



Archdiocesan
Commission
for
Catholic Schools



Annual Report
2007

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CONTENTS:

ACCS Mission Statement

- A) Membership of the Commission
- B) Membership of Sub-Committees
- C) Meetings held in 2007
- D) Principals' Commissioning and Commitment of Service
- E) Training & Development Committee – Workshops & Seminar
- F) Religious Education Workshop for Primary Schools
- G) Civics & Moral Education for Catholic Schools
- H) Diploma in Religious Education
- I) Catechetical Text for Primary Schools

MISSION STATEMENT:

ACCS supports Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Singapore in their mission of educating children in different aspects of human knowledge and developing in them moral and spiritual values enlightened by the Gospel as well as civic values for living in Singapore society and in the world.

A) MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Chairman	Mr Bernard Chen
Deputy Chairman	Mr John Yip
Archbishop's Delegate	Msgr Eugene Vaz
Congregational Representatives	Bro Paul A. Rogers, fsc
	Sr Maria Lau, ij
Members	Mr Noel Hon
	Mr James Koh
	Mr Michael Khoo
	Mrs Theresa Foo
	Sr Cecily Pavri (Study Leave)
<u>Secretariat</u>	
Executive Secretary	Sr Cecily Pavri (Study Leave)
	Mrs Ursula Quah (Covering)
Admin Asst – General	Ms Shirley A. Louis
Admin Asst – RE	Mr Raymond Lee
<u>Professional Staff</u>	
Deputy Director, Religious Education (Sec)	Sr Julia Ong, ij
Diploma in RE Course Leader	Ms Edwina Yeow
Special Projects Officer	Bro Adrian Danker, sj

B) MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Steering Committee

Chairman
Members

Mr Bernard Chen
Msgr Eugene Vaz
Mr John Yip
Mr James Koh

School-Church Relations Committee

Chairpersons

Mr Bernard Chen
Sr Maria Lau, ij
Nil

Members

Religious Education Committee

Chairman
Dy Director for Religious Education (Sec Schools)
Course Leader
Members

Msgr Eugene Vaz
Sr Julia Ong, ij
Ms Edwina Yeow
Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh
Ms Wendy Louis
Mrs Ursula Quah
Bro Adrian Danker, sj

Policies Committee

Chairman
Co-chair
Members

Bro Paul A. Rogers, fsc
Mrs Ursula Quah
Mrs Judina Cheong
Mrs Mathews Shu Quo
Mrs Pauline Wong
Ms Lau Swee Chin
Ms Christina Teo
Mr Thomas Koh
Mr Marcel Lee

Training & Development Committee

Chairman
Members

Sr Maria Lau, ij
Ms Wendy Louis
Mrs Mathews Shuquo
Bro Dominic Yeo Koh
Bro Adrian Danker, sj
Mrs Margaret Tan
Mrs Sara de Souza
Mrs Judina Cheong
Mrs Susan Thomas

C) MEETINGS HELD IN 2007

A number of meetings were held by the Commission and various sub-committees in 2007:

ACCS Commission met four times.

Steering Committee met twice.

Religious Education Committee met several times to discuss the development of the Civics & Moral Education for Catholic Schools programme and the Diploma in RE.

The Training & Development Committee met several times to plan the three main events for on-going formation of principals and vice-principals.

The other Sub-Committees did not meet in 2007.

D) PRINCIPALS' COMMISSIONING & COMMITMENT OF SERVICE

The Principals' Commissioning & Commitment of Service ceremony was held at the Church of the Holy Spirit on 27 January 2007. Four newly appointed principals were commissioned.

The commissioning and commitment ceremonies took place at a mass celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia and Msgr Eugene Vaz. In all, 97 Principals, Vice-Principals, Chairpersons of School Management Committees (SMCs) and their families, Heads of Religious Communities sponsoring schools, School Supervisors and ACCS Commissioners and Committee Members attended the event.

E) TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee formulated a training plan for leadership development and organised the following events for principals and vice-principals:

'A Day of Reflection'

This event was a follow-up to the Commissioning of Principals in January. The purpose of this reflection was to allow principals and vice-principals to meet, exchange and deepen their understanding of their roles as leaders in Catholic schools. The event was held in the afternoon of 20 March 2007 at Catholic Junior College. A total of 30 principals, vice-principals and supervisors attended the session.

'Kingdom and The Community'

This session was a sharing by a missionary priest, Fr John Fuellenbach, SVD on the Kingdom of God to principals and vice principals. The invitation was also extended to Heads of Department for Pastoral Care, Religious Education Coordinators and Catholic teachers and parents who teach religious education. It was a full day session on 4 August 2007 at Catholic Junior College. We had a total of 80 participants for this session.

'Capturing Catholic Education in Our Context'

This two-day seminar focused on formation for Catholic School leadership. During the seminar school leaders had time to better reflect on their identity and role as Catholic leaders and the faith values that they wished their schools to transmit as Catholic institutions. This process was facilitated by Br John D'Cruz, a Lasallian brother. The seminar ran for 2 days, from 2 to 3 Nov 2007 at 'The Attic' of the Church of the Holy Spirit. We had 34 participants for this seminar.

A paper written by Bro Adrian Danker, sj, entitled 'Formation for Catholic School Leadership' was distributed to principals and vice-principals of the 35 Catholic schools before the seminar. The intent of the paper was to inform the school leaders of the importance of formation and leadership. The document presented an overview on formation. It presented the contexts that pose specific challenges and suggested possible strategies to respond to several areas of concern in managing and leading schools. It also proposed several approaches to forming school leaders, potential school leaders (teachers), staff, and school management committees.

Participants found the seminar helpful to better understand themselves as persons and as leaders of Catholic schools. They felt the need for ongoing formation and looked forward to more of such programmes.

Evaluation and future directions

The committee hopes to continue with the development of a systematic formation programme for school leaders as well as those with the potential for leadership in the Catholic schools. This would include teachers and departmental heads as well as those in the school management committees. The work of the committee would be greatly helped by having a person to steer and maintain such programmes so as to enable them to be ongoing and systematic.

F) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

ACCS conducted a workshop for new teachers and parent volunteers conducting the 'Walking with Jesus' programme in primary schools. The workshop was facilitated by Ms Wendy Louis. The aim of the workshop was to explain how to implement the programme in 30-minute lessons. We had an attendance of 30.

G) CIVICS & MORAL EDUCATION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (SECONDARY LEVEL)

A key initiative of ACCS is the development of a comprehensive religious education programme for Catholic secondary schools. The programme has been renamed 'Civics & Moral Education for Catholic Schools' and is being developed to provide spiritual formation to all students from Sec 1 to Sec 4/5, as well as to promote the distinctive Catholic character and ethos of the schools. The programme is intended to nurture all students in Catholic schools to be free, compassionate and dignified human beings, imbued with a sense of God, respectful of others and ready to serve others. Through the programme the schools will build up a strong Catholic community founded on principles of peace, justice and joy. The process of development and implementation will take about five years. The first two units of the six-unit programme have been written, namely, the units on *Choices* and on *God*. In 2007 the *Choices* unit was trialled and revised twice and issued to schools.

Briefing for Principals

A session was conducted for principals of secondary schools on 29 Aug 2007 to brief them on the CMECS and what schools needed to do to implement the programme. The briefing was well received by the principals.

CMECS Workshop

Two two-day workshops to train teachers to deliver the *Choices* unit in 2008 were conducted on 14/15 and 19/20 November 2007. They were facilitated by Mrs Patricia Lee, Sr Julia Ong and Ms Edwina Yeow. The workshops covered both the conceptual understanding of the unit as well as pedagogical approaches. The response from the schools was overwhelming, with 79 participants in all. Another workshop is being planned in January 2008 to cater to more teachers who have asked to be trained. In addition, one school has asked for 25 of their teachers to receive training in early 2008.

Challenges

The progressive development and implementation of the CMECS programme over the next five years is an extensive project which needs additional persons for the work of researching and writing the units, trialling, training, monitoring and evaluating. The difficulty is in finding persons with the requisite knowledge and skills in these areas who would be willing to work on the project for quite modest remuneration.

H) DIPLOMA IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The 2-year Diploma in Religious Education was launched in Feb 2006 and - concluded with its final session on 5 Oct 2007. The formation programme for lay Catholic teachers is intended to empower them to build up the Catholic ethos, guide the mission orientation and live the spirituality of the founding spirit in Catholic schools. Thirty-four Catholic teachers, out of an initial enrolment of 41 teachers in 2006, satisfied the requirements (80% attendance for each module and completion of assignments) and completed the programme. The participants will be receiving their diplomas during a graduation ceremony planned for 18 Jan 2008. These teachers will form the core group of teachers with the spiritual formation and insights to spearhead the religious education programme in the secondary schools.

Curriculum:

The course sessions were conducted on Friday afternoons from 3 to 5 pm. The following modules were conducted in 2007:

Module 5: Human and Faith Development (31 hrs)

Facilitated by Fr Michael McGuire

Module 6: Philosophy – GOD (8 hrs)

Facilitated by Br Adrian Danker, sj

Module 7: Moral Theology – Sexuality (16 hrs)

Facilitated by Fr Roger Champoux

Module 8: Social Teachings & FABC Documents (10 hrs)

Facilitated by Sr Mary Soh & Ms Wendy Louis

Module 9: Inter-Religious Dialogue and Ecumenism (25 hrs)

Facilitated by Sr Theresa Seow, fdcc

Challenges

Participants had difficulty initially coping with unfamiliar language and concepts. They also struggled to manage both their workload in school as well as the demands of the course. However, those who completed the course generally found it worthwhile and enriching.

FPE 2008/2009

The next diploma programme will be renamed the *Formation Programme For Educators* (FPE). It will be conducted over two years, 2008 to 2009. There will be some changes to the curriculum.

Modules that will be offered are:

Salvation History,

The Anthropology of the Christian Vocation,

Prayer,

The Philosophy of Religion,

Qohelet: the Catholic Educator in School,

Contextual Theology and Principles of Religious Formation.

The course will begin on 18 Jan 2008.

I) CATECHETICAL TEXT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

There are nineteen (19) Catholic Primary Schools in Singapore. All Catholic Primary school use the 'Walking With Jesus' series textbooks for catechism in schools - Student Workbooks, Teachers' Manual accompanying musical CDs, and Children's Lion Bible.

Following are the proceeds from the sale of the student workbooks - Oct 2007 to Apr 2008:

Primary level	Sold @\$6.00	\$
1	1382	7,971.30
2	1449	8,200.80
3	1086	5,661.00
4	884	5,181.60
5	860	4,426.80
6	556	4,074.90
TOTAL		\$35,516.40

The Teachers' Manuals were distributed free of charge to schools whenever orders exceeded 40 copies of Student workbooks per level. Only a few Musical CD-1 and CD-2 were sold in 2007.

J) ASPIRATIONS

ACCS aspires to play a significant role in supporting the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Singapore in their mission of nurturing the holistic growth of our young as human persons and believers in God. ACCS will strive to ensure the long-term continuity and viability of Catholic education in Singapore and will do our utmost to carry out the mission entrusted to us by the Archdiocese.

End