

Assisting Catholic Schools in developing  
whole persons for God in Society

# Annual Report 2009

ACCS LaSalle  
teachers Communio  
development  
spirituality  
education Schools  
ethical retreats  
God  
CMECS  
educators Chaplaincy  
Catholic  
Gabrielite  
CHIJ principals students  
Singapore

ACCS

Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools

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## **A) Message from the Executive Director**

Dear friends,

2009 has been a very busy year with a few firsts.

For the first time we had a diocesan gathering of all early childhood educators - Kindergarten Principals. For the first time we conducted in the diocese a training programme specially designed for school chaplains; For the first time, the Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools has built up a team of 9 full time and part time staff, covering Primary and Secondary schools, formation, admin and media.

The many events, workshops, courses, curriculum meetings, committee and commission meetings with our various stakeholders has helped us work together and share our challenges. The main challenges remain to keep our schools visibly Catholic and authentically Catholic. To continue to maintain high standards of governance in our schools and SMCs. To build up teams of chaplains in our schools to nurture the Catholic ethos.

We have a few major concerns going forward:

That all our Catholic schools can share a common vision and mission even while taking into account the particular charisms and historical contexts.

That we can use the flexibility we are given to put into right order our priorities in Catholic education. While not compromising on academic performance we remain convinced that Character and Religious formation are a matter of life and death for our young people and should take pride of place. We cannot fail them in this respect even if they show little or no appreciation at this point of time.

That we, the Commission and staff, can work together with Sponsoring authorities, SMCs and Principals to make our schools places of welcome, of learning and centred on God.

Our newest project is to develop, at the request of some schools, a new programme for our Catholic students in Secondary schools. We would like to incorporate the vision of the Second Vatican Council of the Church as a community that is Christ centred, service oriented, willing to dialogue and open to the world. Our material will aim at developing disciples for today.

Wendy Louis

Executive Director - Catholic Schools Commission

December 2009

***ACCS Mission Statement -  
Assisting Catholic Schools in developing  
whole persons for God in society***

## B) Members of the Commission

### 1. Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools: Members

The term of office for the members was renewed last year, for a term of 3 years from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2010. The Commission had 4 meetings in 2009.

Archbishop Nicholas Chia (president)  
Msgr Eugene Vaz (Archbishop's representative)  
Mr Bernard Chen (chairman)  
Mr John Yip (deputy chairman)  
Mr James Koh (member)  
Mr Noel Hon (member)  
Br Paul Rogers (member)  
Sr Maria Lau (member)  
Mr Cheong Yip Seng (member)  
Dr Chong Yoke Sin, Esther (member)  
Mr Lim Soo Ping (member)  
Ms Jessica Tan (member)  
Ms Ursula Quah (secretary)  
Ms Wendy Louis (ex-officio)

### 2. Committees

#### a. RE Committee

The committee members are Msgr Vaz, Br Dominic Yeo-Koh, Ms Ursula Quah, Ms Wendy Louis, Ms Jeanette Atabelo, Mr John Chan, Mr Raymond Lee and Mr Louis Oo.  
The committee had met 4 times in 2009 and will be having a 5th meeting on 7 Dec 2009.

#### b. Training & Development Committee

The committee members are Sr Maria Lau, Mrs Matthews Shu Quo, Mrs Sarah De Souza, Br Dominic Yeo-Koh, Mrs Margaret Tan, Ms Wendy Louis, Mr Louis Oo and Mr Andrew Tan.  
The Committee was revived in July 2009 by Ms Wendy Louis after a year without meetings.  
Mrs Judina Cheong and Mrs Susan Thomas withdrew from the committee while Mr Andrew Tan joined as a new member. Mr Louis Oo joined as staff in charge of formation for ACCS.  
Committee had 2 meetings in 2009 - 29th Jul 2009 and 12 Nov 2009.  
A joint meeting between the RE Committee and T&D committee was held on 12 Nov to clarify roles that had become blurred between the two committees.

## MEETINGS

### Major Superiors

As stipulated in the Statutes, ACCS met with the Major Superiors of religious orders that are sponsoring Catholic Schools to give them an update on the various issues or work that ACCS is handling.

On 24 March 2009, ACCS represented by the Archbishop, Msgr Vaz, Br Paul Rogers, Mr John Yip, Ms Ursula Quah, Br Adrian Danker and Ms Wendy Louis met the following Major Superiors in CJC Conference Room:

Sr Christina Yeo (rep Sr Marilyn Lim) for the Canossian schools  
Sr Susan Chia (Good Shepherd Sisters) for Marymount Convent  
Sr Maria Ng (Franciscan Missionaries of Mary) Hai Sing Catholic School  
Br Thomas Chin (Marist Brothers) for Maris Stella High Schools  
Br Collin Wee (De LaSalle Brothers) for the Lasallian Schools  
Br Francis Gasper (Brothers of St Gabriel) for the Gabrielite Schools  
Fr Gerard Louis of the Redemptorist Order was also present because of his involvement with schools through the 'schools missions'.

The agenda for the meeting was ACCS staff matters, land lease of Catholic schools, School Chaplaincy Team, Civics & Moral Education for Secondary Schools.

### School Management Committee

An urgent meeting between the Commission and the chairpersons of SMCs was carried out on 3rd June 2009.

The purpose of this meeting was to share with the chairpersons about a new Code of Governance

proposed by MOE for Independent and Government-Aided Schools.

Ms Wendy Louis and Mr Bernard Chen attended the MOE Townhall Meeting on 2nd October for a dialogue session.

### C) Staff of ACCS Office

Designation	Name	Joined ACCS	Left ACCS
Executive Director	Wendy Louis	Jan 2009	
Dy Executive Director	Br Adrian Danker	Jun 2007	Jun 2009
Executive Secretary	Ursula Quah	Jan 2006	
Admin Officer	Shirley Louis	Apr 2005	
Research & Admin	Raymond Lee	Jan 2006	
Project Director (RE Sec)	Jeanette Atabelo	Joined May 2008 Proj. Dir. since May 2009	
Project Director (RE Pri)	John Chan	May 2009	
Formation	Louis Oo	Jan 2009	
Admin Assistant	Susie Lim	May 2009	
Media & Communications	Don Gurugay	Aug 2009	
Early Childhood Specialist	Vacant		

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009

A briefing of all ACCS staff on education matters was conducted by Ms Soh Lai Leng of Holy Innocents High at the request of Wendy Louis and Bro Adrian Danker. The aim was to familiarize the staff with policies and constraints faced in schools today.

#### 3-4 Sep 2009: “Educating for Character”

Workshop by Professor Thomas Lickona, held at SJI Independent School.

Two of the ACCS staff, Jeanette Atabelo and John Chan, participated in the event. It offered some fresh ideas and also a wider perspective to how teaching for character formation can be done in schools as well as showed where some helpful resources could be found.

#### 11-12 Oct 2009: Staff Planning retreat

An overnight stay and barbeque at a Changi Bungalow brought all the staff of ACCS together with Ursula Quah and one commissioner - Dr Esther Chong. A review of the year was done and some plans made for the future.

#### 15-16 Oct 2009 : Symposium on Aquinas, Education and the East

This was organized by the Wee Kim Wee Centre of the Singapore Management University. Two ACCS staff, Jeanette Atabelo and John Chan, participated in the event. The conference sought to evaluate the contemporary relevance of St. Thomas Aquinas’ views for philosophy and practice of education. Several distinguished speakers from many countries came to share their thoughts and discussed important aspects of education today. The influence of the saint on education has been significant and the symposium was a good and engaging opportunity to revisit his teachings.

### SECRETARIAT SERVICES

The Schools section on the Archdiocesan web site is updated by ACCS Secretariat. This process is maintained throughout the year as and when new information is available.

The Catholic Schools section in the Church Directory is also updated by ACCS Secretariat. The statistics for educational institutions in the Archdiocese is provided by ACCS.

The Secretariat was also mediator for eleven Catholic Secondary Schools who were issued a notice demanding immediate payment from the Copyright Licensing and Administration Society of Singapore (CLASS) for materials photocopied. ACCS coordinated with the eleven schools to facilitate their payment or non payment and negotiation with CLASS.

## D) Events

### 1. Principals' Commissioning & Commitment of Service, Saturday 19 January 2008.

The Commissioning was conducted at the Church of St Ignatius during the Saturday Sunset Mass. After the homily there was a two part service. Firstly, the Commissioning of newly appointed principals and secondly a renewal of commitment by all principals and vice-principals to lead their schools according to the gospel values.

### 2. Teachers' Day Celebration

- Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009. Mass 3.00pm, Tea reception from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. 300+ Catholic educators from the various Schools and Kindergartens attended the function.
- The theme was "Teaching as Jesus Taught" which aimed at reminding educators of the reason and mode of teaching. The main celebrant was His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia with Fr. David Garcia OP as the con-celebrant.
- SJI International generously offered us the use of their Chapel for Mass. Other Schools involved this year were:
  - CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh) - Choir - a beautiful experience.
  - SJI International - Altar servers.
  - Montfort Sec, SJI Int'l, CHIJ St Nicholas - Ushers and Wardens
  - Increasingly, we note that Catholic teachers from non-Catholic schools are attracted to our Teachers' Day celebration.



## E) Visits to Schools

### 1) Early Childhood Education

Two visits to Catholic Kindergartens were made:

Maris Stella Kindergarten run by FMM sisters (3<sup>rd</sup> Feb) and Marymount Kindergarten, run by the Good Shepherd Sisters (19<sup>th</sup> Mar). These visits were meant to give the Executive Director some idea of the state of our Kindergartens with regards to Catholic programmes and their needs. The visits were very helpful and helped in the preparation of the July gathering. The Catholic Programme in most Kindergartens does not exceed 30 minutes per week.

#### Kindergarten Principals and Supervisors gathering

Catholic Kindergarten Principals met for the first time on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Twenty Four Principals and teachers gathered at the parish of Christ the King.

Archbishop welcomed them and encouraged them as VIPs in the education family.

Two early childhood specialists trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd gave a short session of their experience on the "Spirituality of the Child".

Resources for pre-school children - a booklet with Liturgical celebrations and activities for young children was distributed to all those present.

Among the challenges & requests they mentioned were:

- The difficulty to recruit Catholic staff
  - Trying to be inclusive & Catholic in a pluralist environment
  - To have a common curriculum across all Catholic Kindergartens
  - Make a real effort to retain good staff and Principals with better salaries and facilities.
- Supervisors of Parish based Kindergartens did not attend.

## 2) Primary School Education

Holy Innocents Primary Meeting between Mrs Doris Sum, Wendy Louis & Mr John Yip.  
St Joseph's Junior (29<sup>th</sup> Sept) - meeting with principal

## 3) Secondary School Education

Schools visited by Wendy Louis and members of the Commission were as follows:

CHIJ St Nicholas Girls - 4<sup>th</sup> Sept  
CHIJ St Joseph's Convent - 10<sup>th</sup> Sept  
CHIJ St Teresa's Convent - meeting with Principal only.  
St Anthony's Convent Secondary School - 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct

## 4) School Principals Meet

A gathering of School leaders from the Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at the parish of Christ the King. ACCS staff hosted the event which was attended by 19 Principals, 17 Vice Principals, 2 RE coordinators & 3 religious sisters.

Main items discussed were the implementation of chaplaincy teams in schools and the new Civics & Moral Education Programme for Catholic Schools (CMECS) for Secondary One and Two that is being rolled out by ACCS office for 2010.

Also introduced was the calendar of events for 2010 and two booklets on prayer and silence to encourage all Catholic schools to have moments of silence during the school year.

## F) Chaplaincy Teams in Catholic Schools

*The Development of Chaplaincy teams was approached very gradually with development of a concept paper and widespread consultation with the clergy, principals and SMCs.*

### 1) Consultations

- 18<sup>th</sup> February from 9am to 1.00pm - Presentation and feedback with Clergy at Priests Day of Recollection
- 7<sup>th</sup> March - Bailyne Sung
- 30<sup>th</sup> April - Principals & SMCs
- Visits to clergy

*The following visits were made to hear the priests more closely on issues related to schools and in particular the concept of a Chaplaincy team. In a number of these meetings the priests called for better coordination of chaplains including those at the tertiary levels and they asked for the setting up of a Chaplaincy Office.*

*There has been some question about the name 'Chaplaincy Team' but we feel strongly that there should be no confusion with the counselling and pastoral care that exists in our schools. The spiritual and religious element of chaplaincy must be foremost. For more information on chaplaincy teams please contact Wendy Louis at [wendyl@catholic.org.sg](mailto:wendyl@catholic.org.sg).*

- 1 Wednesday, 11 Feb 2009 - SPI Meeting with Frs Joseph Tan and Luke Fong
- 2 Wednesday, 24 Feb 2009 - St Theresa's Church Meeting with Frs Michael Arro and Damian de Wind
- 3 Thursday, 26 Feb 2009 - St Joseph's Church Meeting with Frs Michael Teo and Andre Christophe
- 4 Friday, 27 Feb 2009 - Holy Family Church Meeting with Frs Patrick Goh, Ignatius Yeo and Christopher Lee
- 5 Tuesday, 3 March - Church of the Risen Christ Meeting with Frs John Sim, Loiseau, Valerian Chong and Stanislaus Pang
- 6 Thursday, 5 March - Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Meeting with Fr Henry Siew
- 7 Friday, 6 March - St Mary's of the Angels meeting with Friar John-Paul Tan, ofm
- 8 Friday, 13 March - Church of St Vincent de Paul Meeting with Frs Michael Sitaram & Erbin Fernandez
- 9 Tuesday, 12 May - SPI Meeting with Fr Johnson Fernandez

## 2) Training

4 modules were designed and the workshops conducted in June and July.

June 23-25- Module one and two - 12 hours of training by Fr Ron Bagley (See annex B for description of the modules.)

July 22, 29 - Module three and four - 8 hours by Ms Soh Lai Leng, Ms Michelle Soliano and Bro Colin Wee on the context of our schools and adolescents.



## 3) Placement/ recruiting of Chaplains

Holy Innocents High - meetings to introduce Sr Assunta Cheng FMM as part time chaplain.

St Gabriel's Primary (31<sup>st</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept, 16 Nov) - meetings to introduce

chaplaincy and Sr Assunta Cheng FMM as part time chaplain

CHIJ St Teresa's (13<sup>th</sup> Nov) - meeting organized at the request of Chaplain Fr Damien de Wind to discuss the future of the chaplaincy team and recruitment of team members.

Chaplaincy Team from Catholic High School meeting at CAEC (29<sup>th</sup> Sept).

## 4) Meetings with Tertiary Chaplains

Fr Damien de Wind and Sr Jessica on 6<sup>th</sup> October at St Teresa's Church.

Frs. Damien, Paul Staes, Alex Chua on 9<sup>th</sup> November at St Joseph's BT.

Discussion is ongoing regarding the need for a Chaplaincy Office and better coordination of services.

## G) Media & Communications

### On-line presence

In addition to our blog, accs-communion.blogspot.com, we launched our web site [www.accs.sg](http://www.accs.sg) in October this year. Consisting of 8 pages, it provides viewers with a host of information of our objectives, personnel, activities, photographs and a complete listing of Catholic schools. In addition, it also lists resources for educators like prayers and links to relevant web sites.



In the following months the resources will be enhanced with additional material.

The web site and blog complement each other. The web site concentrates on more permanent information whilst the blog focuses on more current “magazine” style information in a more informal way.

The blog, which started in April 2008 has a total of 56 articles to date and was revised in August this year. For next year we’re also looking at forming a “Facebook” group for teachers which allow us to create better interaction in an informal setting.

### Print communications

Articles and information about ACCS have been published in the Catholic News.

These consist of articles specific to an event as well as announcements of planned events.

In addition to hard copy mass distributed media, posters, calendars and hand-out leaflets have also been designed, printed and distributed to targeted groups as well as through the parishes, Catholic schools and to the relevant organisations.

A mast head was also designed for use on the web site, posters, stationery and banners. An outdoor banner for publicising events was also produced.



## H) ACCS Formation Programmes

**A. Communio Gatherings:** where school leaders and educators in Singapore Catholic education gather to share and learn, to grow as persons and educators, to build community together. We meet once a school term at different locations. ACCS handles the program - inviting speakers and publicity, whereas the schools take care of room setting, snacks and drinks.

**a) 1st Communio (20 Feb) “Character Education in Catholic Schools”**

First Communio was hosted by CHIJ Toa Payoh Secondary school. Presenters were Mr Charles Surin from Hai Sing and Mrs Regina Lee from CHIJ Toa Payoh who shared their presentations with their RE Coordinators who also are in charge of character education. There were 64 participants and many were inspired by the programmes and sharing of the two schools.

**b) 2nd Communio (24 Apr) “The Relevance of Catholic Schools Today”**

Hosted by St Stephen’s School and the speaker was Br Michael Broughton. There were 43 participants including two parents and a parish catechist. Participants’ evaluation showed that they enjoyed the talk of Br Michael Broughton. It was encouraging for the ACCS to proceed with similar events for the catholic teachers and educators.

**c) 3rd ‘Communio’ (9 Oct) “Marymount Convent School’s Ideas & Living Values Journey”**

Hosted by Marymount Convent School. There were 11 teachers from Primary Schools, 16 from Secondary Schools and 5 from Kindergartens. In total 33 teachers and educators from Catholic schools were welcomed by Mrs Angela Tan, School principal, and her staff.

The two teacher-presenters, Ms Marilyn and Ms Fernandez, shared creatively and passionately. The participants were given time for sharing and discussion.

**d) 4th ‘Communio’ (17 Nov) “How can we share our faith with the young?”**

The year end gathering of Catholic educators was hosted by St Patrick’s School. The speaker was Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP. The event began at 3pm and ended by 5.30pm. There were 93 educators from Catholic and non-Catholic schools, kindergartens and a few catechists. It was very well received.



'Communio' gatherings have received good support and participation from educators from both Catholic and non Catholic schools despite their own hectic school schedules. It is a promising programme facilitated by ACCS since it offers an occasion for all catholic educators to share, to learn and to grow as a Catholic community.

### 'Communio' Programmes for 2010

Gatherings of school leaders and educators once a school term will continue in 2010. Themes and dates for each event have been tentatively chosen and presented to the school leaders. They are:

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| - Practices in Catholic Schools/Chaplaincy Team  | Fri 26 Feb |
| - Understanding Common Space in Catholic Schools | Fri 23 Apr |
| - Can we share a common vision?                  | Fri 30 Jul |
| - Care for the Environment                       | Tue 16 Nov |

### B. Two year diploma programme for Educators (FPE)

The Formation Programme for Educators was successfully completed with eight Catholic teachers from six different schools; two from CHIJ St Theresa’s, two from Catholic High, one each from CHIJ Toa Payoh, Holy Innocents’ High, Hai Sing, and St Gabriel’s Secondary.

Programmes for 2009 were:

1. Philosophy of the Human Person (16, 23, 30 Jan and 6 Feb)  
This ten hour session was given by Br Adrian Danker sj and the participants - eight FPE educators and five public, were invited to cultivate the habit of critical thinking, that is, to ponder philosophically on our human reality based on their life experience.
2. Anthropology of the Christian Vocation Part Two (13, 14 and 15 Feb)  
Fr Michael McGuire, SSC, facilitated this intensive seminar. The aim was to empower the Catholic educators to explore their self awareness and self acceptance for growth in personal freedom. There were 17 attendees - 8 FPE teachers and 9 other Catholic teachers and parents. The session was followed by 3 hours of individual Spiritual Direction for FPE participants and a two hour 'unpacking' session with Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh and Wendy Louis.
3. Prayer II (Fri 6 Mar and Fri 20 Mar)  
This four hour session was a continuation of the 2008 module on Prayer and was intended to guide the Catholic educators to build deeper a relationship with God and to strengthen their own personal prayer. The session was facilitated by Sr Francisca Tan, RC. The attendees were FPE participants.
4. Social Teaching (Fri 27 Mar, Fridays 3, 17, 24 Apr)  
Ms Wendy Louis and Sr Mary Soh FMM co-facilitated these sessions (10 hours in all). The educators were led to study the key principles of Catholic social teaching, and were invited to be aware that the relationship with God requires a just relation to others. Participants were also helped to examine their school realities in the light of the social teachings.
5. Theology of Dialogue (Fri 8, 15, 22 May, 26 Jun, & 10 July)  
Sr Teresa Seow FdCC facilitated this module which seeks to understand the fundamental message and attitude of the Church towards interreligious dialogue and Ecumenism. The students are encouraged to take a look at other religious teachings while studying Church documents and Church history relating to interreligious dialogue.
6. Moral Theology II (Fri 17, 18, & 24 July)  
This session explored 'Theology of the Body: Human Love in the Divine Plan', from lectures of Pope John Paul II and reflected the profound interconnections between sex and the deepest questions of human existence. Participants were encouraged to ponder how to bridge theological concepts they learned to their own lives and relationships. Fr David Garcia OP presented this session and concluded with a 20 minute oral exam for each participant.
7. Salvation History (Fri 31 July, 7, 21, 28 Aug, 11 Sep)  
This last module of the programme introduced the main issues and themes of God's dealing with men and women as recorded in the passages of the Holy Bible. The participants gained a better knowledge and appreciation of who Jesus is, how He works in the world, how salvation history continues in the Church, and is still relevant to the life and witness of her members to this age. Msgr Eugene Vaz has conveyed this message effectively and conducted a final oral exam for each participant on 9 & 22 Oct.

The two year diploma programme in Religious Education has been well constructed and proficiently executed by ACCS over the past four years. However, the biggest challenge was 'time' for teachers as they struggled pretty hard to fulfill all the requirements for the diploma. The number of participants dwindled dramatically from 40 in 2006-07 to 8 in 2008-09 and only 50% were able to receive a diploma.

#### **FPE seminars for 2010**

To ease to the problem of time constraints of educators, a modular basis Formation Programme for Educators will be running in 2010. The four Essential Formation Modules- Anthropology of Christian Vocation, Moral Theology, Social Teaching, and Salvation History will be offered throughout the year with sufficient time to grasp the basics of faith and religious formation. A total of 8 modules spread out over a three year period are to be offered. The attendance, assignments and assessments will be credited and that eventually will lead to a diploma in Religious Education at the completion of the 8 modules.

## C. Spiritual Wellness Programmes for educators

### 1. Weekend Recollections

A stay-in retreat is set once a term aiming to help educators recall, appreciate and celebrate their teaching vocation and ministry.

#### a) Called to Teach and Care (6-7 Mar) - Cancelled due to poor response.

The first event was set up at LifeSprings Canossian Spiritual Centre from 7pm March 6 to 6pm March 7. All the preparation and publicizing were made and the two retreat directors, Br Robert and Sr Liz Tham were ready. Only two had registered in the days prior to this date so the programme was cancelled.

#### b) Called to Teach and Build (5-6 June)

The event took place at the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Counselling. The Retreat facilitator was Br Dominic. There were 13 teachers and educators from Catholic schools and non Catholic schools. Teachers were invited to look back on their own vocation and led to appreciate it as a personal call offered by God.

#### c) Called to Teach and Renew (28-29 Aug)

It was held at the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Counselling. Five Catholic educators from Primary and Kindergarten grasped this opportunity to refresh and renew spiritually during this one evening and a day.

Although the group may be small, it encompassed a good mixture of experiences representing a principal, teacher, RE-coordinator and religious. Fr Colin Tan SJ accompanied the retreatants by teaching Ignatian contemplation, examining of conscious, and giving three inspiring talks.

## Spiritual Wellness Programmes for 2010

In respond to the request of school leaders regarding teachers' spiritual wellness, four programmes were carefully selected for 2010.

- The first one is intended to introduce Catholic ethos and Catholic education to all Operation Managers and Administration Managers from Catholic schools while building a network within the school system.  
The venue for this half day retreat- 2 Feb for OM & 3 Feb for AM - at the House of Prayer & Formation FMM and facilitator will be Br Dominic Yeo.
- The second, Lenten Journey Retreat, is for all Catholic educators aiming for a prayerful period in preparation of Lenten season. These three afternoon sessions- 5, 12 & 26 Mar- will be at CAEC 2 Highland and the facilitators are Fr Aloysius Ong & Sr Susan Thomas.
- The third, Come & Rest Awhile, is for all educators who need a moment of rest to refresh spiritually. It will be on weekdays instead of weekends and teachers will be allowed to participate in the programme as part of their 'training' component. It will be offered twice throughout the year. The first will be on 5 & 6 Apr at Lifesprings Canossian Spirituality Centre under the spiritual guidance of Msgr Eugene Vaz. The second will be on 25 & 26 Nov with the help of the Life Direction Team. The venue will be confirmed.
- The last programme, Retreat in Daily Life, is for all educators who would like to explore spiritual depth while attending their daily tasks. It requires a person to meet twice a week with a spiritual director and the meeting is based on mutual agreement between the two. This programme is an adapted form of Ignatian spiritual exercises to cater to people who cannot afford the luxury of time to do a retreat. It is scheduled for July with the help of the Life Direction Team.

## I) Primary Schools

There are 19 Catholic Primary schools.

In all the Catholic Primary Schools, we have Civics and Moral Education which is taught through mother tongue. It is not yet possible to access the character education taking place in CME because of the language.

For Catholic students, we have the “Walking with Jesus” series which is a Bible based programme that complements what the children receive in the parish Catechism classes.

### Walking With Jesus (WWJ) Programme

Schools using the WWJ programme:

	Catholic Primary Schools	Using WWJ?	Programmes
1	Canossa Convent Primary	No	The Canossian schools are using a “Canossian Values Education programme” which incorporates the Choice Theory and Reality Therapy. Catholic pupils “have a modified lesson using the parables and stories in the Bible”.
2	Catholic High Primary	Yes	RE teachers print worksheets taken from WWJ (“less than 10% of the book”) for their pupils. DVDs on Biblical figures or other internet resources are used.
3	CHIJ Katong Primary	Yes	
4	CHIJ Kellock Primary	Yes	
5	CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel	Yes	
6	CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity	Yes	
7	CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace	Yes	
8	CHIJ St Nicholas Girls’ Primary	Yes	
9	CHIJ Toa Payoh Primary	Yes	
10	De Le Salle Primary	Yes	
11	Holy Innocents (Pri School)	Yes*	Only RE teachers have WWJ textbooks (desk copies). The pupils do not buy the WWJ workbooks, they use whatever the teachers copies for them (materials taken from WWJ & other sources).
12	Maris Stella Primary	Yes	
13	Marymount Convent Pri	Yes	
14	Montfort Junior (Pri School)	No	Teachers are using “their own resources” for RE, “like “Word Among Us, Bible Sharing Passages and Sunday Bible Passages”. WWJ textbooks can be good for ideas.
15	SJI Junior Primary	Yes	
16	St Anthony’s Canossian Primary	No **	**See above Canossa Convent Primary
17	St Anthony’s Primary	Yes	
18	St Gabriel’s Primary	No	Developing their own “Montfort Programme” for RE & Character Education. RE teachers teach “school values” incorporating Bible passages to “apply the virtues from a Christian perspective”.
19	St Stephen’s Primary	Yes	

#### 1. Review, revision & promotion.

A survey is being designed and will be circulated in early 2010 to all Catholic primary schools using WWJ.

#### 2. Training workshops for RE teachers

- The first workshop was successfully conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009 at CHIJ Our lady Queen of Peace in Chestnut Drive by Wendy Louis, Msgr Eugene Vaz (Scripture), Trevor Nerva (Music) & John Chan.
- The participants were mainly Catholic teachers from the host school plus two parent volunteers from De La Salle Primary.
- The next workshop is scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 at CHIJ Kellock
- An “Advanced Users’ Module” is being planned to help those teachers who have completed the basic training.

### 3. Challenge

It should be noted that feedback from many RE teachers from the various schools shows that many of the schools are not giving enough time (only 30 minutes per week) for RE lessons. The deployment of teachers to teach RE is also a matter of concern for some schools due to a lack of Catholic staff available in the school.

#### A Project with Maris Stella High (Primary)

1. 16 June 2009: Wendy Louis who was invited to work with the school, brought John Chan, the new Project Director for Primary Schools to Maris Stella High School (Primary). Present were the VP, HOD and the RE Coordinator of MSHS. The school was anxious to work out a programme which could be adapted from the school values with biblical content taken from WWJ for all P1 and P2 boys. The WWJ programme was discussed and led to the proposal of further collaboration between ACCS & MSHS to develop the Faith and values Education (FAVE) Programme.
2. Working with Angela of MSHS and with input from Sr Susan Thomas & Wendy Louis, a framework was developed, including the objectives, aims, themes, lesson topics, methodology and sample lesson plan. Currently we are working on writing the P1 lesson plans. The FAVE framework has already been presented to the ACCS RE committee as well as approved by Maris Stella Primary School. The project is currently an ongoing effort and aims to begin the pilot lessons in MSHS in 2010.
3. 22 June & 21 July 2009: Maris Stella (Pri) Boys Camp for P5 & P6 pupils. John Chan was invited by Christopher Cheong of MSHS to participate in the planning of the camp which took place over the All Saints weekend. It was a collaboration between MSHS, FLS and, initially, the ACCS. But after 2 meetings & contributing some ideas for the camp, Christopher decided it was no longer necessary to involve ACCS in the execution of the camp.

## J) Secondary Schools

### 1 School Visits

School visits were done at the beginning of the year to introduce the new Executive Director, Ms Wendy Louis to the school RE team and to discuss concerns related to the development of the CMECS programme. Most schools have the same RE coordinators except for SJI Independent and Montfort secondary whose new RE coordinators are Mr. Bernard Teo and Mrs. Helen Tan, respectively.

### 2 Seminar: Moral Choices: What's the point?

This is a talk given to teachers who are involved in teaching the Choices Unit as well as the CME R<sup>3</sup>ICH package. It explained the fundamentals of ethical choices, helped participants make sense of their own ethical confusions and proposed a way forward. Among the questions that the seminar tried to respond to were as follows: why are we where we are? Is there an objective side? Why is the subjective aspect important? And what is the point of making good choices?

New and young teachers considered the content to be “heavy stuff” that requires a lot of rethinking on their part. Seasoned teachers, on the other hand, had a sense of deeper understanding and were able to relate more to the content at hand.

Overall, it was both enlightening and challenging for all. The challenge, as shared by one teacher, is on the process of translating and integrating what has been learned into the teaching-learning experience.

Below were the details of the seminar:

Moral Choices: What's the Point?

By: Fr. David Garcia, OP

Dates & Venues:

27 April 2009, St Anthony Canossian Secondary (3pm-6pm)

04 May 2009, St. Gabriel Secondary (2pm-5pm)

Registration was capped at \$20/person.

Participating schools were as follows: St. Nicholas Girls Secondary (7); CHIJ Katong Convent (4); CHIJ St. Joseph (3); Assumption Pathway (1); CHIJ Toa Payoh (2); St. Anthony Canossian (4); St. Gabriel Secondary (13)

### 3 Update on the Choices Unit

- On Implementation  
The use of the material varies differently from school to school: a pick-and-mix-approach; I-choose-what-I-can-teach-approach; pick-and-merge (with other topics) approach; and a spiral approach that repeats the topic at all levels with only the examples being changed.
- There is no systematic implementation of the unit as teachers find it too difficult to translate to their own and their students' level.
- Certain concepts are completely misunderstood by the teachers which in effect can be misleading, risky and dangerous to the formation of the students.
- There is an ongoing oversimplification of content which is a major threat to understanding of the students.
- The pressure to perform in academic subjects tends to push aside the religious, moral and pastoral aspects of school life. Resulting in poor teacher deployment and very little time allocation.
- Insufficient and/or no training at all for teachers; high turnover of CMECS teachers.
- Suggested Introductory Lesson
  - Three lessons on the "person of the student" have been written to build the foundation of the unit and the purpose for which making choices is to be lived out in daily life.
  - Focus: WHO AM I?
  - Topics: My name is special: I am special  
I am a child of God  
I am made to be with other persons
- Workshop  
St Anthony Canossian Secondary requested ACCS to conduct further training on the Choices Unit for upper secondary teachers on 29 December 2009. ACCS have initially engaged Ms Edwina Yeow to help in this training, however, on 5th November, SACS cancelled the schedule due to some constraints related to CME teacher deployment. They will have a R<sup>3</sup>ICH package training instead on that day. A new date (next year) will be given by the school for this workshop.
- Proposal  
Beginning school year 2010 and onwards: Implementation of the CHOICES unit starts at Sec 3-5.

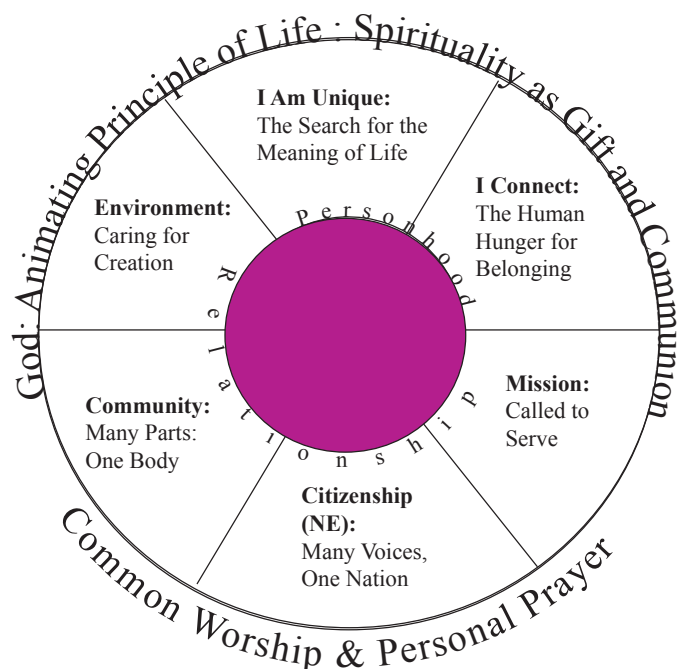
### 4 CMECS for Lower Secondary

The RE team is currently developing an integrated curriculum for lower secondary which will be implemented in 2010. The aim is to promote the integral formation of the Human Person and to develop for the young person a more meaningful and purposeful life that lead to action animated by the presence of God. These aims are made possible by focusing on 2 aspects of the Human Person: PERSONHOOD & RELATIONSHIP.

These 2 aspects are further developed in themes namely:

- 1 I Am Unique
- 2 I Connect
- 3 I Reach Out: the essential outcome after having understood one's personhood. This is expressed more concretely in four topics: Mission, Human and Natural Ecology, Community and Citizenship (NE).

Below is the conceptual framework:



The curriculum integrates most of the current CME materials that schools are using, namely: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Responsibility, Resilience, Respect, Integrity, Care and Harmony Package (R<sup>3</sup>ICH), Pastoral Care, and the Growing Years Package. More importantly, it infuses Catholic teachings from many different resources such as the Bible, Encyclicals, CCC and many others.

The curriculum is a work in progress and distribution of the lesson plans will be done on a quarterly basis. The package needed for the 1st term in 2010 will be distributed by the end of December. ACCS hired Ms Anne Lim to help in the writing of the lesson plans.

A presentation of the overall framework of the curriculum was done during a meeting of school principals and vice-principals on 2 October 2009. The same presentation was also given to the RE Coordinators and teachers on 6 November 2009 and 20 November for those who were unable to attend during the first 2 meetings.

The material is meant to be the replacement of the current CME package that schools are using for the lower secondary classes. However, as it is still in its development phase, schools are to decide if they are willing to work with ACCS to try out the materials. ACCS will give full support to those schools who will implement the lower secondary curriculum.

## 5. Religious Education for Catholic students

ACCS is currently working on a Lenten series for schools to use in 2010. It is a booklet, designed for reflections and prayers to be carried out in small groups. There are six sessions, one for each week of Lent. Each session is meant to last no more than one-hour. This booklet is only one of the few projects that ACCS hopes to develop further for the Catholic group in the schools.

## ANNEX A

### RE Coordinators 2009

Secondary Schools	Name	Primary Schools	Name
Assumption English School	Mrs Alice Hsu	Canossa Convent	Ms Pamela Puspalm
Catholic High School	Mr Paul Ng	Catholic High	Ms Mary Victor
CHIJ Katong Convent	Ms Debra Scully	CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace	Mrs Clare Lewis and Ms Monica Kong
CHIJ Secondary (Toa Payoh)	Mrs Lena Siau	CHIJ Toa Payoh	Mrs Pauline Soh
CHIJ St. Joseph's Convent	Mrs Mary Charles	CHIJ Kellock	Mrs Esther Chia
CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School	Mrs Gloria Gurung	CHIJ St Nicholas	Ms Felicia Chow
CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent	Mrs Aileen Seah	CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity	Ms Teresa Low
Hai Sing Catholic School	Mrs Joaquina Jye Shiow	CHIJ Katong	Ms Geraldine Wong
Holy Innocents' High School	Mr Gerry Er	Holy Innocents	Mrs Helena Baldwin and Ms Foo Kwee Noi Lucy
Maris Stella High School	Ms Audrey Tan	Maris Stella	Mr Christopher Cheong & Mrs Angela Low
Montfort Secondary School	Mrs Helen Tan	Montfort Junior	Mrs Mary Kheng and Ms Kellin Ng
St. Anthony's Canossian Sec	Mrs Maria Raju-Inigo	St. Anthony's Canossian	Mrs Agnes Lim
St. Gabriel's Secondary School	Mr Francis Foong	St Gabriel's	Mr Cyprian Lim
SJI, Independent	Mr Bernard Teo	De La Salle	Mrs Judy Ong
St. Patrick's School	Mr Errol Chang	CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel	Mrs Catherine Chan
SJI, International	Ms Dana Farrell	St. Anthony's	Mr Kelvin Koh
Catholic Junior College	Gail Ng	Marymount Convent	Ms Phyllis Teo
Assumption Pathway School	Theresa Mak-Lun	SJI Junior	Delphine Minjoot
		St Stephen's	Br Jeffrey Chan
		Canossian Hearing Im-paired School	Ms Serena Lee

**Annex B**  
**School Chaplaincy Teams (SCT)**  
**Training Programme 2009**

**MODULE 1: Role of a Chaplain in a Catholic School**

Module covers the varied ways chaplains can become sources of support especially in strengthening collaboration with the RE TEAM and in giving life to the liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations of the school.

**MODULE 2: Pastoral Ministry Skills**

Module covers skills necessary in interacting with young kids and adolescents - people skills such as listening, asking and responding to questions, and issues like grief, bullying suicide and abuse.

**MODULE 3: Educational Context Today**

Module explores the structures of Singapore Education System - the role of school management board, principals, vice-principals and other agencies of vendors working with the schools.

**MODULE 4: Human Development and Faith Formation**

Module explains the changes and challenges that school children face today. The social influences in Singapore and their impact to the lives of young children.



