

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**Archdiocesan Commission for
Catholic Schools**

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Membership

ACCS Commissioners

PRESIDENT

AB William Goh

ARCHBISHOP'S DELEGATE

Msgr Ambrose Vaz

**CHAIRMAN (WEF AUG 2011)
& MEMBER**

Prof Tan Cheng Han

ACCS ED & MEMBER

Fr Edward Seah

MAJOR SUPERIORS

Sr Christina Yeo, FdCC

Sr Susan Thomas, FMM

Sr Joan Lopez, RGS

Sr Maria Lau, IJ

Bro Robert Teoh, FMS

Br John Albert, FSG

Bro Paul Ho, FSC

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Dr Koh Thiam Seng

Mrs Pauline Wong

Fr Adrian Danker, SJ

Prof Lily Kong

Mr Gerard Lee

SMC Chairperson/s Co-Opted into ACCS

CHAIR/CBS

Mr Mark Chin

CHAIR/SPS

Mr Kenny Rebeira

Commencement of School Year (COSY)

This year, the annual Principals' Commissioning ceremony was incorporated into the Commencement of School Year (COSY) ceremony to highlight the importance of Catholic Education in Singapore. A Mass was held on Saturday, 20 January 2018, at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd with His Grace, Archbishop William Goh as the main celebrant.

A special blessing for all Catholic Schools, from pre-school to Junior College, was given by His Grace at the end of the Mass. This was followed by the Principals' Commissioning Ceremony for five new Principals appointed to head our Catholic schools.

- Mrs Chin Lai Yoke, has been appointed to head St Anthony's Canossian Primary. A parishioner of the Church of the Holy Family, Mrs Chin comes with 29 years of experience as an educator.
- Mr Eric Lee, has been appointed to head St Patrick's School. He is a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.



- Mrs Eugenie Tan, from the Church of the Holy Family, is the new principal for Canossa Convent Primary.
- With the retirement of veteran principal Madam Catherine Woon of CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC), the Infant Jesus (IJ) community welcomes Ms Grace Tan, a parishioner of St Francis Xavier's Church to lead the school.
- Mr Benjamin Kwok, a parishioner of the Church of Christ the King, has been appointed the new principal of Assumption English School (AES).

Following the Commissioning Ceremony, all Principals and Vice-Principals took a Pledge of Commitment to uphold Catholic Ethos in our Catholic Schools. This commencement of the school year event at the mother church brought with it a sense of solemnity and deep communion with the Archdiocese.



Behavioural Management Workshop by Dr Carter

Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) invited Dr Margaret Carter, a behavioural specialist from Australia, to conduct a workshop about *Connecting with 21 Century Learners* for 21 participants on 15 January. From the 16 January to 19 January, Dr Carter conducted a workshop repeated over four days for educators on *Behaviour Management* based on Christian values. Some 220 educators from Catholic schools as well as catechists attended the workshops.

Day of Recollection cum Learning Journey for the Operations and Administrative Managers of Catholic schools

On 12 June 2018, Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) organised a Day of Recollection (DOR) cum Learning Journey for the Operations and Administrative Managers of Catholic schools here in Singapore. An annual event since 2010, a DOR is held in appreciation of the managers' unique contribution to their respective schools and to the larger Catholic community. It is a platform for them to connect with fellow Operations and Administrative Managers of Catholic schools and an occasion for them to take a break from their routine work to reflect on their work and to refresh themselves.



The venue for the event this year was the Agape Village. “Having the DOR in Agape Village this year exposes the managers to the works of the Catholic Church beyond the Catholic Schools and it gives them an opportunity to gain new perspectives and see a different aspect of work that the Catholic Church does beyond the area of education.” said Fr. Edward Seah, the interim Executive Director of ACCS.

Many of the participants were touched by the under-one-roof services and the inclusive outreach of the Catholic Church to the society that Agape Village does.

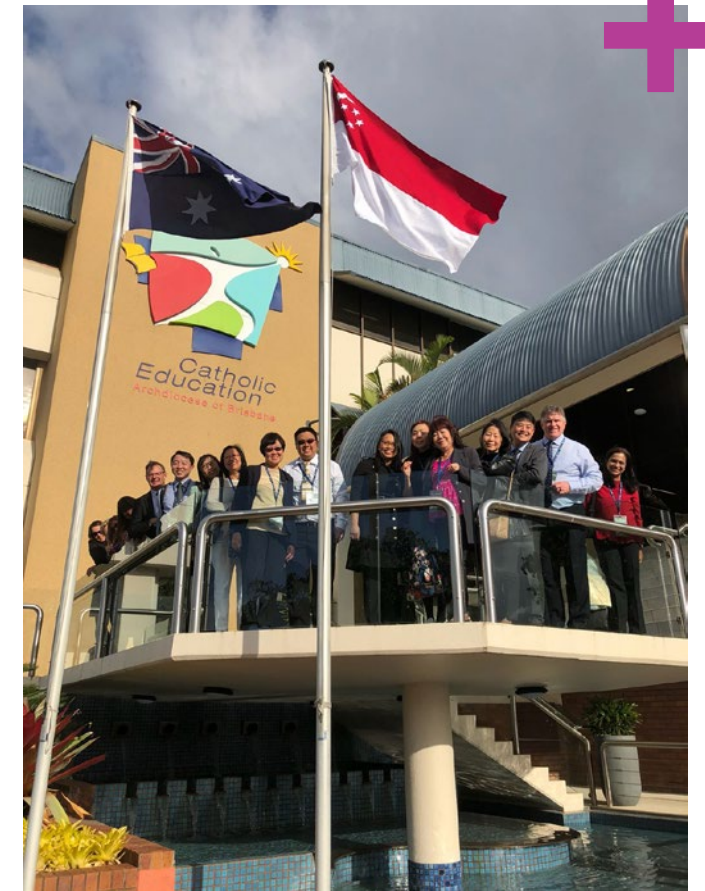


Brisbane Study Trip

The Study Trip to Catholic schools in Brisbane, Queensland and Sunshine Coast from the 4th June to 9th June 2018 involved eleven senior educators of Singapore Catholic schools who visited ten schools. The main focus of the visit was to learn about the mission of the Catholic schools within the Brisbane Catholic education system and the strategies used to integrate the Catholic ethos in the curriculum and community of each school.

The participants noted that every school had its own unique demographics and focus areas. They noted that consistent in every school was the upholding of Catholic values to create a learning environment that accommodates to the needs of all students regardless of race, religion or socio-economic status. Sacred spaces, liturgies, 5-minute prayer breaks, were features in every school. The participants saw great potential in this approach for the Catholic schools in Singapore, particularly the social community projects in which students worked together on common goals, united in values, to address particular needs of the community.

Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) and Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) office have seen six years of collaboration with over 50 school leaders from various Catholic schools in Singapore having visited the Brisbane Catholic schools. This has resulted in dialogue and collaboration among Catholic educators in Singapore on ways to strengthen the Catholic identity across the various Catholic schools in Singapore.



Teaching and Learning Exchange

The annual exchange featured a series of school visits organized by the Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) for 20 educators from Brisbane Catholic schools. Over five days, from 13th to 17th August, they visited St Anthony's Primary School, Canossa Convent Primary School, CHIJ St Nicholas, Montfort Secondary School, SJI International and Catholic Junior College. They witnessed the high quality teaching and learning practices displayed in diverse settings in Singapore Catholic schools. This was the sixth year that ACCS and the Brisbane Catholic Schools had collaborated on the Teaching and Learning Exchange. Educators from both sides found it inspiring and looked forward to further sharing of ideas.



Faith and Personal Formation

More than 100 Singapore Catholic school educators attended a spiritual formation retreat held in SJI (Independent) on 17th and 18th August 2018. Conducted by a team of facilitators from the Brisbane Catholic Education Office (BCE), the annual retreat was part of an on-going collaboration between the Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) and BCE.



The theme this year was on finding strength and new life in brokenness. Besides real-life miracle stories and video clips, retreatants reflected on scripture woven into the Japanese ancient art of 'Kintsugi'. They were given broken ceramic bowls and art pieces to repair and, in the process, experience the essence of 'Kintsugi' where failures and imperfections become a focal point of beauty and a source of healing. Many of the participants connected the activity to God's word and their role as educators, finding new insight on how to guide students to look at set-backs as opportunities for growth and learning.

Celebrating Catholic Education Sunday



Catholic Education Sunday is celebrated as an annual event to underline the importance of the tripartite collaboration between school, home and church in developing our students. It is a celebration not only for the Catholic community but also for the non-Catholic community within the Catholic Schools to appreciate their role in providing service to our society at large.

The celebration this year saw students from Catholic schools in their uniforms, serving at Masses in parishes across the island on September 8 and 9. They served as lectors, hospitality ministers and also sang with the choirs. A two-minute video on Catholic Education in Singapore was also screened.



Pre-Schools Get Together

On the 28th of December 2018, 75 Catholic preschool educators congregated for their annual year-end get together, hosted by Catholic Kindergarten, a preschool, which is managed by the Marist Brothers. The newly-built three-storey complex boasts of modern facilities including spacious classrooms and play areas which offer a variety of activities for the children to engage in. These aspects made the kindergarten a suitable venue for the get-together.

The event was an invaluable opportunity for educators from Catholic preschools to share their experiences and learn about the educational approaches and practices at Catholic Kindergarten. Participants were also treated to a relaxing and enjoyable session by renowned art therapist Dr. Daphna Arbell-Kehila. The educators gained an insight on how art can be used to connect with children on an enhanced level.

To end the event, Fr. Edward Seah, the interim Executive Director of ACCS, celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass. As that day marked the solemnity of the Holy Innocents, Fr. Edward Seah in his homily, emphasised the importance of having educators that could devote utmost care to the many young children entrusted to their care.



Chaplaincy Training



The Chaplaincy training comprised three modules. They were conducted on April 6, 13 and 20 at Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS). Intended for Religious Education (RE) coordinators and parent volunteers who were teaching the RE program, the training covered two modules on *Understanding the Eucharist* and *Organising Mass in Schools* and one module on *Relating in a Multi-Religious Community*.

In the first two modules, Fr. Ignatius Yeo, an assistant parish priest, spoke about the importance of preparing for masses with children. He shared, "There is a dynamic relationship between liturgy and catechesis. Although the ministries of Catholic school and religious education provide for children as students, the Christian identity of children is not as learners but as believers."

In the final module, Sr. Theresa Seow, Vice President of the Archdiocesan Interreligious Dialogue (AIRD) guided participants on the ground rules of interreligious dialogue. She shared that the primary purpose of dialogue was to learn by changing and growing in the understanding of reality, not by inducing change in the other party through a debate.



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