a synthesis of faith and life

- **Integration** of all aspects of learning human knowledge
- **Promoting and living** the virtues characteristic of Christian life
- **Experiencing** the harmony of faith, culture, and life (8).



- **Μετά-νοια**

- I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of **a pastoral and missionary conversion** which cannot leave things as they presently are. **Throughout the world, let us be “permanently in a state of mission”** (Evangelii Gaudium, 25).

# Proprietor's Appointees special responsibilities:

- They are to assist the Board to carry out its obligations **to ensure that the school remains a Catholic school and that it fulfils the primary objective for which it was founded.** This primary objective has implications for the appointment of teachers, the enrolment of students, the RE programme and other matters relations to the school's Special Character. 1.5a
- The responsibility for the Special Character falls on the **whole Board** collectively. 2.1.5

# The Catholic Education of School Age Children and Board Planning and Documentation.

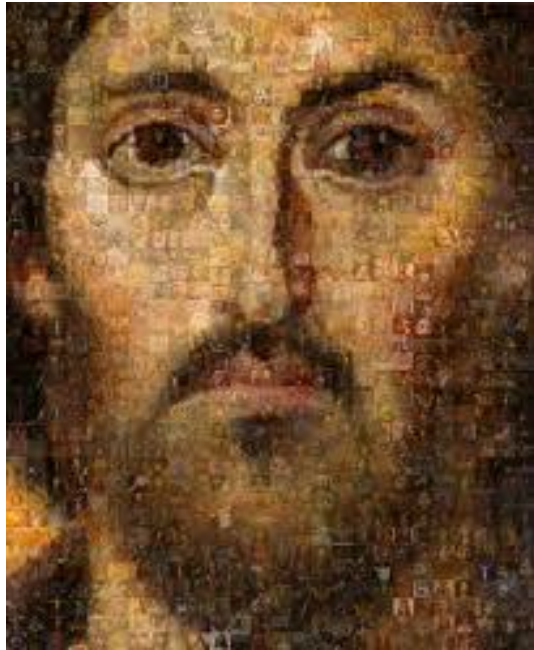
- The Bishops' expectation is that **our vision statement will enter into School Charters and their strategic plan and annual plans.** As those bearing final responsibility for all Catholic Education we see that expectation applying equally to Colleges for which we are not Proprietor.
- The special character review process as well as diocesan education office personnel will monitor this requirement and assist Boards and management teams **to bring the vision to life.**
- **The School Charter is required to show how the school intends to supply education with a Special Character** i.e. a Catholic Education, through its policies, plans, and programmes including those for curriculum, assessment and staff professional development. 2.4.2

- **Right formation and qualifications are essential**
- **We intend to provide easily accessible course which lead to qualifications (49).**



THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE  
OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND  
Te Pūtahi Katorika ki Aotearoa

# Let's lift the veil



Hello  
I've got a  
name!!

# Let's lift the veil of Jesus

First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to *encounter the living God* who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.

NZ Bishops Document 12



# Let's lift the veil of Jesus

A person who is not convinced,  
enthusiastic, certain and in love (with  
Jesus and his Church), will convince nobody  
*Evangelii Gaudium, 266.*



# Let's delve deeper!

**Facilitating Discipleship:** the emphasis on religious education is important and necessary but similar attention needs to be paid to the aspects of Catholic character outside the RE programme to ensure the personal encounter stage of the journey of discipleship. These include good experiences of prayer and liturgy, regular access to the sacraments (including Reconciliation), and retreats which are truly Catholic and spiritual in nature.

NZ Bishops Document 51

Let's push “delete” on divide.

The school is embedded in the Church; it is the Church in action; a Catholic school is not just a State school with the addition of a religious education programme; it is integral to the Church's mission, forming Christ in the lives of others. NZ Bishops

Document 6

Let's push “**delete**” on divide.



Let's push “**delete**” on divide.



# Tagged Teachers (S forms) and Chaplains as Treasures

Tag!



Let's look beyond the school gate.

What do  
you ask of  
the Church  
for ...?





Let's be a **confirmed** community.



**7 Gifts of the Holy  
Spirit**

**wisdom,  
understanding,**

**right judgement,  
courage,**

**knowledge,**

**reverence, and awe**

## Fruits of the Spirit



charity,  
joy,  
peace,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
generosity,  
gentleness,  
faithfulness,  
modesty,  
self-control and chastity



# Benedict XVI

- Today more than ever we need authentic witnesses capable of seeing farther than others because their life is so much broader. **A witness is someone who first lives the life that he or she proposes to others.**



# A word to God's people:

To announce myself in front of my Catholic Community is something I am proud to do for it is part of my hikoi (harenga) tapu - sacred journey - to God. I have always enjoyed seeing and participating in the Eucharist because of the unity I sense when everyone partakes of the body and blood of Hehu Karaiti. With his own body and blood he forgives me and draws me closer to himself, and to his teachings. I am in my final year at College. I am now ready. It is fitting that I be confirmed so that I establish myself as an adult in my religion of Catholicism katorikatanga.

