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C S



The Catholic School is for the human person and of human persons. The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic School.

St John Paul II



ON
HEART OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

13 March 2017
Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus Secondary

The Conference

The biennial Catholic Education Conference provides a platform for all interested to meet and share ideas and views about Catholic education in Singapore.

The Catholic Education Conference 2017, themed 'Heart of a Catholic School', aims to capture the many perspectives of the value of a Catholic education, and to affirm its relevance to the present and future education landscape. Through a video, personal testimony, sharing, a panel discussion and breakout sessions, we hope to hear the voices of different stakeholders in Catholic schools, of how an education in a Catholic school is life-giving, inclusive and transformational. Through these voices, we hope to **crystallize the fundamentals at the heart of a Catholic school** that make the difference in the lives of young people under its charge.

His Grace Archbishop William Goh will grace the conference and give his response to the morning's proceedings.

The **diverse composition** of the conference - which is attended by sponsoring authorities, school leaders, teachers, students, parents, alumni and school chaplaincy teams - adds to the richness of the views and discussions.

The afternoon programme sets aside **time for School Teams to come together** to consolidate the learning from the morning and plan for the year and beyond. This facilitates the translation of reflection into action.

Programme

Time	Programme	Venue
0715	Registration for Early Arrivals	Next to Canteen
0745	Mass	Hall of Faith
0815	Registration	Next to Canteen
0845	Prayer Service	Hall of Faith
0915	Inspiration 1	Hall of Faith
1000	Breakout Session 1 (<i>with tea break</i>): Heart of the Stakeholders	Classrooms
1100	Panel	Hall of Faith
1200	Response of Archbishop	Hall of Faith
1230	Lunch	Canteen
1330	Inspiration 2	Hall of Faith
1400	Breakout Session 2 (<i>with tea break</i>): Heart of a Catholic School	Classrooms
1545	Sharing and Closing	Hall of Faith
1625	Prayer Service	Hall of Faith
1630	End of Conference	Hall of Faith

Emcee: Ms Helen Choo

Video Reflection

Theme	Notes
Experiences <i>'The Catholic school is for the human person and of human persons.'</i> St John Paul II	
Child of God	<hr/> <hr/>
Relationship with God	<hr/> <hr/>
Soul and Culture	<hr/> <hr/>
Relationship	<hr/> <hr/>
Character Development	<hr/> <hr/>
A Better Person	<hr/> <hr/>
Thinking Beyond the Self	<hr/> <hr/>
Giving	<hr/> <hr/>
Prayer	<hr/> <hr/>
Heart of Jesus	<hr/> <hr/>

Video Reflection

Theme	Notes
Focus <i>'The promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'</i> St John Paul II	
Values Education	
Imparting Values	<hr/> <hr/>
Holistic Education	<hr/> <hr/>
Compassion	<hr/> <hr/>
Empathy	<hr/> <hr/>
Forgiving Father	<hr/> <hr/>
Spiritual Development	
Religious Education	<hr/> <hr/>
Morning Prayer	<hr/> <hr/>
Meaningful Experience	<hr/> <hr/>
Catholic Fellowship	<hr/> <hr/>

Video Reflection

Theme	Notes
Relationships	
Teachers: from the Heart	<hr/> <hr/>
Peer Support	<hr/> <hr/>
3 Generations in Catholic Schools	<hr/> <hr/>
Give and Take	<hr/> <hr/>
Teachers: Christ-like Compassion	<hr/> <hr/>
Teachers: Passion	<hr/> <hr/>

Video Reflection

Theme	Notes
Inclusiveness	
Person of Jesus	<hr/> <hr/>
Values to Live By	<hr/> <hr/>
Respect	<hr/> <hr/>
Welcoming Different Religions	<hr/> <hr/>
No One is Left Out	<hr/> <hr/>
Catholic Activities for All	<hr/> <hr/>

Video Reflection

Theme	Notes
Impact <i>'Catholic education is the formation of boys and girls who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbour and enriching society with the leaven of the Gospel.'</i> Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB	
Service	<hr/> <hr/>
Vocation	<hr/> <hr/>
Servant Leadership	<hr/> <hr/>
Close to God	<hr/> <hr/>
Sharing One's Faith	<hr/> <hr/>
Community	<hr/> <hr/>
Contributing to Parish	<hr/> <hr/>

Video Reflection

Theme	Notes
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Moving Forward

'Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation and of man who always retains the Creator's hallmark. But above all, with your life, be witnesses of what you communicate.'

Pope Francis

Child: A Gift of God

Better Persons, Good Citizens

God at the Heart

Stronger Identity

More to Life than Studies

Multireligious, Multiracial

Building the Kingdom of God

Response

What is the heart of a Catholic school to you?

Morning Breakout Session

Reflection Questions

Task A (as individuals) (25 min)

Having viewed the Conference Video on how hearts have been touched:

For adults

- (a) What is the one key idea/aspect that struck you most from the conference video?
- (b) What other ideas/aspects were significant?
- (c) *[If time permits]* What does the key idea/aspect mean to you in your role in school?
 - » What would this key idea/aspect look like in your school?
 - » From the perspective of your role, how would this key idea/aspect impact your school?

For students

- (a) What struck you most in the video?
- (b) What is the heart of a Catholic school to you? Why?

Afternoon Breakout Session

FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES	
Suggested Reflection Questions	Output
<p><u>For adults</u></p> <p>(a) What is our shared understanding of the 'heart' of our school?</p> <p>(b) What are some of our key desired outcomes as a Catholic school? (i.e. embodiment of this heart of a Catholic school)</p> <p>(c) How are we nurturing (i.e. strengthening and sustaining) this 'heart' for the desired outcomes?</p> <p>(d) What is one idea/thought from the conference today that has provoked/challenged our school community to live more fully the 'heart' of a Catholic school?</p> <p><u>For students</u></p> <p>(a) What do I want to see (or experience) more of as the 'heart' of my Catholic school?</p> <p>(b) What more can I do to help build the 'heart' of my Catholic school?</p> <p>(c) What would help me be or become a better disciple of Christ in school?</p>	<p><u>School Statement of Commitment</u></p> <p><i>[Please print directly onto heart-shaped sheet]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our main FOCUS/STRATEGY to nurture the 'heart of OUR Catholic school' • HOW this commitment will be implemented • Name of school <i>[at the bottom of heart]</i>

Afternoon Breakout Session

FOR PRESCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Suggested Reflection Questions	Output
<p>(a) What is our shared understanding of the ‘heart’ of our preschools?</p> <p>(b) What are some of our key desired outcomes as Catholic preschools? (i.e. embodiment of this heart of a Catholic preschool)</p> <p>(c) How are we nurturing (i.e. strengthening and sustaining) this ‘heart’ for the desired outcomes?</p> <p>(d) What is one idea/thought from the conference today that has provoked/challenged our school community to live more fully the ‘heart’ of a Catholic preschool?</p>	<p><u>Preschool Statement of Commitment</u></p> <p><i>[Please print directly onto heart-shaped sheet]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our main FOCUS/STRATEGY to nurture the ‘heart of OUR Catholic preschool’ • HOW this commitment will be implemented • Name of preschool <i>[at the bottom of heart]</i>

FOR EDUCATORS IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Suggested Reflection Questions	Output
<p>(a) How can I nurture my faith more fully given my school context?</p> <p>(b) How can I bring the spirit of Catholic education into my school context?</p> <p>(c) Are there areas that I can influence?</p> <p>(d) What is one idea/thought from the conference today that has provoked/challenged us to live more fully as Catholics in our school contexts?</p>	<p>A list of 3 key observations/ responses per question</p>

Acknowledgments

Key People for the Programme

His Grace Archbishop William Goh
Helen Choo
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Toh Si En
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Marymount Convent School Alumnae
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Canossian Daughters of Charity
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Support

Hai Sing Catholic School
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CHIJ Secondary

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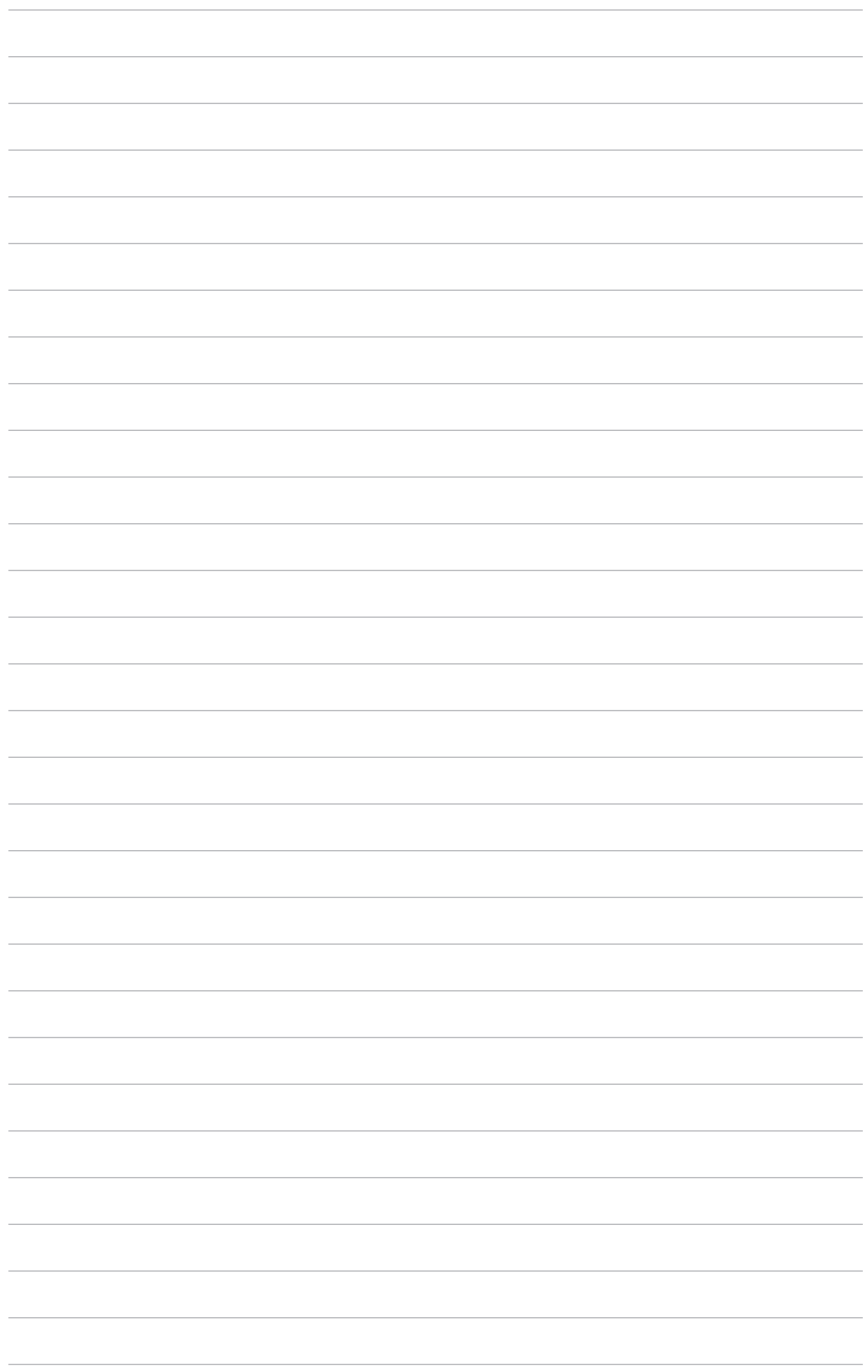
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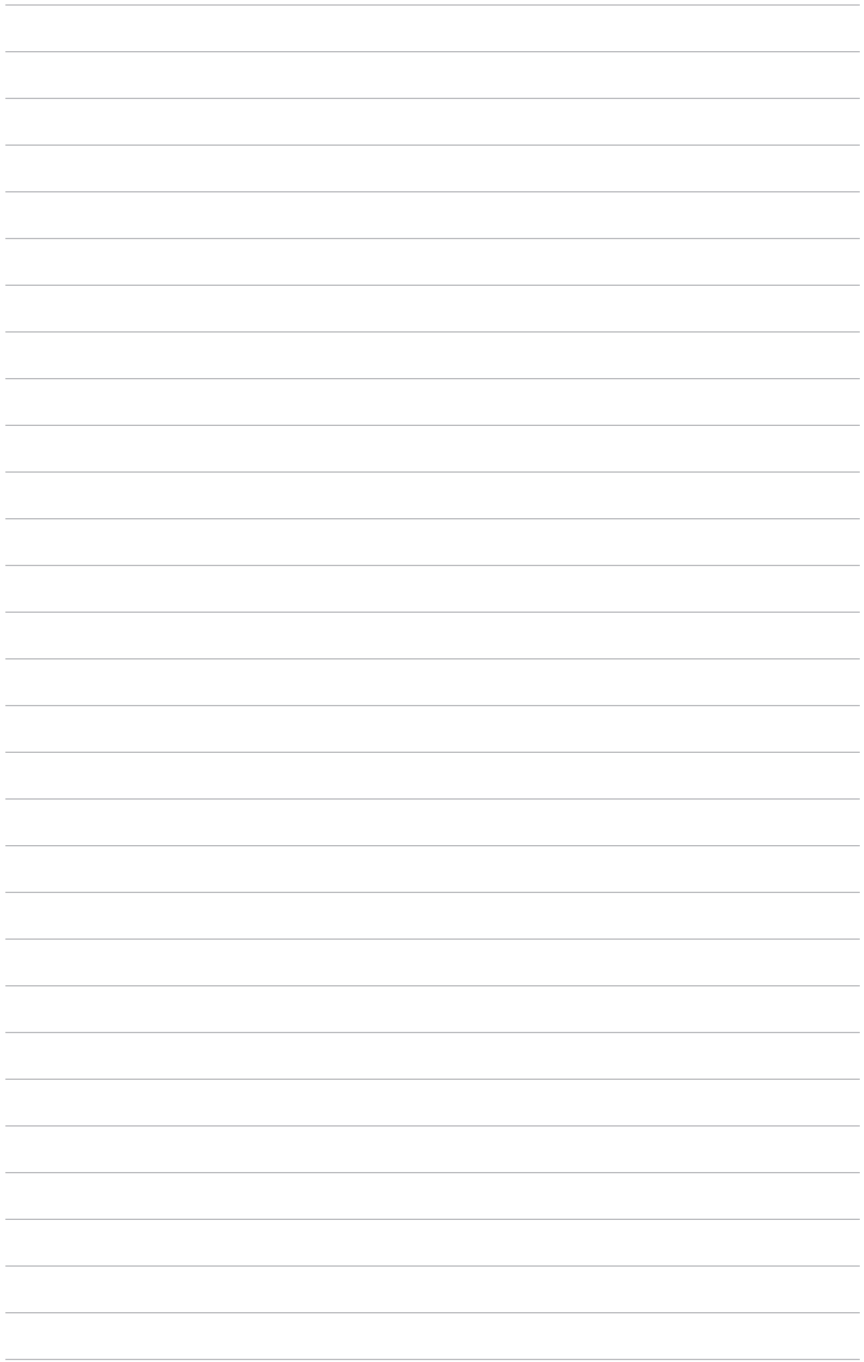


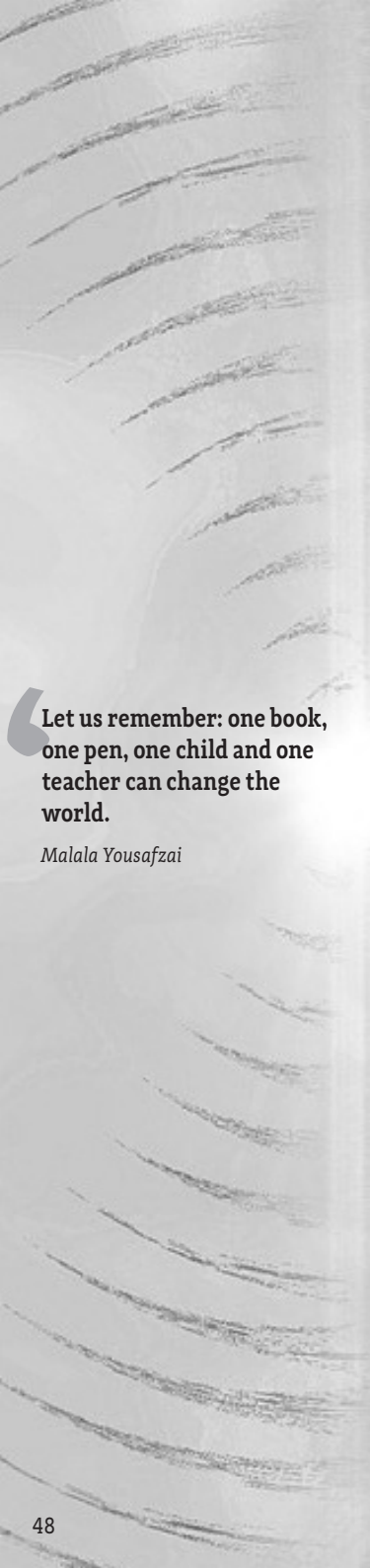




**The best and most beautiful
things in the world cannot
be seen or even touched -
they must be felt with the
heart.**

Helen Keller





**Let us remember: one book,
one pen, one child and one
teacher can change the
world.**

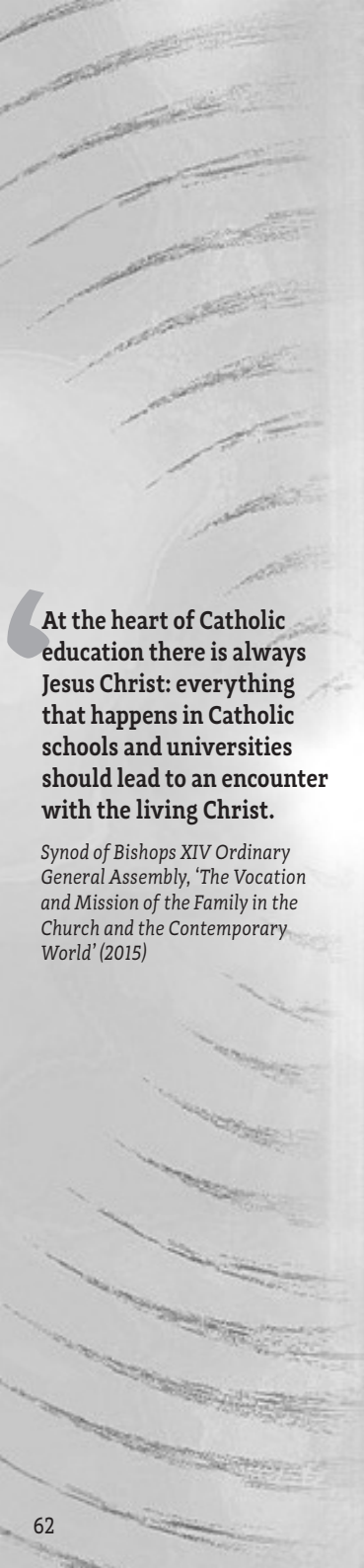
Malala Yousafzai





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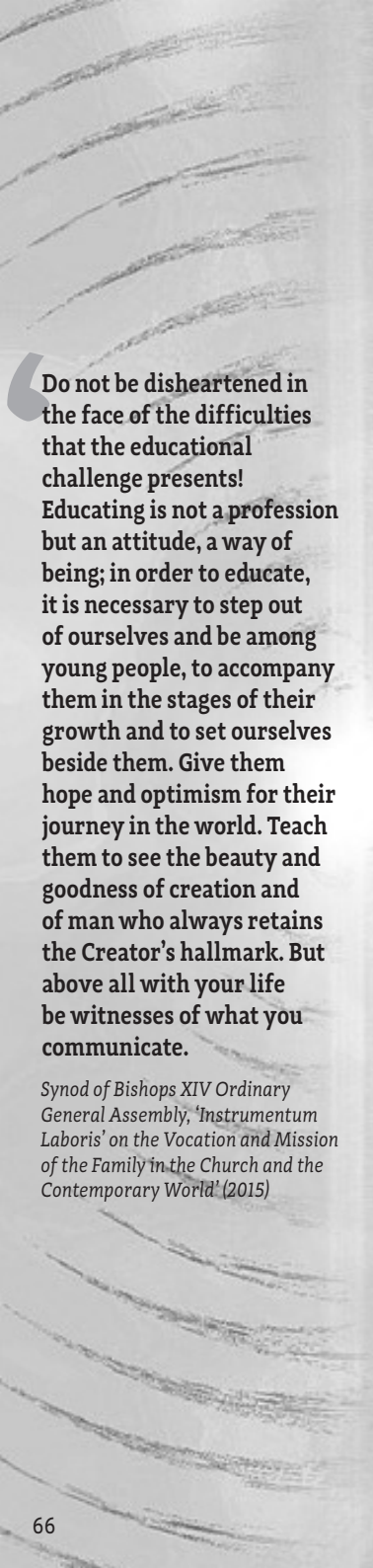


At the heart of Catholic education there is always Jesus Christ: everything that happens in Catholic schools and universities should lead to an encounter with the living Christ.

Synod of Bishops XIV Ordinary General Assembly, 'The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World' (2015)



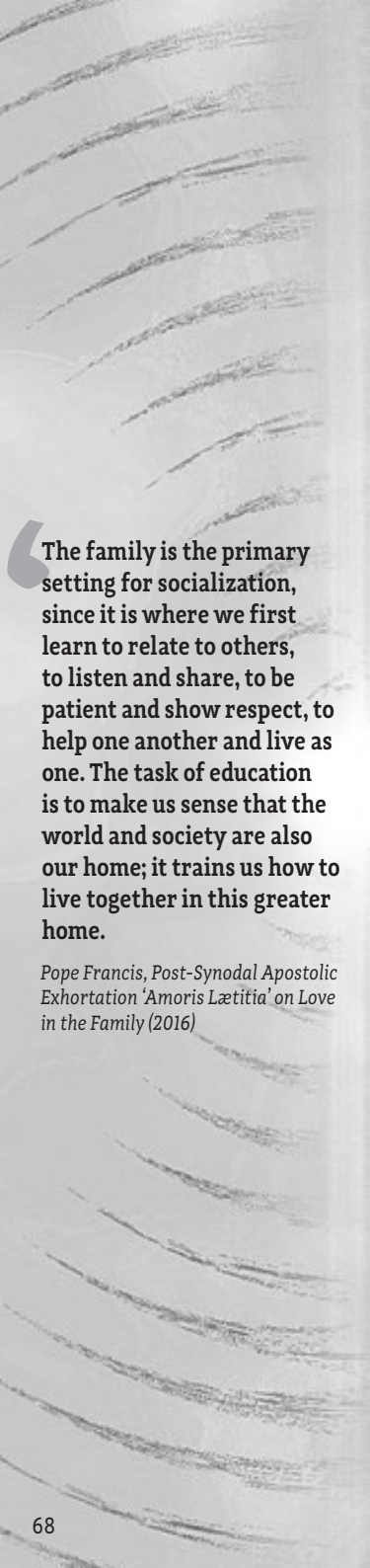




Do not be disheartened in the face of the difficulties that the educational challenge presents! Educating is not a profession but an attitude, a way of being; in order to educate, it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them. Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation and of man who always retains the Creator’s hallmark. But above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate.

Synod of Bishops XIV Ordinary General Assembly, 'Instrumentum Laboris' on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World' (2015)

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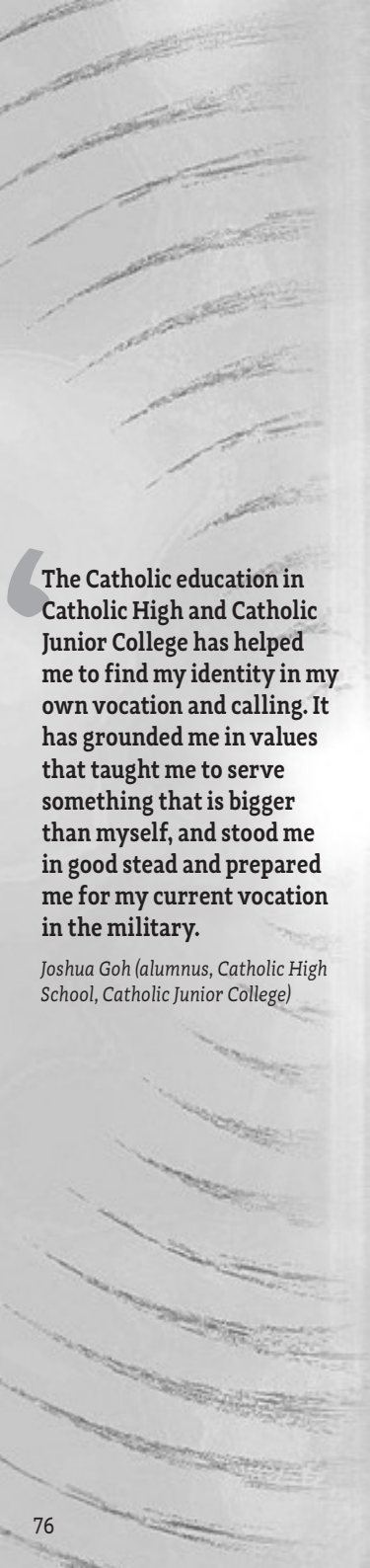
The family is the primary setting for socialization, since it is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient and show respect, to help one another and live as one. The task of education is to make us sense that the world and society are also our home; it trains us how to live together in this greater home.

Pope Francis, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation 'Amoris Lætitia' on Love in the Family (2016)





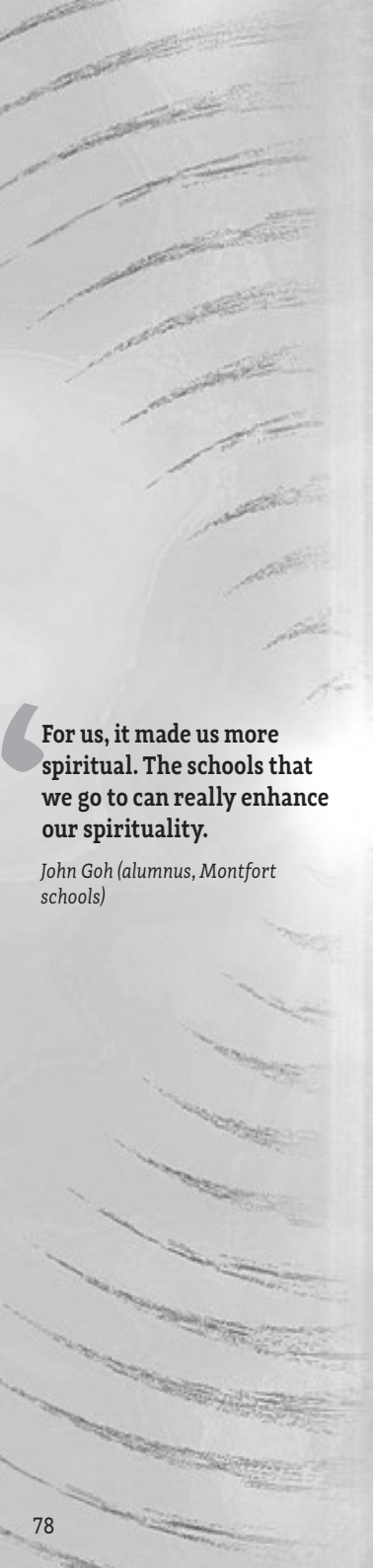




The Catholic education in Catholic High and Catholic Junior College has helped me to find my identity in my own vocation and calling. It has grounded me in values that taught me to serve something that is bigger than myself, and stood me in good stead and prepared me for my current vocation in the military.

Joshua Goh (alumnus, Catholic High School, Catholic Junior College)

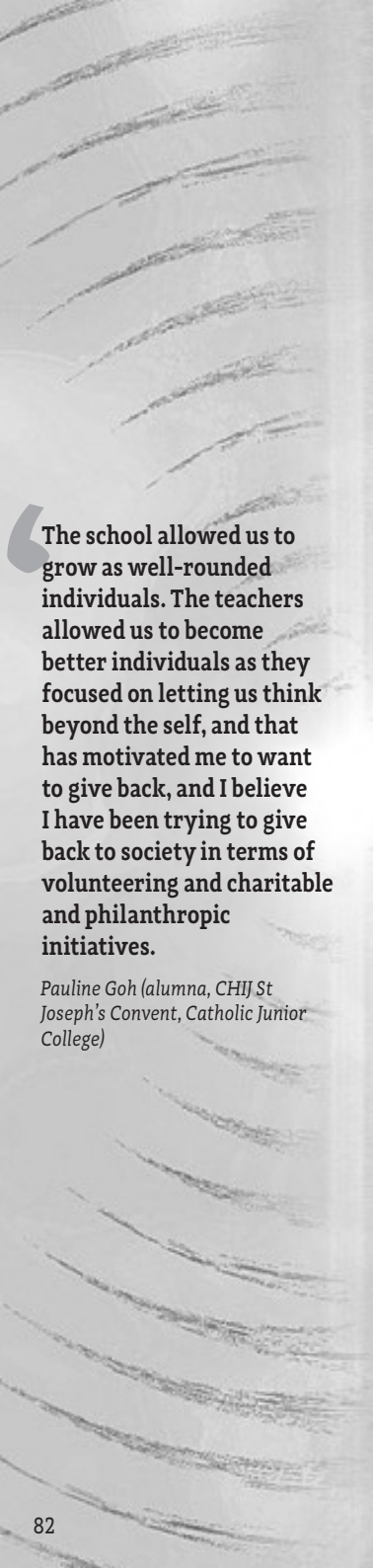




For us, it made us more spiritual. The schools that we go to can really enhance our spirituality.

John Goh (alumnus, Montfort schools)

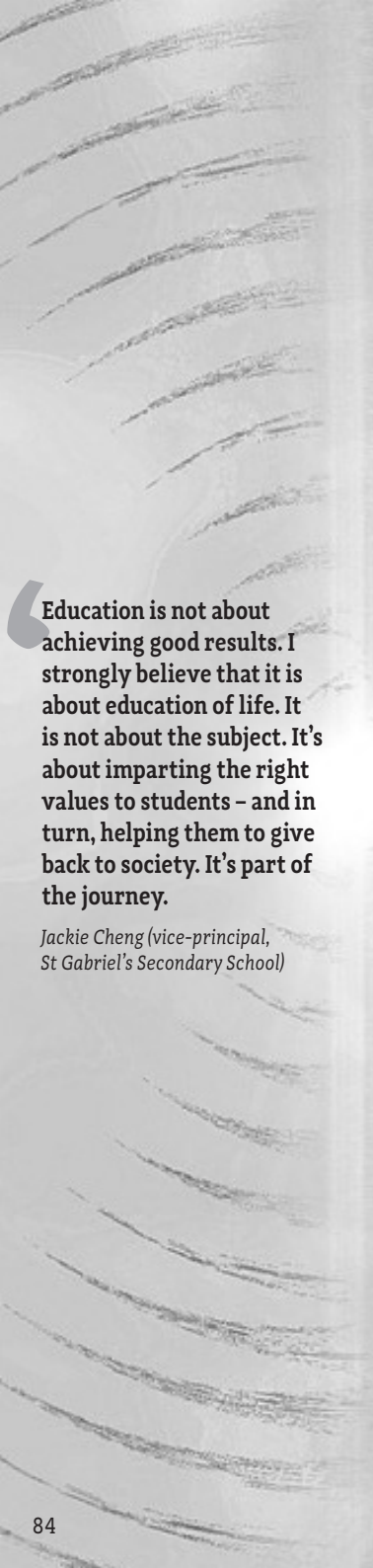




The school allowed us to grow as well-rounded individuals. The teachers allowed us to become better individuals as they focused on letting us think beyond the self, and that has motivated me to want to give back, and I believe I have been trying to give back to society in terms of volunteering and charitable and philanthropic initiatives.

Pauline Goh (alumna, CHIJ St Joseph's Convent, Catholic Junior College)

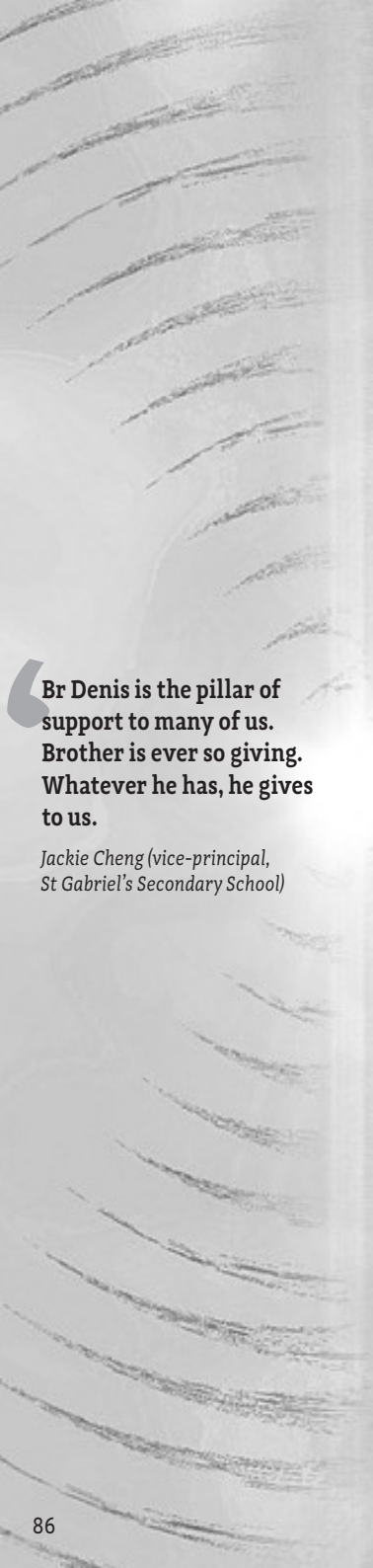




Education is not about achieving good results. I strongly believe that it is about education of life. It is not about the subject. It's about imparting the right values to students – and in turn, helping them to give back to society. It's part of the journey.

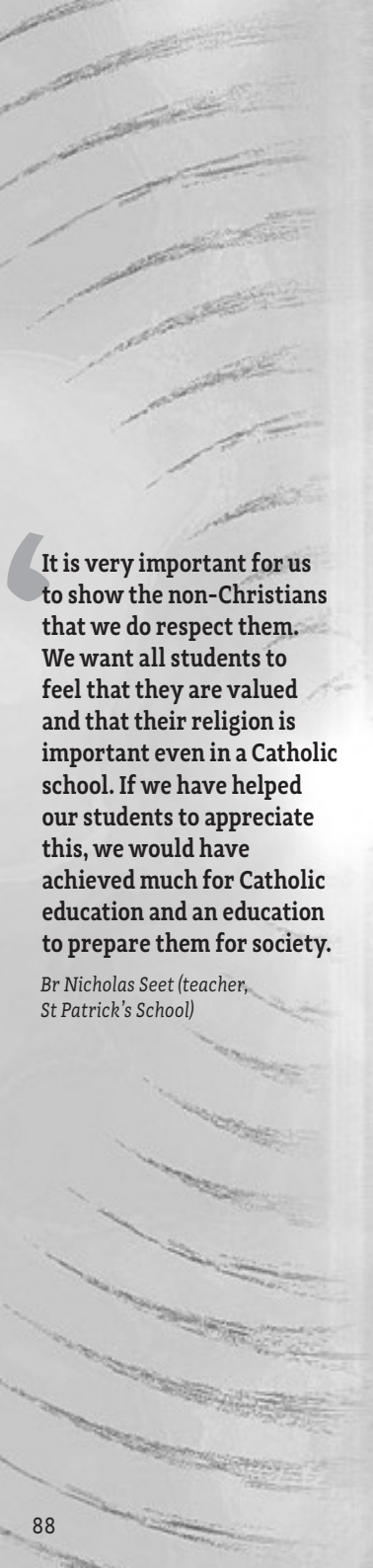
*Jackie Cheng (vice-principal,
St Gabriel's Secondary School)*





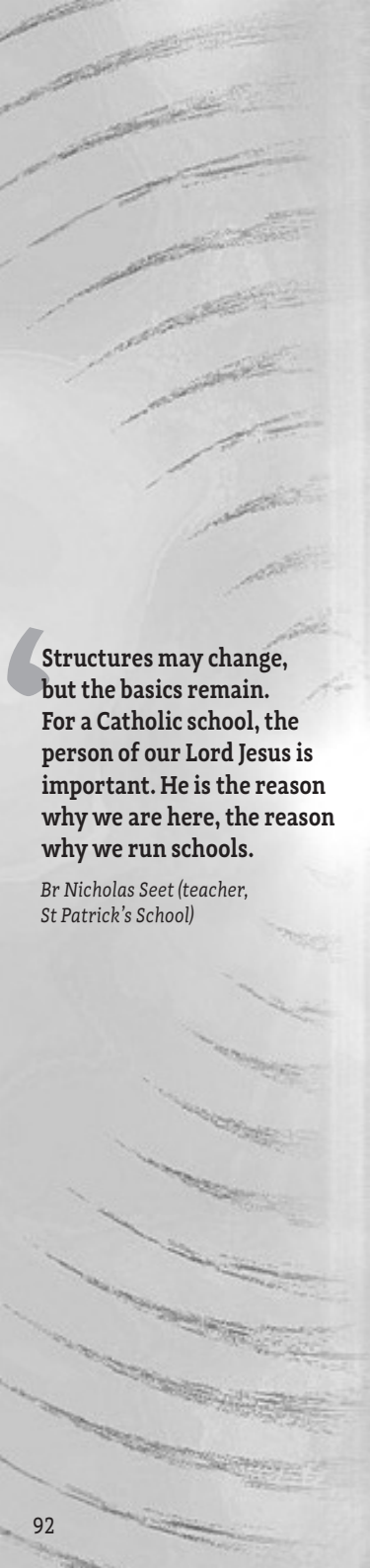
**Br Denis is the pillar of
support to many of us.
Brother is ever so giving.
Whatever he has, he gives
to us.**

*Jackie Cheng (vice-principal,
St Gabriel's Secondary School)*



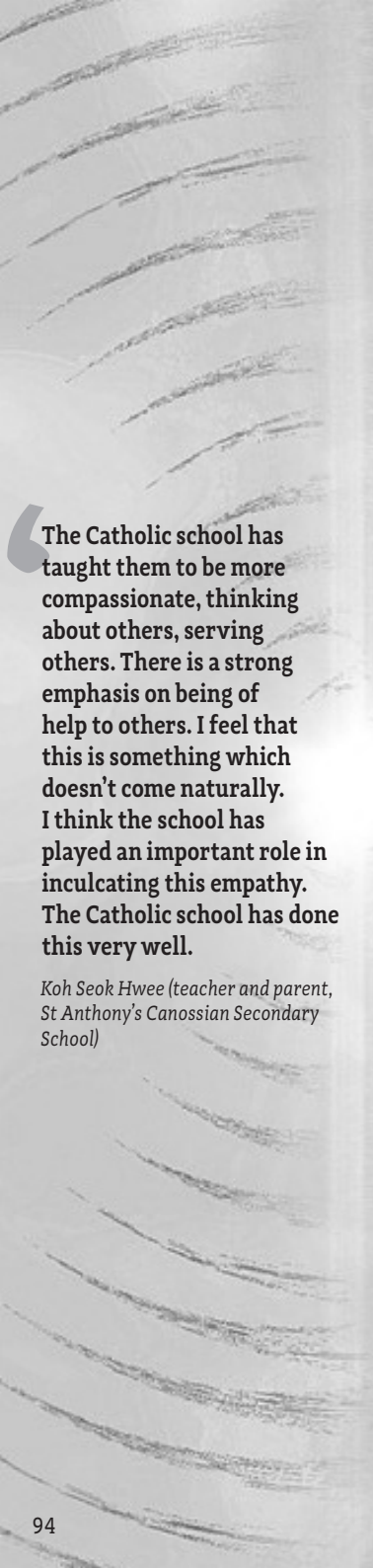
It is very important for us to show the non-Christians that we do respect them. We want all students to feel that they are valued and that their religion is important even in a Catholic school. If we have helped our students to appreciate this, we would have achieved much for Catholic education and an education to prepare them for society.

*Br Nicholas Seet (teacher,
St Patrick's School)*



**Structures may change,
but the basics remain.
For a Catholic school, the
person of our Lord Jesus is
important. He is the reason
why we are here, the reason
why we run schools.**

*Br Nicholas Seet (teacher,
St Patrick's School)*



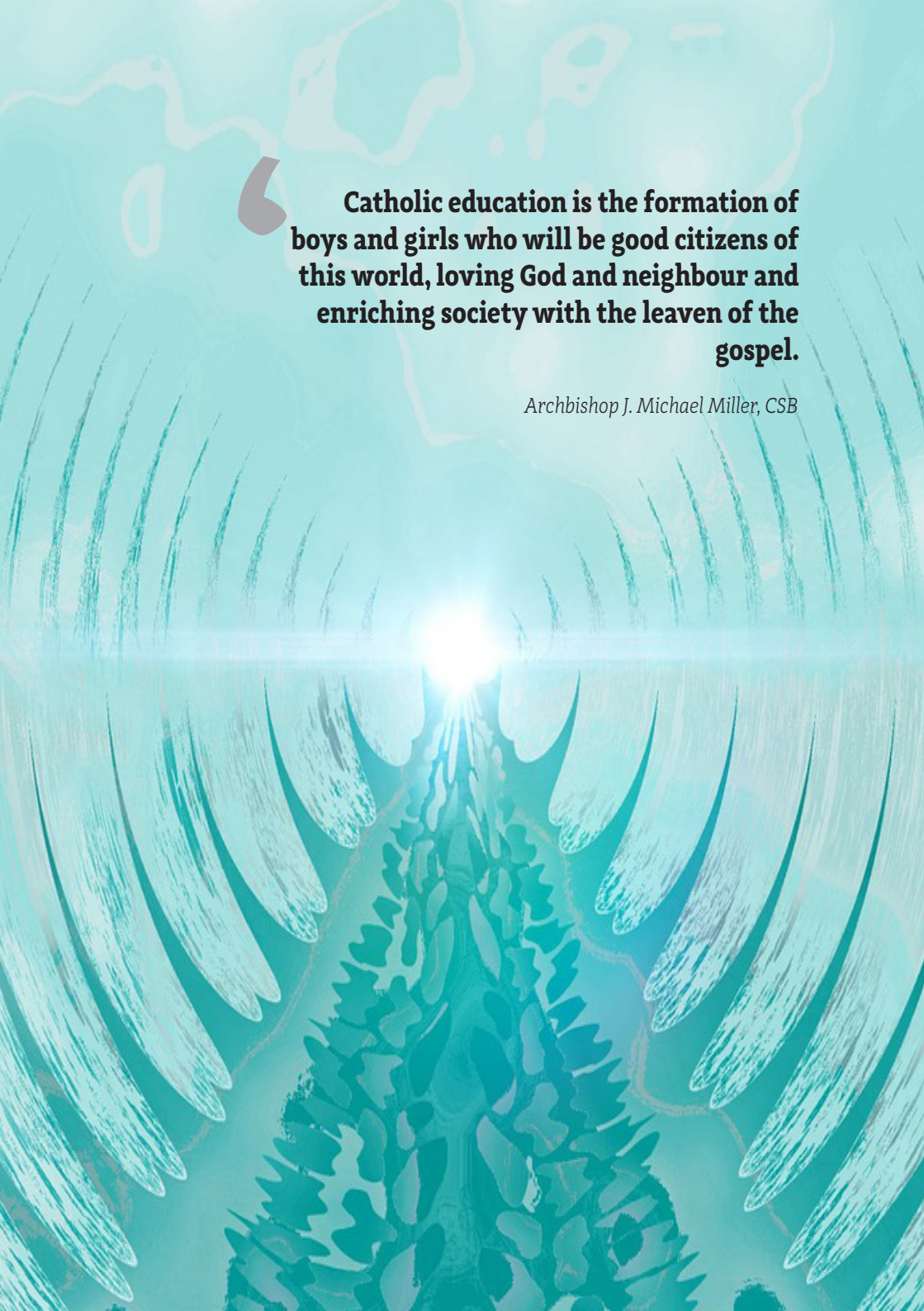
The Catholic school has taught them to be more compassionate, thinking about others, serving others. There is a strong emphasis on being of help to others. I feel that this is something which doesn't come naturally. I think the school has played an important role in inculcating this empathy. The Catholic school has done this very well.

Koh Seok Hwee (teacher and parent, St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School)



Being someone who wasn't really close to God when I was younger, when I transferred to Hai Sing, not only did I get into my dream school but it's a Catholic school. Honestly, this is the reason why I'm so close to God right now, the reason I have a deeper connection with him.

Mikaella Fiedalan Nayan (student, Hai Sing Catholic School)



Catholic education is the formation of boys and girls who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbour and enriching society with the leaven of the gospel.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB



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