

ANNUALREPORT

Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools

2013



Assisting Catholic schools in their
mission to develop whole persons
for God and society

The Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools, through the Catholic Education Office, works with Catholic schools to support and nurture excellence, especially in moral growth, ethical behaviour and spirituality. We assist Catholic schools in their mission to develop whole persons for God and society.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2013 has been a busy year for ACCS and in this report you will find details of the work of the Commission.

The major event organized by ACCS in 2013 was the Catholic Education Conference which brought together the various stakeholders in Catholic education such as Chaplains, Sponsoring Authorities, Principals, Vice-Principals, teachers, and parents. The turnout was good and the one and a half days provided opportunities for sharing and reflection. What I found encouraging was the goodwill and passion on the part of many of the participants. Many welcomed the conference as an opportunity to meet other stakeholders and to collectively reflect on the meaning of Catholic education as well as how to meet the challenges of the future. From the Commission's standpoint, we appreciate very much the diverse views that were expressed. It has given us a number of ideas to work with and we hope that by the time the next conference takes place in about 18 months' time, we can report progress on a number of fronts.

In doing all this, the Commission will not lose sight of our *raison d'être*. Ultimately, the role of ACCS is to ensure that our Catholic schools do not lose their defining characteristic, namely their Catholic ethos. Catholic schools do not provide a good education simply for its own sake, however important such a goal is. Rather, the education that our schools provide is part of the wider mission of the Church which is to continue the work of Jesus. Our schools must therefore be places where the young can, in addition to a good education, find a place of solace and peace; a place where they will be encouraged to become better people, to care for others; a place where they will learn not to live for themselves but to live for others as well and thus to journey on the

road to becoming Men and Women for Others. And in all this, our schools must make it clear that our inspiration is the example of Christ himself.

In this simplicity is the essence of what I believe ACCS must do. We must continually remind our schools of its Catholic nature and to challenge our schools to be more Catholic. If our schools can be more Catholic, they will in turn be more successful. This is because we all know that those who are able to fulfil their potential are often the ones who are not self-centred or selfish. Rather much of their success can be attributed to the fact that they have the right moral framework, show care and empathy to their colleagues, and have a vision of things beyond themselves. This is what a holistic education in a Catholic school can give.

Alas, it is my view that some of our schools have lost this vision of the great utility of a Catholic education. The Commission's role will be to remind them of this and to work with them to reclaim it. In this role we ask for your constant prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,
Tan Cheng Han



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Commission Membership & Meetings

The **Commission** met quarterly and held its annual meeting with Major Superiors who have schools. The Commission RE Sub Committee met 6 times as well with staff of ACCS concerned.

The ACCS Office organised **meetings** with other stakeholders including Supervisors, Chaplains, Principals & VPs, Religious Education Coordinators and Character Education Coordinators.

B. Events

The **annual big events** for 2013 were the Principals' Commissioning, the Teachers' Day Mass and for the first time, the **Catholic Education Conference**.

2013 has seen a complete revamp of our web presence and articles in Catholic News, Porta Fidei and on our website (www.accs.sg).

Our **Regular Events** include:

Communio gatherings for Educators and Management to exchange best practices; the talk at National Institute of Education to Catholic students inviting them to consider teaching in a Catholic school. We have also held regular, annual days of recollection for RE Coordinators, Chaplains and Admin & Operations Managers in our schools with the view to strengthening the Catholic Ethos and provide support for them in their roles.

C. School Chaplaincy Teams

Chaplaincy has continued to be a high priority area with Dr Michael Downey providing us with excellent programmes related to the Spirituality of Chaplains in April and local resource persons giving contextual and psychological input related to our students and education system in May. There was also a year-end meeting of chaplains and time to exchange challenges and joys. We are actively working with parishes and schools to find more ways to form teams of chaplains for our schools.

D. Early Childhood Education

Weekly Religious Education Lesson Plans for lower and upper Nursery and Kindergarten were provided to all our Preschools. These are now implemented in all our schools.

We have launched the full rewriting of the Core Curriculum for Pre-School and have been testing the programme from the 4th quarter 2013 in three schools. We have a consultant from Australia and one local curriculum writer working with us on this project. This was an urgent need as we found a number of our pre-schools were working without a systematic curriculum.

Two attachment programmes have been arranged this year for Principals of our Pre-Schools to Australia – Brisbane Catholic Education Office and to the Australian International School in Singapore, in June and November respectively.

Our Early Childhood educators have been well supported by ACCS in many areas but most especially bringing them together to have a new experience of belonging to a group of Catholic Kindergartens and Child Care Centres

and not just individual schools operating on their own.

E. Catholic Primary Schools

This year we have provided all Catholic Primary Schools with a Lenten Calendar as a liturgical resource that students could purchase for \$0.50 and use for the 40 days of Lent. Other liturgical seasonal resources were also provided.

Walking with Jesus Bible Programme continues to be used in most Primary Schools but it is more and more being squeezed into 20 minutes per week or less. Three workshops were conducted to assist teachers and parent volunteers to run the programme.

F. Catholic Secondary Schools

This year we recruited one additional staff to begin writing the **Religious Education Programme** in earnest. We have been trying out different approaches and have produced around 15 lesson plans for lower secondary but are not satisfied with the approach yet and are still working on the overall curriculum and methodology. We are launching a wide consultation on what the schools and their Sponsoring Authorities need and want for their schools in Religious Education.

However, we have a few resources we have produced for schools to use in RE and have trained students in a few schools in facilitation skills to use these resources with their peers.

Fr Norbert Menezes, SJ has continued to assist us in implementing the Integral Pedagogy for our Catholic Secondary Schools especially the component of Reflection which can be most effectively done in all subjects by

all teachers. He has conducted workshops and retreats for four schools in November 2013.

The **Civics & Moral Education Programme for Catholic Schools (CMECS)** has been completed and is now being edited for uploading onto our web. Schools are receiving the Character and Citizenship materials from MOE and are rather anxious about the mandate they have to use our programme which is for ALL students and can be taught by any teacher who has been trained and is willing. The programme carries a clear Catholic Perspective and is crucial in giving substance to the meaning of Catholic Education.

As part of the CMECS lesson plans, ACCS together with Family Life Society (FLS) have developed a package that provides Secondary 3 students with the conceptual foundation for understanding their calling as human beings and the way to view their person and their body. The package consists of three lesson plans from ACCS and a video with some notes from FLS. We have conducted one training so far in the use of the programme.

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Membership

Archbishop William Goh –President
(May 2013 - Present)

Msgr Ambrose Vaz –Vicar General (Pastoral)
(May 2013 - Present)

Prof Tan Cheng Han –Chairman
(Jan 2011 - Present)

Mr John Yip –Deputy Chairman
(Jan 2005 - Present)

Ms Wendy Louis –Executive Director
(Jan 2009 - Present)

Mr Kenneth Tan –Member
(Jan 2013 - Present)

Br Paul Ho, FSC –Congregational Rep
(Aug 2011 - Present)

Mr Cheong Yip Seng – Member
(Jan 2008 - Present)

Dr Chong Yoke Sin, Esther –Member
(Jan 2008 - Present)

Mr Lim Soo Ping –Member
(Jan 2008 - Present)

Mr Noel Hon – Member
(Jan 2005 - Present)

Mr Stuart Palmer – Co-opt Member
(Jul 2011 - Present)

Mr Gabriel Teo – Co-opt Member
(Jul 2011 - Present)

Sr Maria Lau, IJ –Congregational Rep
(Jan 2005 - Present)

Mrs Ursula Quah –Hon Secretary
(Jan 2005 - Present)

Archbishop Nicholas Chia – President
(Jan 2005 – 6 May 2013)

Msgr Eugene Vaz –Archbishop’s Representative
(Jan 2005 – 6 May 2013)

Ms Jessica Tan – Member
(Jan 2008 – 27 May 2013)

The Commission met four times (25 February, 27 May, 26 August and 28 October).

Meetings with Stakeholders

Major Superiors and School Supervisors– Meeting was held on 28 January at CAEC

On 28 January, the Commissioners met with the Major Superiors of religious orders that sponsor Catholic schools. This year, Supervisors were invited too.

Those present were:

ACCS: Archbishop Nicholas Chia, Prof Tan Cheng Han, Mr John Yip, Dr Esther Cheong, Sr Maria Lau (IJ) and Bro Paul Ho (FSC) representing De La Salle Brothers as well

Major Superiors:

Sr Theresa Seow (FDCC) Canossian Daughters of Charity; Bro Robert Teoh (FMS) Marist Brothers; Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh (SG) Brothers of St Gabriel; Sr Mary Soh (FMM) Franciscan Missionaries of Mary; Sr Agnes Lee (IJ) Sisters of the Infant Jesus

Supervisors:

Sr Cecily Pavri (FDCC) Canossian Schools; Sr Delphine Kang (RGS) Marymount Convent School; Bro Emmanuel (SG) St Gabriel’s Foundation Schools; Sr Maria Ng (FMM) Hai Sing Catholic School; Sr Deirdre O’Loan (IJ) Infant Jesus Schools; Dr Joseph Tan, Holy Innocent’s Schools

Discussion focused on: Chaplaincy in schools (Dr Michael Downey, 8-11 Apr 2013); Civics and Moral Education for Upper Secondary and Sexuality Programmes in Secondary Schools; briefing on the Catholic Education Conference, the Pre-School Programmes & Curriculum Development; and ACCS membership (Mr Kenneth Tan).

School Supervisors– Meeting was held on 28 October at CAEC

This was a very well attended meeting with all Supervisors coming in for that meeting.

Staff of ACCS Office

Designation	Name	Tenure
Executive Director	Wendy M Louis	Jan 2009 (half time)
Executive Secretary (Hon)	Ursula Quah	Jan 2006
Project Director (Secondary)	Jeanette R Atabelo	Apr 2008
Project Director (Primary)	Vacant	Vacant
Project Director (Early Childhood)*	Merilyn Dasson	Feb 2010; Jan 2013 (part-time)
Curr Dev and Training (Secondary)*	Rose Lim	Mar 2013
Project Director (Formation)	Louis Oo	Jan 2009
Chaplaincy Dept head	Vacant	Vacant
Admin Manager & Events*	Katherine Manalang	Jul 2012 (10hrs); Jan 2013 (30hrs)
Communications Officer*	Stefania Hartley	May 2013 (part-time)
Accounts and HR	Teresa Hoe	Apr 2006 (part time)
Admin Officer	Shirley Louis	Apr 2005
Admin & Logistics Officer	Raymond Lee	Jan 2006
Admin Officer	Susie Lim	May 2009 (part time)

*Changes are shown in green (new staff joining ACCS or current staff having new working arrangement).

MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS

Principals' Commissioning & Service of Commitment - 26 January

Commissioning Mass was held at St Anne's Church on Saturday, 26 January 2013 during the 6.00pm sunset mass.

Five Principals were commissioned: They were Ms Debra Saw (CHIJ OLN), Mr Timothy Goh (SJI Jr), Ms Susie Ho (CHIJ SJC), Mrs Karen Tay (CHIJ Sec TP), and Mr Stephen Chin (SGSS).

An additional 55 principals and vice-principals renewed their commitment.



Above: The newly commissioned principals of Catholic schools;
Below: Ab Emeritus Nicholas Chia led the Commissioning Mass

Teachers' Day Mass - 13 September

The aim of this event is to bring together Catholic educators in Catholic and non-Catholic schools to build up a sense of belonging and vocation among teachers.

The main celebrant was Archbishop William Goh with six concelebrants - Fr Edward Seah, Fr Michael D'Cruz OFM, Fr Collin Tan SJ, Fr Ignatius Yeo, Fr Alphonsus Dominic and Fr Leslie Raj SJ.

In his homily, Archbishop Goh said that Catholic schools play an important role in sowing the seeds of the Gospel when children are young. The schools, therefore, must see to it that they become places where children encounter Christ and where the Gospel values are evident. All students from Catholic schools should at least imbibe the Gospel values which are based on universal truths.

As an educator himself for more than 20 years in the seminary, Archbishop Goh recognizes the need for Catholic teachers to go for faith formation to be more effective living witnesses of the Gospel.

More than 300 people attended the Teachers' Day Mass at Catholic Junior College.

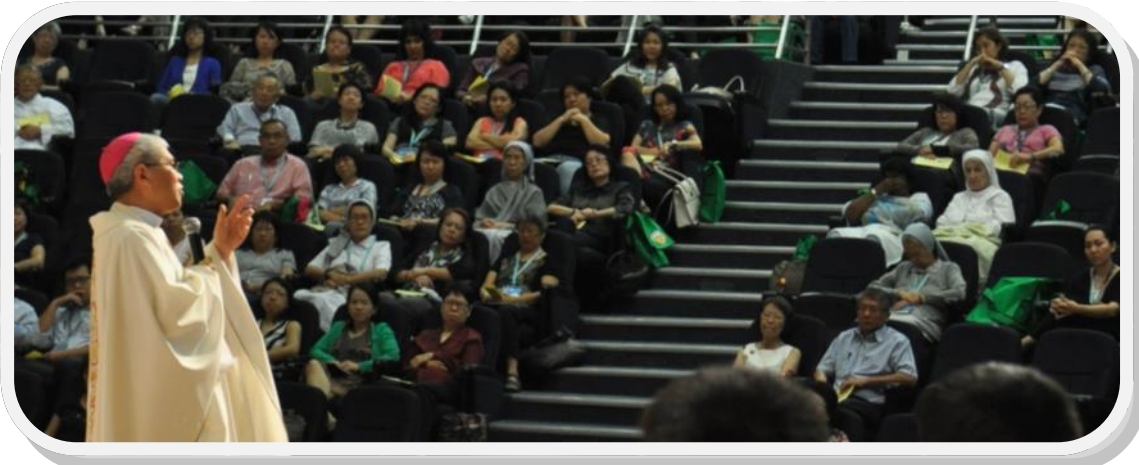
The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a tea reception.



ACCS has been organising this yearly event since 2008.



Archbishop Goh (right) sharing light moments with Prof Tan Cheng Han, ACCS Chair and Dr Koh Thiam Seng, Conference Organising Team Chair



This year, the Teachers' Day Mass was celebrated within the Catholic Education Conference.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The inaugural Catholic Education Conference, held on 13-14 Sept at the Performing Arts Centre-CJC, saw about 350 people from all stakeholders (school leaders, educators, parents, chaplains, etc) who came together to look at what Catholic Education in Singapore is today and what the future holds for it. The conference also provided a great opportunity for all to network and build relationships.

This one and a half day Conference bore the theme “You are to be my witnesses” and is slated to be a biennial event starting this year.

The Keynote Speaker is Bro Gerard Rummery from Australia who is an internationally recognized figure in Catholic religious education. In his talks, Br Rummery pointed out that witnessing is proclaiming the truth, not necessarily in words. He further noted that dialogue with the world and its cultures, together with inculturation of the faith (bringing the

Gospel to life from within the local culture) are ways to genuinely witness the Gospel today.

Three responses to the Keynote Address came from:

- 1) Bro George van Grieken (religious brother) who gave the perspective of an outsider who recently join the Catholic education in Singapore; his focus was on the keyword “witness”.
- 2) Wendy Louis (lay person, Exec Director of ACCS) who gave the Church perspective; her focus was on the keyword “inculturation”.
- 3) Friar Michael D’Cruz (priest) who gave the perspective of a teacher-chaplain; his focus was on the keyword “dialogue”.

The voices of the stakeholders were given importance not only during the question and answer period, but more so during the breakout sessions. Participants broke into small groups, by sector (principals/VP, teachers, management, parents, students, etc) to discuss how should each sector, the Church and ACCS better support Catholic Education. The groups were also asked to list down Catholic Education’s greatest strength, weakness, opportunity and challenge in Singapore.



The speakers and stakeholders shared their views, concerns and hopes for Catholic Education in Singapore.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

The members of the panel shared their hopes and aspirations for Catholic Education in Singapore in 2025. Those who sat at the panel were Dr Koh Thiam Seng (principal), Fr Edward Seah (Archbishop's representative), Mr Lim Boon Heng (alumnus), Mr Laurence Lien (parent), Sr Sandra Seow (religious), Bro George van Grieken (school management) and Ms Jocelyn Loong (student).

Two types of publications were produced for the Conference:

1) Programme Booklet

This publication was distributed during the conference as part of the conference kit. It includes information about the programme, speakers and abstract of the talk. A directory of all Catholic schools was also featured, together with a brief history on the development of Catholic schools in Singapore. Another interesting section of this publication is a collection of stories from people involved in Catholic education to demonstrate some aspects of our Catholic ethos.

2) Post Conference Booklet

All documentation efforts during the Conference were incorporated in this publications where the full talks and discussions have been transcribed. The results of the breakout session were also collated and presented. Videos, audio recordings, photos and PowerPoint presentations were also made available on a CD which can be found at the back inside cover of the publication.

Print Media

In the field of print media, we have strived to produce articles (15 articles for Catholic News and 1 feature article for Porta Fidei, a Catholic lifestyle magazine) that encourage reflection on the purpose and character of Catholic education by showcasing, for example:

- 1) the fruits of a genuinely Catholic education in current (Catholic News 8 September: "Catholic students lead peers in prayer session") as well as in ex-students (Catholic News 25 August: "IJ alumni share *light of love* overseas")

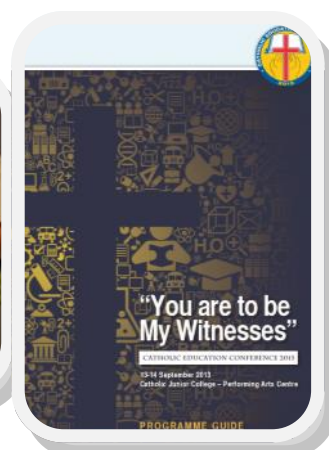


One of the published stories in Catholic News

- 2) the issues and hopes articulated at the Catholic Education Conference (Catholic News issue 6 October: "Pressing issues raised at education conference")



Above: Panel discussion on the future of Catholic Education in Singapore;



Right: Programme Booklet published for the Conference

- 3) the vision for our Catholic schools expressed by our Archbishop (Catholic News issue 6 October: "Catholic education is a vision of life and God"; Catholic News 15 June: "Archbishop Goh meets schools' commission") and by guest speakers (Catholic News issue 6 October: "The challenges faced by Catholic schools, and the solutions"-interview with Bo Gerard Rummery)
- 4) the efforts of our educators towards embedding the Gospel values in all subjects and in all the aspects of schools life (Catholic News issue 30 June: "Educational stint in Brisbane")
- 5) simple reflections on what it means to be a Catholic teacher (feature article on Porta Fidei magazine, page 70, issue 1, volume1: "Teacher, are you Catholic?")

We have also run an advertisement in the Catholic News promoting the Open House dates of our Catholic Secondary Schools.

Online Media

Website

Under the same domain name as the old website (www.accs.sg), the new ACCS website has been launched on 19 August. It has been advertised through specially targeted e-mail blasts (highlighting different features relevant to each of the stakeholders), parish bulletins, our Facebook page and a paragraph in one of our Catholic News articles.

The differences with the old website go beyond a new design and a layout which allows visitors to quickly select the area of interest. Intended as a platform for communication with and between ("Sharing Faith's Best Practice") various stakeholders, the new site incorporates resources for Religious Education, for CMECS and Integral Pedagogy as well as reflections, news, relevant articles reproduced with permission from other sources, upcoming events and training

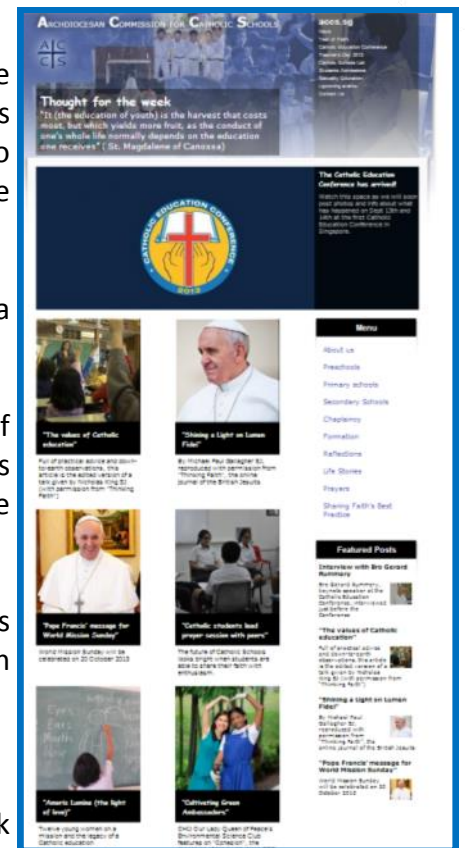
opportunities.

The front page cover post has allowed us to publicise the Catholic Education Conference in a prominent position. Documentation of past events (including the Catholic Education Conference) is also available on the new website.

Social Media

Our Facebook page has been regularly updated

and has been used to advertise our new website as well as the Catholic Education Conference, other ACCS events and to share links regarding Catholic Schools.



How the newly revamped ACCS website looks like

Campaign for Recruiting Teachers

A recruitment campaign for teaching has been started in November 2013 to inspire Catholics to consider a teaching career. The campaign covers teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools as well as in Preschools. The underlining idea is that teaching is a very important (and rewarding) ministry of the Church. We want to encourage those who feel called, to take action and consider a teaching vocation. ACCS has employed different strategies for the campaign such as producing posters to be distributed to Catholic youth groups belonging to parishes and polytechnic/universities; and running advertisements in Catholic News.

FORMATION PROGRAMMES

Communio– Gatherings & Exchange for School Leadership

1st Communio

This was scheduled to take place on 22 February but it coincided with the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr William Goh as the Coadjutor Archbishop.

2nd Communio Theme: *Porta Fidei II – The Door of Faith II*

The event was cancelled due to poor response. It was supposed to be held on 26 April with Msgr Eugene Vaz as speaker at De La Salle Training Centre.

3rd Communio Theme: *Faith Best Practices*

It was held at SJI International (High School) on 26 July. Principals, Vice-Principals, RE-coordinators & School Chaplains gathered to share “Faith Best Practices.” The facilitator of the

session was Br George van Grieken, Brother president of SJI International who gave an overview of the school’s background. SJI International team shared on their Virtues project. Contributing factors to the success of the project are parental involvement in formation of students, the right recruitment of teachers and the school leaders' promotion and preservation of Catholic ethos in the school. 36 participants representing 19 Catholic schools have attended the afternoon session.

4th Communio Theme: *Implementing Values in Action*

St Gabriel’s Secondary hosted the last *Communio* Gathering for the year on 8 November. Theme chosen for this gathering is “Implementing Values in Action (VIA)” where St Gabriel’s Secondary and St Nicholas’ Girls Secondary shared their schools’ programme on this topic. There was a consensus that service experiences are relevant for the students: nothing can substitute for being among the poor and having a personal contact with them.



Communio Gatherings are hosted by Catholic schools to showcase their best practices.

Spiritual Wellness Programmes for Educators and Staff

1. Porta Fidei I

18 March, CAEC Building

This formation session was attended by 21 participants who are Catholic teachers, chaplains and primary school parent cum catechists who are from primary and secondary schools.

Msgr Eugene Vaz helped the participants understand and reflect on this Apostolic Letter issued by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for the Year of Faith.



Group sharing among participants of Porta Fidei I

2. Retreat for Admin Managers and Operations Manager

22 March, House of Prayer & Formation (FMM)

The theme of this year's Administration & Operation Managers was 'Time Out To Reflect.'

The ACCS team facilitated the half-day session that brought



ACCS also caters to the needs of AMs and OM of Catholic Schools.

together 11 AMs and OM from Primary, Secondary Catholic Schools and CJC.

The retreat enabled them to reflect on the role that every staff member plays in helping to create the Ethos of a school despite having various backgrounds and faith. It was also an opportunity for them to build a network among themselves.

The reflection morning ended with lunch at the newly renovated Botanical Gardens Café.

3. RE Recollection: Spirituality and Reflective Praxis

12 April, CAEC Building

The recollection was facilitated by Dr Michael Downey. Drawing significant points from the writings of Thomas Merton, David Ranson, Carl Rahner and Pope Francis, he led the group, consisting of 14 teachers/chaplains, into a deeper reflection of one's ministry. He talked about the present context of ministry, the pathways which we thread on, and vocation as an inner calling that is beyond every human person.

The participants shared personal thoughts and insights not only in small groups but also in big groups.

Training for School Chaplaincy Teams

The six sessions on the School Chaplaincy Teams (SCT) training were conducted at St Michael's room CAEC building.

Basic SCT training:

Module 1- Role of Chaplaincy Team in Catholic schools and Module 2- Chaplaincy Team Ministry skills were held on 8 and 9 April from 9:30am to 1:00pm. There were 16 participants who attended the two sessions. The sessions reflected on lay vocation, spirituality, formation practices to sustain & renew, integration of contemplation & action and the ministry of presence. Dr Michael Downey was the resource person.



Dr Downey poses with participants from Basic Training.

Module 3- Educational Context Today was facilitated by Michelle Soliano and Soh Lai Leng on 2 May. This session allowed participants to be familiar with the structures of Singapore's education system. They were able to learn more about the different roles at play in the overall system such as that of the school management board, principals, vice principals and other agencies or vendors who are working with the school. In addition, the important role of love, relationship and the students' developmental

stages were explored.

Bro Collin Wee and Lesley Goonting led Module 4 with the theme Human Development and Faith Formation on 3 May. This topic explained the challenges that school children face today as well as the social influences in Singapore and their impact on the lives of young children. The session used learning theories, psychological and moral concepts to further understand the phenomenon of human growth. The important aspect of faith formation for children was also discussed and shared within the local context.

Certificates of attendance were given to those who completed all four Basic SCT modules.

Advanced SCT training:

The two sessions focused on discipleship, the importance of spiritual growth for a School Chaplain and awareness of the mission of being invited to partake in God's plan for His creatures. There were 13 participants from 7 Catholic schools and it was conducted on 10 and 11 April from 9:30am to 1:00pm by Dr Michael Downey. Certificates of Attendance for Advanced training were given at the end of the session.



Dr Downey poses with participants from Advanced Training.

Singapore and ACCS efforts to build more cooperation & collaboration among the schools and invited the participants to reflect together on the book *'Core Values, Common Purpose & Goals for Catholic Schools'*.

Chaplaincy Year-end Gathering

The event took place on 1 November at SJI Junior School. Fr Edward Seah led the sharing and discussion. The aim of this event was to bring together all School Chaplaincy Teams to share, to exchange and to learn regarding their respective missions at schools while being refreshed spiritually. 16 chaplains attended the gathering.



During this year-end gathering, the chaplains also had to learn the "Stella Mass" for the young.

National Institute of Education (NIE) Talk

The collaborative effort between ACCS & NIE Catholic trainee teachers has brought forward the session as an annual affair. The event was held at the National Institute of Education (NIE) Lecture Theatre 3 on March 1. ACCS invited the following speakers to share their personal experiences working in their Catholic schools and inspire those attending the talk.

- (1) Mr Wee Tat Chuen, Principal of Assumption.
- (2) Ms Geraldine See, Principal of CHIJ Katong Primary
- (3) Mr Genesius Chan & Kelvin Tan, teachers from SJI Independent

The 24 participants were also provided with information on the overall picture of Catholic Schools in Singapore and ACCS' efforts to build more cooperation & collaboration among the schools. The participants were invited to reflect together on the book *'Core Values, Common Purpose & Goals for Catholic Schools'*.



This NIE Talk encourages students to consider teaching in Catholic schools.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

RE Curriculum

Forty lesson plans under the Bible Programme for Preschool have been completed. These lesson plans have age appropriate activities for all four levels (pre-nursery, nursery, K1 and K2) of preschool education.

ACCS visited the 19 preschools to deliver the Programme and sit in the RE classes to see how the new Bible Programme is being carried out.

Teachers and principals from the preschools have attended trainings and workshops for efficient delivery of the program in the classrooms.

Core Curriculum

St Francis of Assisi (Boon Lay and Jurong West) and St Francis Xavier Kindergartens have been piloting a core curriculum theme that has been written with guidance from Dr Margaret Carter, Early Childhood Education Consultant from James Cook University.

This theme has the six compulsory domains from Early Childhood Framework integrated with Character Program. Seven more themes are being developed for the schools to use it as their core curriculum.

Teacher Attachment Program in Australia

ACCS led eight Catholic preschool/childcare centre principals in an immersion programme in Catholic preschools in Brisbane archdiocese from 3-7 June.



The Singapore delegation seen here with Brisbane Catholic educators.

This year's attachment programme was part of a collaboration between the Brisbane Catholic Education office, the Brisbane Religious Education Services and ACCS, which is now in its second year. The visit was part of a broader strategy to share best practices in the areas of religious education and core curriculum.

Media Protocol Training

Media Protocol Training was conducted on 18 March by Robert Conceicao.

His session was well received by the heads of schools as they felt they needed to be aware on how to handle media when approached by them.

They were advised to take a united stand as Catholic preschools when an issue is being questioned and was cautioned as to how reporters could go to different Catholic preschools and get an interview for the same matter. They were invited to seek ACCS' opinion and guidance and to refer to the draft protocol prepared by ACCS.

Australian International School (AIS) Attachment Program

From 19 to 23 November, 10 of our Catholic Preschool staff have been attached to AIS to be learners of best practices in early years curriculum planning, implementation, observation, monitoring, reflection and reporting. Special attention was in the area of play as it involves and engages children as active agents in their own learning. The staff also learned more about portfolio and e-portfolio documentation.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Workshops

Two workshops on how to implement and understand the WWJ Bible Programme were conducted in 2013 – one in SJJ Junior and the other in St Gabriel's Primary School. The workshops were open to teachers and parent volunteers. A total of 39 participants attended.

28 Jan at SJJ Junior, 8.30am – 11.30am

At the school's request, this workshop was organised for their parent volunteers coming from different primary levels. Feedback from the participants that the workshop was very comprehensive and clear. The facilitator's exposition was excellent and well organised.

There was a request for longer workshop to cover the practical side of the group presentations.

31 Jan at St Gabriel's Primary School, 2:30pm-5:30pm

The participants in this workshop were parent volunteers and teachers from 5 schools: St Gabriel's Primary School, Marymount Convent School, CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School, CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel and CHIJ Kellock.

The participants were introduced to the curriculum and methodology of Walking With Jesus, Bible Programme. They realized the importance of music, symbols and signs in religious education and in para-liturgies which are a part of the lesson. They also learnt how to prepare and proclaim the word.



Catholic pre-school staff were grateful for the experience they had at AIS Preschool headed by Ms Judy Eveans (5th from right),

Get-Together for All Preschool Educators

The get-together brought the principals and staff from the 19 schools together on 27 December at St Anne's Church Kindergarten. ACCS updated them on the newly established Early Childhood Development Agency. An update on the piloting of the core curriculum theme was also made available. There was also a sharing by the eight principals about their experiences in the Brisbane Catholic Schools and what changes have they brought to their schools from these experiences and how effective are the changes. The day ended with a school tour and a Thanksgiving Mass.

A Lenten Calendar was developed to assist primary (also pre-primary) children in their Lenten journey with each day taking them a step closer to the Risen Saviour. 40,000 copies were distributed and \$805.77 income was earned from sales.



The Lenten Calendar encourages the children to focus on the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Religious Education Resources

New resources for Lent and Easter have been developed for school use during morning assemblies and sharing time. A new series “Serving as Jesus” has been written as an important feature in the celebration of the Year of Faith. This series follows the topics on:

- Sharing our Hope
- Leading as Jesus did
- Praying with the Bible & the 7-Steps Gospel Sharing
- Journeying in Faith with Mary

All the resources, including past ones, have been uploaded to the ACCS website for easier access and download.

Catholic Student Leaders' Prayer and Reflection

This project aimed at enabling students to articulate their faith and to take on leadership role in facilitating small group sharing, prayer and reflection with fellow Catholics in the school. This also prepared the students to take on a more effective participation in their parishes and neighbourhoods in the future.

This was the third year that ACCS conducted the workshops to enable students to take on a leadership role in facilitating small group sharing, prayer and reflection among fellow students in schools.



ACCS conducted two sessions: one in Assumption English School and one in CHIJ St Nicholas Girls School.

The Year of Faith – Serving as Jesus Series was the main material used in these sessions.

Religious Education Coordinators Network

Four new RE Coordinators officially joined the team this year, namely: Wendy Chan, Assumption English School; Chiew Yen, Montfort Secondary School; Angelia Pay, St Gabriel's Secondary School and Sharon Yu, Canossian Secondary School.

The coordinators met for an afternoon of recollection last 13 March with Msgr Eugene Vaz who walked them through the document – Porta Fidei. Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh conducted the end-of-year recollection last 31 October with a focus on helping coordinators deepen their personal experiences through the process of peer supervision.



RE Coordinators Year-end Recollection where it was revealed that Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh will accompany the Coordinators in a journey called "peer supervision".

Religious Education Curriculum

The process of developing a systematic, standardized and classroom-based instructional programme for RE is on-going. ACCS continues to find ways of developing a programme that is sustainable, realistic and relevant to our setting.

From the Catholic Page that was developed in 2011-12, ACCS have written lesson plans that address current and burning concerns of young people today and look at them from the perspective of the Gospel.

ACCS has also initiated the on-going RE consultation process with schools and their supervisors on the matter pertaining to curriculum development.

Integral Pedagogy Process

ACCS has continued to promote to the schools this way of teaching values education in all subjects. Fr Norbert Menezes, SJ was invited in November by schools to assist in their implementation of the

Integral Pedagogy Process. The four schools were: Catholic High School, Assumption English School, CHIJ St Theresa's Convent and Catholic Junior College.

Civics and Moral Education for Catholic Schools (CMECS)

On Curriculum Writing

The upper secondary materials have been fully written and have been distributed to schools for trial. ACCS

has visited all schools in January and has given school principals copies of CMECS package from Sec 1 to 4. It has been made clear that schools are expected to look into the materials, explore possible steps of implementation and give feedback to ACCS.

On Implementation

The following schools have implemented the CMECS from Secondary 1 to 4:

- CHIJ St Nicholas Girls School
- Maris Stella High School
- Montfort Secondary School
- Catholic High School (lower secondary implementation)



One of the workshops prepared the teachers in providing a more holistic sexuality education programme to Sec 3 students.

The other schools had changes in personnel that has resulted in more changes in their programmes.

Examples:

St Anthony Canossian Secondary fully implemented the CMECS package for two consecutive years. The new team has decided to write their CME curriculum using their own school values and integrating it with other school activities. They

have also decided to stop using the CMECS package in teaching and to leave it up to the teachers to use it as a resource in writing their own lesson plans.

St Gabriel's Secondary partially implemented the CMECS package. While the new team has appreciated the package, they were also looking at developing their own materials.

Hai Sing Catholic expressed interest in using the CMECS package. ACCS visited the school, met the team and conducted orientation session with the core team. The relevance of the material to their setting was confirmed by the team.

Urgent Concern

The MOE Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) department have written sets of CCE lesson plans that are mandatory for schools to use by 2014. Training of CME coordinators and teachers have been on-going since the beginning of this year.

Maris Stella High School has expressed their difficulty in using the CMECS packaged given this new development. Montfort Secondary School has indicated that they will not use the CMECS package next year in lieu of the CCE lesson plans.

Both schools have expressed that they would like to continue using the CMECS package if given a choice. One coordinator has suggested that ACCS help work out a way for Catholic schools to be given the "opt out" option.

Appendix 1. Calendar of Activities 2014

<div> <div> Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools </div> <div> EVENTS CALENDAR 2014 </div> </div>	
PRINCIPALS, VICE-PRINCIPALS & SMCs Principals' Commissioning Ceremony 1st Communio Gathering 2nd Communio Gathering 3rd Communio Gathering 4th Communio Gathering Consultation & Exchange I Consultation & Exchange II	Jan 11 Feb 28 Apr 25 Jul 25 Nov 7 Apr 3 Nov 4
SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY TEAM (SCT) Basic SCT Training Module I Basic SCT Training Module II Basic SCT Training Module III Basic SCT Training Module IV Advanced SCT Training I Advanced SCT Training II Chaplaincy Teams Gathering	Apr 8 Apr 9 May 5 May 6 Apr 10 Apr 11 Oct 10
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS Character Development Programme - Dr Margaret Carter REAP - Brisbane Catholic Education Office - Religious Education Thanksgiving Gathering	Mar 21 Jun 1st week Nov 27
OTHERS NIE Students: Why Teach in a Catholic School? School Admin & Operation Managers: Half Day Reflection & Fellowship	Feb Mar 21
<div> <div> ACCS Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools Singapore Assisting Catholic Schools in developing whole persons for God and Society </div> </div>	
ALL TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS Dynamic of Identity, Relationship & Choices in Human Living Reflection in ALL Subject Areas Character Education Towards Holistic Development (Sec) - Dr Margaret Carter Character Education Towards Holistic Development (Pri) - Dr Margaret Carter Who is the Learner? Foundations of Morality - Fr David Garcia, OP Making Choices Today: Impact & Reality - Fr David Garcia, OP Teachers' Day Eucharistic Celebration Walking with Jesus ~ Part I Walking with Jesus ~ Part I Walking with Jesus ~ Part II	Feb 18 Feb 20 Mar 25 Mar 24 Jul 17 Aug 7 Sep 13 Jan 27 Feb 6 Feb 27
CMECS COORDINATORS & TEACHERS * Orientation & Concepts Workshop Implementing CMECS in the Classroom Preparing for Sexuality Education Preparing for Sexuality Education	Jan 23 Mar 7 May 30 Aug 15
RE COORDINATORS (PRI & SEC) RE Coordinators Easter Gathering/Meeting RE Coordinators' Year-End Reflection & Mass	Apr 29 Oct 24
CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERS * Understanding the Eucharist Celebrating the Eucharist Living the Eucharist	Apr 17 Jul 31 Oct 30
<div> <div> Visit our website at www.accs.sg Tel: 68587080 Email: accs@atholic.org.sg 2 Highland Road #02 CAEC Singapore 549102 </div> <div> * can be conducted by request </div> </div>	

Appendix 2. Staff Welfare and Development

Staff Retreats

ACCS staff undertook a retreat on 20-21 May at Lifesprings Canossians Spirituality Centre. A fellowship lunch at the Assumption Restaurant of Training (ARTS) was the retreat's prelude to show support to the Catholic school which runs the restaurant.



The Assumption Pathway School established the ARTS to provide hands-on training for its students.

The retreat proper started off with Jeanette Atabelo leading the staff to trace and reflect on the individual's faith journey.

What is the context within which ACCS operates under the new leadership in the Archdiocese? How about its context in Catholic education in Singapore? On a personal level, what is the staff's context as he/she works in ACCS? These were the key questions posed by Wendy Louis which guided the staff to reflect more during the rest of the retreat.

The staff retreat for the second half of the year was conducted by Fr Norbert Menezes, SJ on 19 November at ACCS office and was followed by a mass. The theme for the retreat was perseverance which is a gift/by-product of difficult times. Perseverance is also seen as our day-to-day decision not to give up and try to do God's will everyday. The staff were asked to reflect on the questions "Why do I persevere?" and "How to translate perseverance in our role at ACCS?" Sharing of personal reflections was done just before the end of the retreat.

Staff Development

This year, three staff have made personal retreats dealing mainly in improving prayer life.

In the early childhood department, Marilyn Dason has worked to attain certification as Play Therapist. Part of her practicum has been to offer play therapy at Nativity Church Kindergarten, where a therapy room has been set up with six students who are currently undergoing the program. Play therapy is a structured, theoretically based approach to therapy that builds on the normal communicative and learning processes of children.

Staff Day-Out

26 November was a fun-filled day spent in Sentosa. Staff got the chance to relax, enjoy and bond together in a non-working environment. After lunch, the group headed back to ACCS office for reflection and mass.

Appendix 3. Statement of Accounts

Archdiocesan Commission For Catholic Schools		
Income & Expense Account As At 31 October 2013		
INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Sales		
Sales of Books - Secondary CMECS	19,859.00	
Sales of Books - Walking With Jesus Series	26,866.30	25,000.00
Less Cost of Goods Sold - CMECS	-22,899.27	
Less Cost of Goods Sold - WWJ	-11,453.24	
Gross Gain / Loss	12,372.79	
Programmes Income		
Educators Meetings	600	0
Formation Programmes & Communio	165	1,000.00
Teacher's Day Celebration	2,072.00	1,200.00
Pre-School/Kindergarten Formation & Event	12,430.00	1,000.00
Primary RE & CME Curriculum Development	1,632.00	0
Primary WWJ & Liturgy Training Programme	0	500
Secondary CMECS Training Programmes	0	0
Secondary CMECS Curriculum Development	0	40,000.00
Secondary Religious Education Development & Training	200	2,000.00
T&D Overseas Resource Persons	4,057.00	10,000.00
Catholic Education Conference	22,418.00	20,000.00
Total Operating Income	43,574.00	75,700.00
Net Income	55,946.79	
EXPENSES	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Programmes Expenses		
Educators Meetings	761.5	1,500.00
Formation Programmes & Communio Seminars	172.45	2,500.00
Principals & VPs Commissioning / Training & Development	1,868.80	2,000.00
Principals & VPs Commissioning: Teachers' Day	1,837.23	3,000.00
Pre-School/Kindergarten Curriculum Development	57.9	5,000.00
Pre-School/Kindergarten Formation & Event	16,495.44	4,000.00
Primary RE & CME Curriculum Development	1,093.00	2,000.00
Primary Reprint & Copyright WWJ	0	2,000.00
Primary WWJ & Liturgy Training	0	1,000.00
Secondary CMECS Curriculum Development	0	35,000.00
Secondary CMECS Training Programmes	2,247.70	2,000.00
Secondary Religious Education Development & Training	2,044.20	5,000.00
T&D Overseas Resource - Fr Norbert	72.6	5,000.00
T&D Overseas Resource Persons	7,387.92	5,000.00
Catholic Education Conference	40,920.84	39,250.00

Archdiocesan Commission For Catholic Schools		
Income & Expense Account As At 31 October 2013		
EXPENSES	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Operating Expenses		
Bank Charges	191.4	400
Insurance Premium	3,249.05	5,000.00
Media Website & Communications	2,848.36	1,300.00
Medical Claims	1,504.87	4,000.00
Miscellaneous	3,615.77	3,000.00
Office Equipment: Computers & Peripherals	1,356.00	6,000.00
Office Equipment: Lease Photocopier	1,241.20	1,600.00
Office Maintenance: Cleaning	1,162.50	2,000.00
Photocopy	872.6	1,000.00
Postage	128.05	400
Rent	7,080.00	23,400.00
Resources: Books & Journals	119.53	6,000.00
Staff Admin Support	0	3,000.00
CPF - Employer	57,287.22	68,000.00
Staff Gross Salaries	222,596.15	458,000.00
Staff Training & Development	620	2,000.00
Staff Welfare	911.25	1,000.00
Stationery	862.94	1,500.00
Telephone & Broadband	3,922.57	3,800.00
Transport	31	600
Moving Expense & Furniture (One-Off)	0	5,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	384,560.04	711,250.00
Net Income / Expense	-328,613.25	-655,303.21



2013