



# NURTURING THE SEED OF LIFE

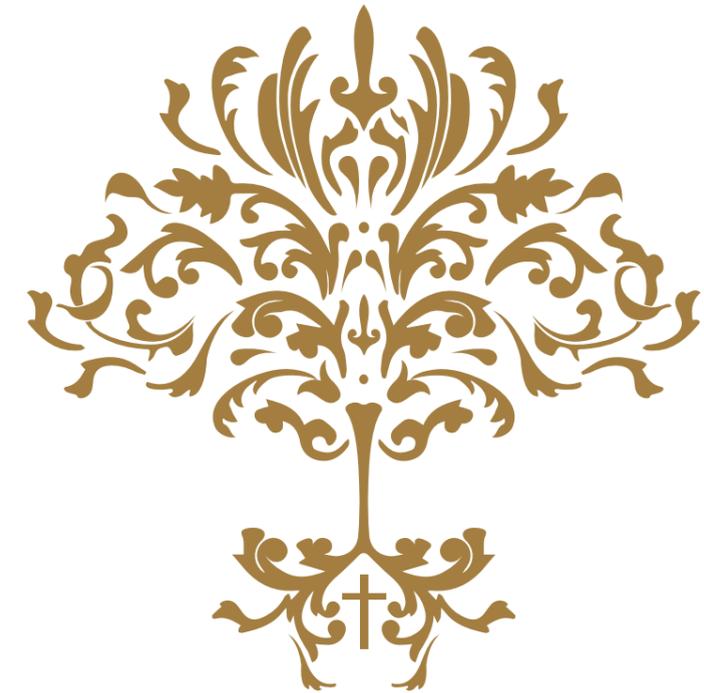
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ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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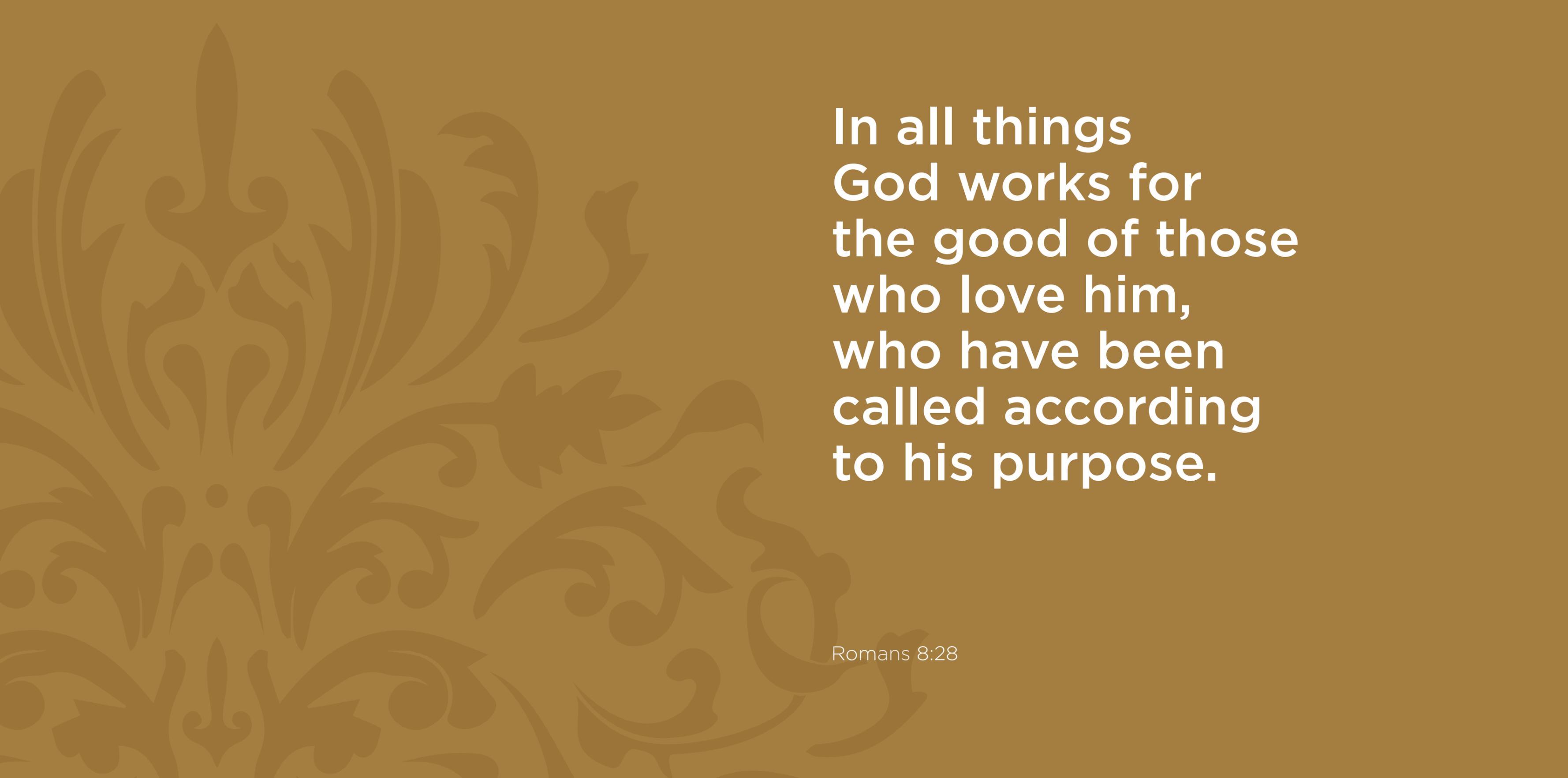
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**In all things  
God works for  
the good of those  
who love him,  
who have been  
called according  
to his purpose.**

Romans 8:28



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“... The education that our schools provide is part of the wider mission of the Church to continue the work of Jesus ...”

## Message from the Chairman



2015 has been another busy year for ACCS and in this report you will find details of the work of the Commission.

In my message in last year's report, I wrote that all the work that ACCS does is ultimately directed at ensuring Catholic schools continue to retain a strong Catholic ethos. For this reason the Commission had established a Catholic Ethos Working Group to develop a baseline of best practices that should underpin all schools that identify themselves as being Catholic in character. Catholic schools do not provide a good education simply for its own sake. Rather, the education that our schools provide is part of the wider mission of the Church to continue the work of Jesus; to be a means by which our students can be inspired by Him to become men and women for others. I am very pleased that the Working Group has completed its work. With the draft document that the Working Group prepared, ACCS engaged in a consultation exercise that included Archbishop William Goh, Sponsoring Authorities, and Catholic school Principals. The document was endorsed by all after some minor modifications. It represents our shared aspiration to hold fast and strengthen the Catholic character of our schools. On behalf of the Commission, I express my warm appreciation to the members of the Working Group for the work they have done.

ACCS has also begun a dialogue with Principals over the possible reconstitution of the Catholic Schools Principals' Council which was in existence till 2007. ACCS is of the view that the reconstitution of such a Council will be a positive development for Catholic education as it will provide a forum for mutual learning and support, as well as be a means through which ACCS can more meaningfully engage our Principals. A committee comprising Principals is now considering this.

In my various dialogues with Principals, a constant issue raised is the need for Catholic Principals and teachers to be better formed in the Faith. Only then do they feel they can be more effective in the important role they play as a guardian of their schools' Catholic ethos. ACCS would like to facilitate this and will work with Father Adrian Danker, S.J. to develop a programme to help our school leaders to deepen their faith. As a fellow educator and the Principal-designate of SJI (Independent), Father Adrian is well placed to understand the context and issues that Principals have to operate within. We at ACCS are very grateful to Father Adrian for agreeing to assist us.

There remains much to be done in our collective and continuing journey to make our schools more effective instruments to imbue our students with gospel values. On behalf of the Commission, I ask for your constant prayers and support for our Principals, senior school leaders, and teachers.

Yours in Christ,  
Tan Cheng Han



**Archdiocesan Commission  
for Catholic Schools**

# Membership

**Archbishop William Goh**  
PRESIDENT

**Msgr Ambrose Vaz**  
VICAR GENERAL (PASTORAL)  
ARCHBISHOP'S REPRESENTATIVE

**Fr Edward Seah**  
ARCHBISHOP'S REPRESENTATIVE

**Prof Tan Cheng Han**  
CHAIRMAN

**Mr Kenneth Tan**  
MEMBER

**Dr Chong Yoke Sin, Esther**  
MEMBER

**Mr Lim Soo Ping**  
MEMBER

**Dr Koh Thiam Seng**  
MEMBER

**Mrs Pauline Wong**  
MEMBER

**Ms Angela Ow**  
MEMBER

**Br Paul Ho, FSC**  
CONGREGATIONAL REP

**Sr Maria Lau, IJ**  
CONGREGATIONAL REP

**Mr Stuart Palmer**  
CO-OPT MEMBER

**Mr Gabriel Teo**  
CO-OPT MEMBER

**Mr Kenny Rebeira**  
CO-OPT MEMBER

Commission meetings were held on 9 Feb, 26 May, 17 Aug and 16 Nov.

# Staff of ACCS Office

**Fr Edward Seah**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (AD INTERIM)

**Merilyn Dasson**  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
(EARLY CHILDHOOD)

**Vacant**  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
(PRIMARY)

**Vacant**  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
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**Irene Wang**  
ACCOUNTS

**Shirley Louis**  
ADMIN OFFICER

**Raymond Lee**  
ADMIN & LOGISTICS OFFICER



# Meetings with Stakeholders

## Archbishop's Meeting with the Major Superiors      Meeting of the Catholic Ethos Working Group      Conversations with RE Coordinators

The importance of closer collaboration among the Sponsoring Authorities as one family of Catholic schools was affirmed during the 20 April meeting. The Major Superiors were briefed on the following:

1. Induction program for new Principals and Vice Principals at the diocesan level,
2. Catholic ethos document,
3. Catholic Education Conference 2015.

Open discussion followed each topic to seek the views of those present.

The January 20 meeting was a culmination of a series of meetings among members of the Catholic Ethos Working Group that resulted in a major output- a proposed 2-page Catholic ethos document "Key Features of a Catholic School (Singapore)". It was an attempt to distil the essence of the 3 published booklets on Catholic ethos already distributed to all Catholic schools into a concise and more manageable document. Various stages of consultations with members of the Catholic education community were conducted this year. The final document (Annex 1) has been officially endorsed by Archbishop William Goh.

ACCS, led by Fr Edward Seah, made rounds of informal visits and conversations with RE Coordinators of 16 primary and 11 secondary Catholic schools to get familiar with the RE Coordinators and learn about the Religious Education programmes being implemented in the schools as well as to find out about the needs that ACCS could fill in.

During the visits, it was noted that some primary schools were using the Walking with Jesus Bible Programme while all secondary schools had their own RE programme and activities. Many schools organized regular celebration of Mass, this ranges from monthly to about four times a year. It was felt that more Catholic teachers and parent volunteers could be recruited to help run Catholic activities in the schools. ACCS has been asked by the schools to bring faith formation training for the teachers at their own school premises. If possible, another area of assistance is for ACCS to develop and implement student retreats or recollections as there is currently a shortage of Catholic vendors that could provide such service.



Archbishop's Meeting with the Major Superiors, 20 April 2015



Hai Sing Catholic School

# Conversations with RE Coordinators Photo Gallery



1. CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' (Sec), 2. Assumption English School & Assumption Pathway School, 3. Canossa Convent Primary, 4. Assumption English School, 5. Catholic High School, 6. Holy Innocents' Primary School, 7. CHIJ Katong Convent, 8. CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity School, 9. CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace School, 10. Maria Stella High School, 11. CHIJ (Katong) Primary, 12. CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' (Pri), 13. St Stephen's School, 14. Marymount Convent School, 15. St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School, 16. St Gabriel's Primary School, 17. St Anthony's Primary School, 18. CHIJ Secondary Toa Payoh, 19. Mass at Catholic High School



## Annual Events

## Principals' Commissioning & Service of Commitment

Four new principals of Catholic schools in Singapore were commissioned by Archbishop William Goh on Saturday, 24 January 2015, in a special commissioning mass.

### The new principals are:

1. Mr Wilbur Wong, Montfort Junior School;
2. Mr Mark Gerard Minjoot, Montfort Secondary School;
3. Mdm Soh Lai Leng, Catholic High School; and
4. Mr Kevin Hannah, SJI International Elementary School.

About 170 family members, friends, educators, colleagues, students and fellow principals attended the mass, held at the chapel of St Joseph Institution International.

In his homily, Archbishop Goh pointed out that every student is called to be a child of God, and Catholic education offers a holistic approach in the character development of the students.

He encouraged the Principals to give attention to the faith formation of their staff as they are the ones directly engaging with the students. Archbishop Goh assured the leaders and staff in Catholic schools that

they should not be afraid to teach and guide students according to Christian values, because "the very fact that parents have chosen to send their child to a Catholic school, means they are saying 'this is a good place for my child'."

At the end of the homily, all principals and vice-principals present were invited to recite a prayer of commitment, and received a blessing from the Archbishop.

After the Commissioning Mass, guests gathered for a fellowship refreshments.

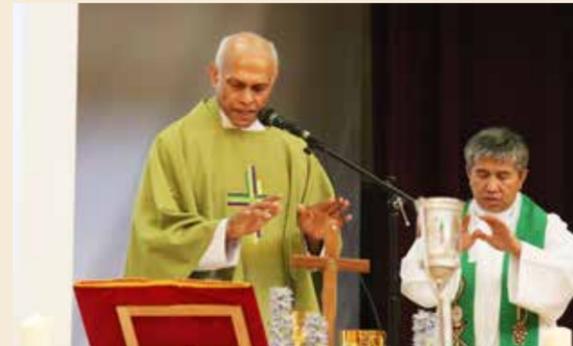
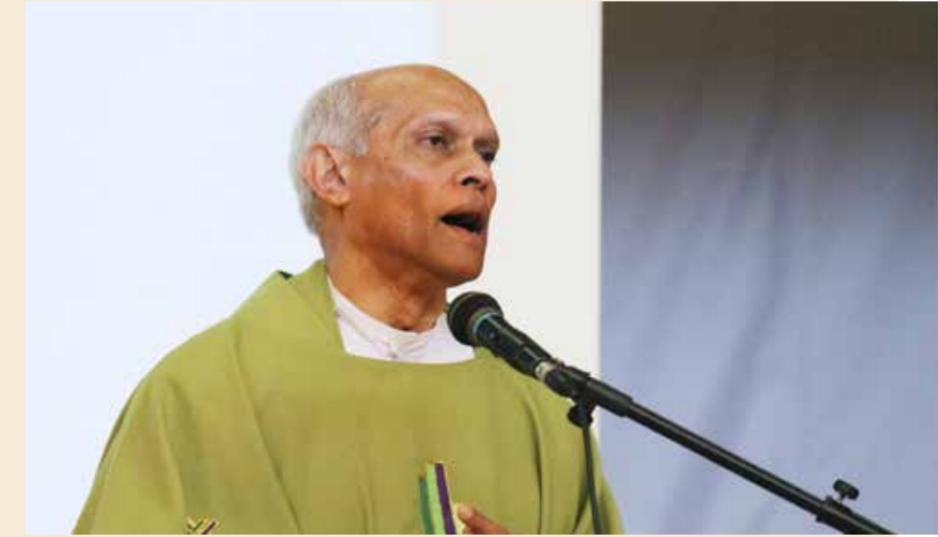


# Teacher's Day Mass

With the theme "I will walk in the presence of the Lord", Msgr Ambrose Vaz presided the Eucharistic Celebration on 12 September at Catholic High School to commemorate Teachers' Day for Catholic educators in both Catholic and non-Catholic schools. Fr Adrian Danker, SJ and Fr Edward Seah concelebrated the Mass.

In his homily, Msgr Vaz reaffirmed the important role and identity of Catholic educators. According to Msgr Vaz, educators do not only impart knowledge to their students but also communicate an experience of God. As the educators walk in the presence of the Lord, they share their own experience of God and remind others to experience the same joy.

About 175 Catholic educators, family and friends gathered for this annual event. It was open to all Catholic teachers in Catholic and non-Catholic schools. The Mass was followed by an afternoon Tea reception.





# Catholic Education Conference



## Catholic Education Conference 2015

**“Character of Catholic Schools” is the theme for this year’s edition of the biennial conference. The 2015 Catholic Education Conference was held on 16 March at St Gabriel’s Secondary School.**

All the Catholic schools from the primary to JC levels were represented during the Conference with the lowest number of three delegates per school and highest number of 35 delegates per school. More than 20 participants were from the pre-school sector.

St Gabriel’s Secondary School was a great host, warmly opening its doors to 393 Conference participants. Total headcount reached 501 on the Conference day itself to include volunteers.

The keynote speaker was Jesuit educator Fr Christopher Gleeson, Provincial’s Delegate for Education and Mission Formation based in Melbourne, Australia.

Archbishop William Goh, in his homily at the Mass, reminded Catholic educators that they are called to form future leaders with values of the Gospel who understand the meaning of life and who are compassionate. What distinguish Catholic schools from secular schools are the values centred in Christ, his message and person. A Catholic school is a community where the love of Christ is experienced

and others will believe because they experience love through this community.

Fr Edward Seah presented what has been done after the last Conference in 2013 based on the seven areas for improvement:

1. Updating of the directory of Catholic educators; Formation of chaplaincy teams;
2. Strengthening of parish-school partnerships;
3. Encouraging greater laity involvement of the alumni and parents;
4. Conducting formation and induction programmes;
5. Supporting the Catholic ethos self-assessment framework; and
6. The implementation of the CME and RE programmes in Catholic schools.

Fr Christopher Gleeson, SJ highlighted that our Catholic identity is a verb, not a brand, but a way of acting and doing things. Jesus is the master storyteller who uses parables to form people. He expected his disciples to chew on the parables for a while,

to unlock the flavour, leading them to discover the answers themselves. So, evangelization brings the gospel to where people are, not where we want them to be. The church grows by witness and not by proselytizing.

Richard Rohr's principle "you can only lead others as far as you yourself have gone" is an important reminder for teachers that they can only transform the students to the degree they have been transformed.

Pope Francis said that "to educate well we need to step out of ourselves and be among young people to accompany them in the stages of their growth, placing ourselves at their sides". This refers to the story on the road to Emmaus where we can learn from the six stages in Jesus' accompaniment with two disciples.

The participants were assigned to different groups for the breakout session. A total of 26 groups were formed to share and discuss the questions which serve to elucidate and contextualise what Fr Gleeson has shared in his talks.

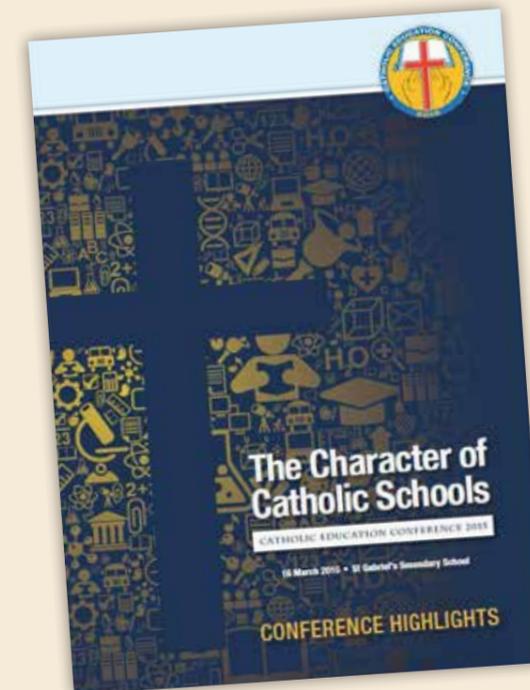
Four pre-selected groups presented their outputs to provide a glimpse of what the various sectors (pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary/JC/Poly) discussed among themselves.

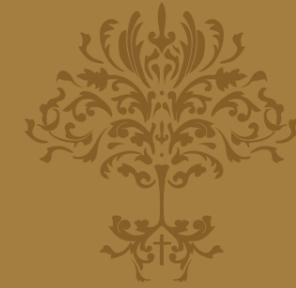
Prof Tan Cheng Han, in his Closing Address, said that Catholic education must start with wanting to develop the students with gospel values so that they can become people for others and serve others. He pointed out that Catholic education offers a vision beyond the economic/academic.

Our Catholic identity calls for our schools to be places of prayer and the proclamation of Jesus Christ in an inoffensive, inclusive and loving way.

ACCS will gather and distil all the thoughts and feedback received during the Conference. There are 3 practical steps that ACCS will take, namely:

1. Greater consensus on the essential elements of Catholic ethos, that is, the baseline that all Catholic schools should have and we will have a consultation with the SMCs and the school leadership.
2. More formation programmes for Catholic teachers to live their faith better in the work place.
3. The Church will have to dialogue with stakeholders as Catholic values will reinforce values education. Catholic ethos is not an add-on. Our starting point is different; we give a deeper and more profound understanding of values education.





## Media and Communications

# Print Media



## Catholic News

### 1. Teaching kids proper behaviour at Mass (25 January)

ACCS coverage of its Children's Behaviour and Reverence Workshop.

### 2. Four new principals of Catholic schools commissioned (8 February)

ACCS coverage of the Annual New Principals' Commissioning.

### 3. Talk about Christ, tell congregational stories (5 April)

Catholic News' coverage of the 2015 Catholic Education Conference and follow-up sessions.

### 4. Church's contributions in education and public service (28 June)

Catholic News' interviews with 5 people on education and public service; ACCS was mentioned in one of the interviews.

### 5. Using apps, arts for religious education (6 September)

ACCS coverage of the Religious Education Access Programme (REAP) and Literacy Education Access Programme (LEAP)



## Hai Sing Pao

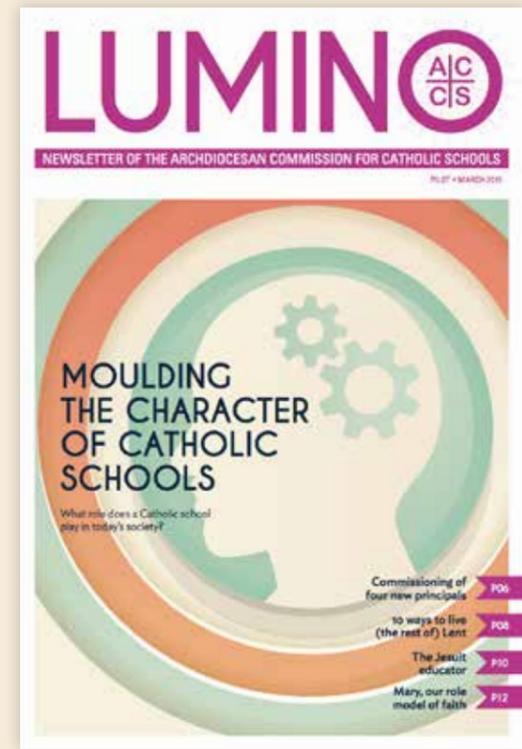
19 April Issue featured a front page story on the Catholic Education Conference.



## ACCS Newsletter

"Lumino" (light up), was a pilot ACCS newsletter which provided additional avenue for the Catholic education community to keep in touch and stay updated on the latest events and issues at hand. It also aimed to provide informative and formation-based articles for the community's reading pleasure.

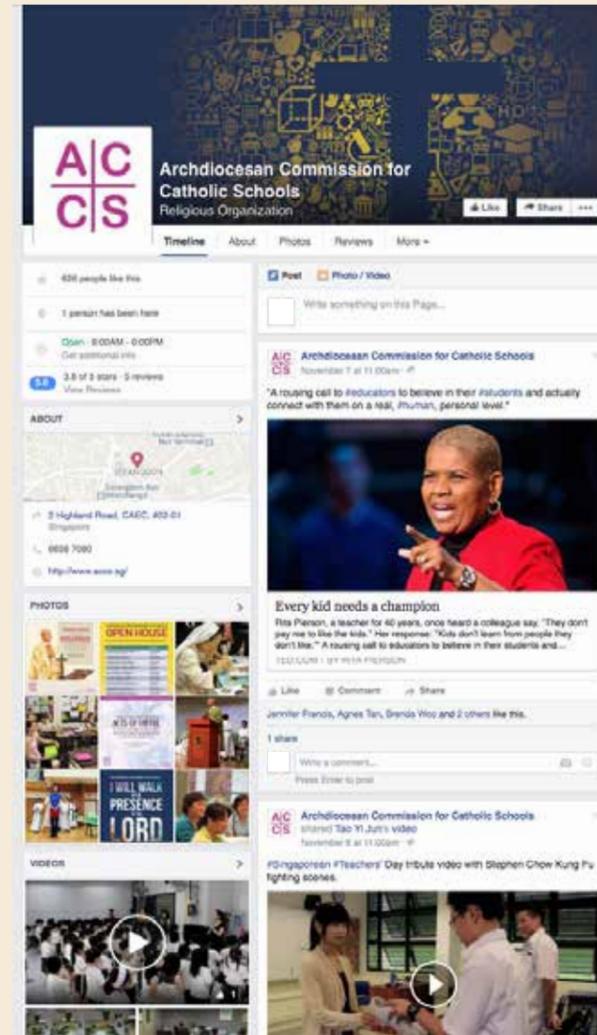
2,000 copies were distributed among all Catholic schools and Catholic Education Conference participants.



# Online Media

On the social media front, ACCS put in a lot more effort in being more present online as a source of information and inspiration. Apart from the complete revamp of the website, the ACCS also stepped up its activity on Facebook and Instagram to keep in touch with Catholic educators. The website saw fresh content at least twice a month, including coverage of ACCS events, activities and articles related to Catholic education while the Instagram page put up event photos and inspirational art. ACCS Facebook page kept its target market in tune with the latest posts on its website and Instagram, while also sharing important and relevant news in the Catholic education scene. Keeping in mind the celebration of the Year for Consecrated Life, educators from various religious congregations and communities, including the Marist Brothers (FMS), the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), and the La Salle Brothers (FSC), were featured on ACCS social media platforms.

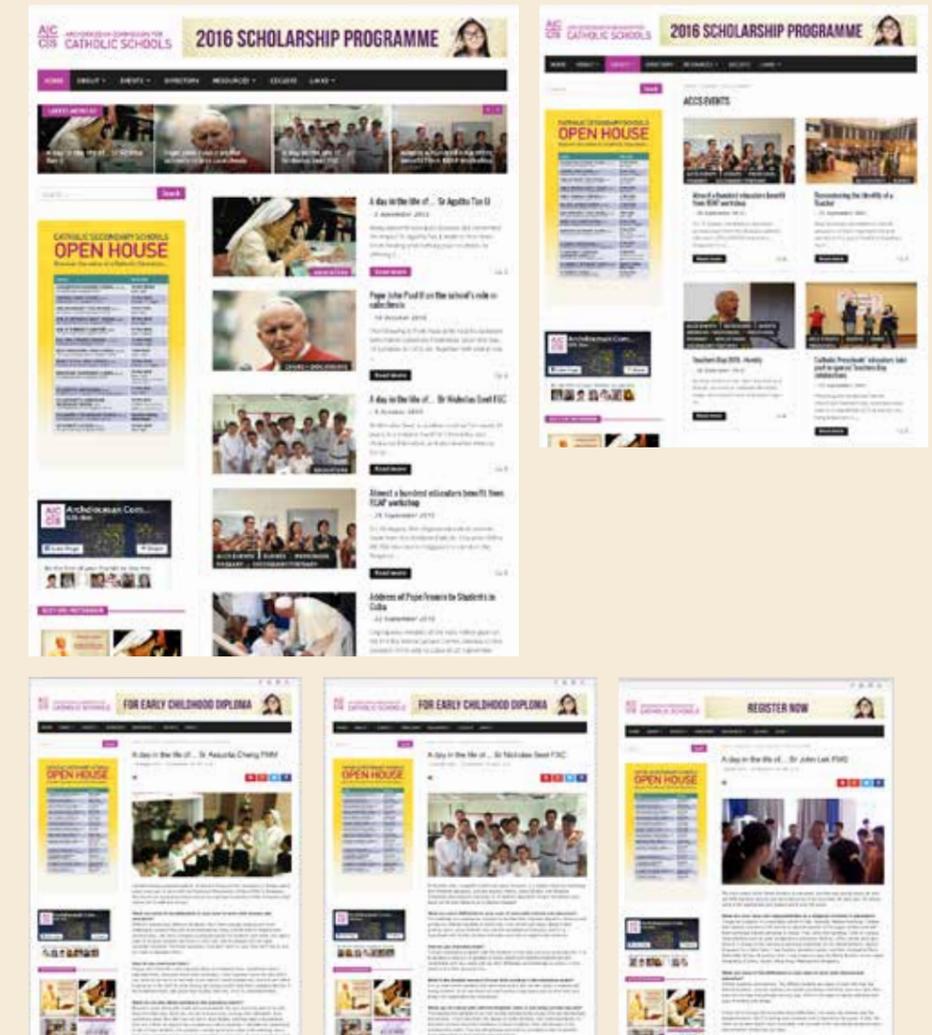
## FACEBOOK



## INSTAGRAM



## WEBSITE



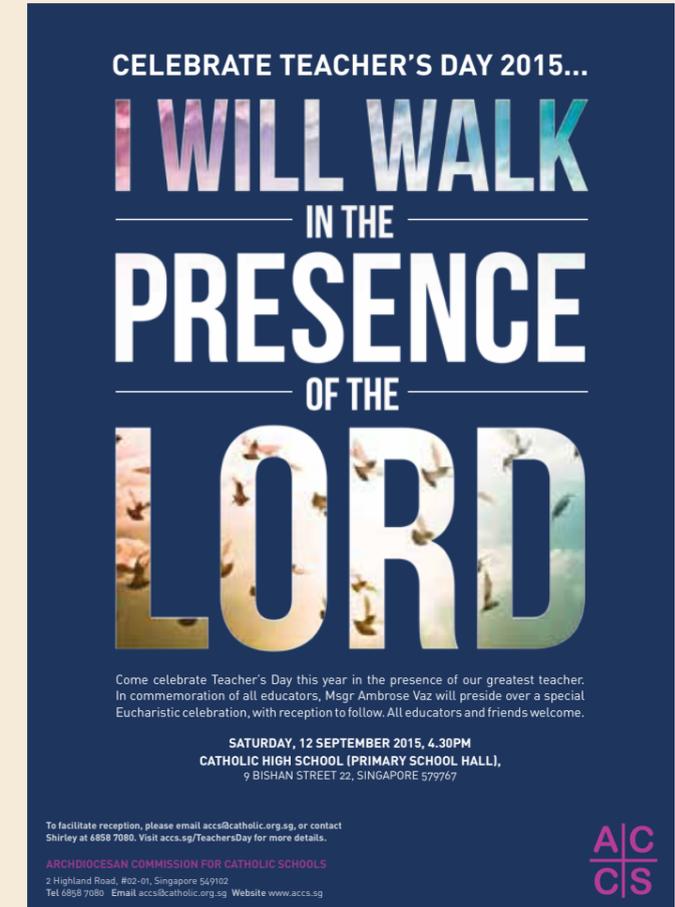
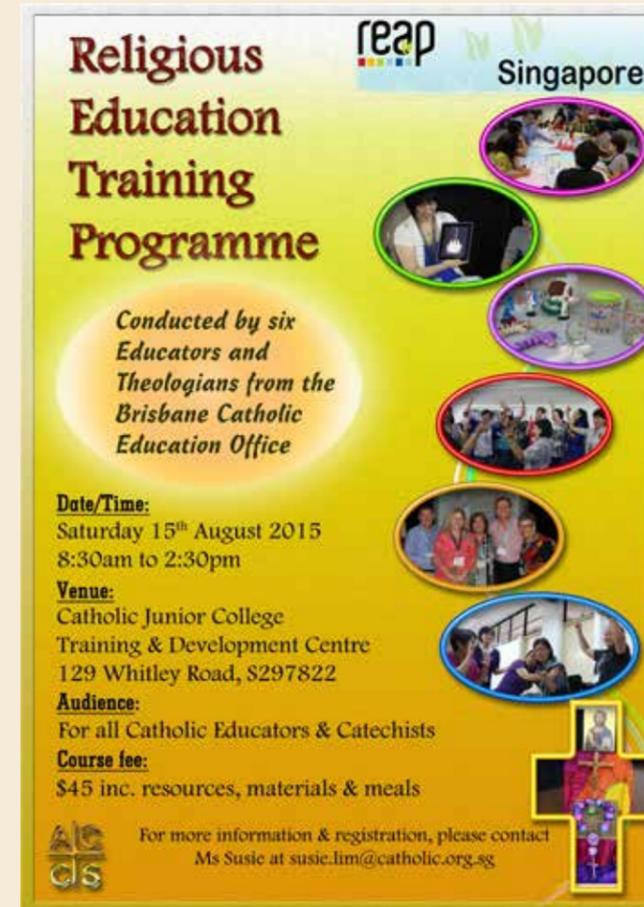
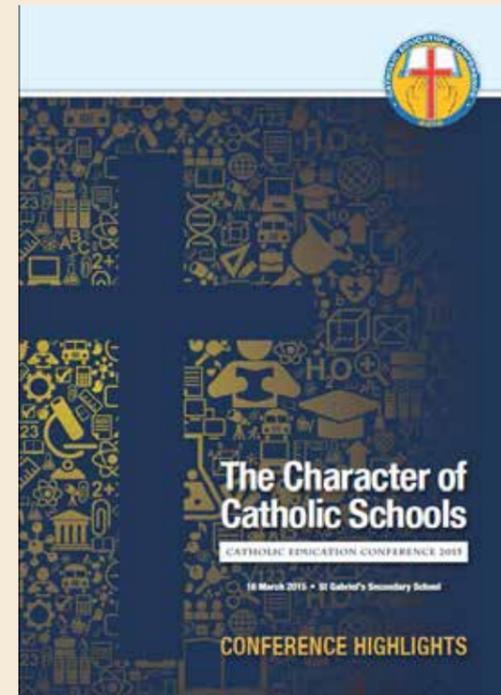
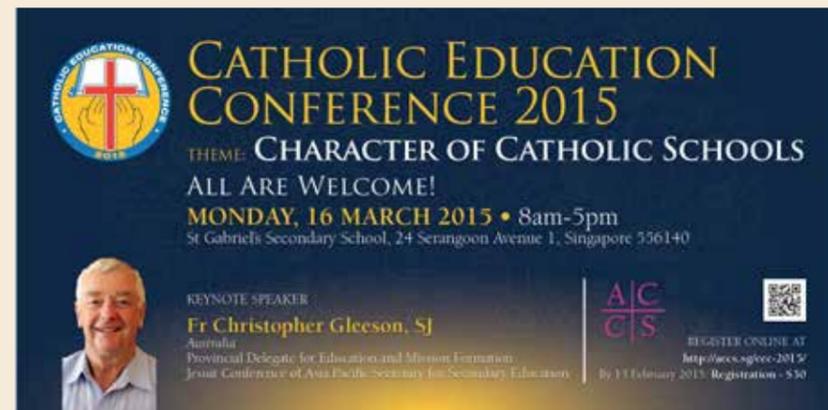
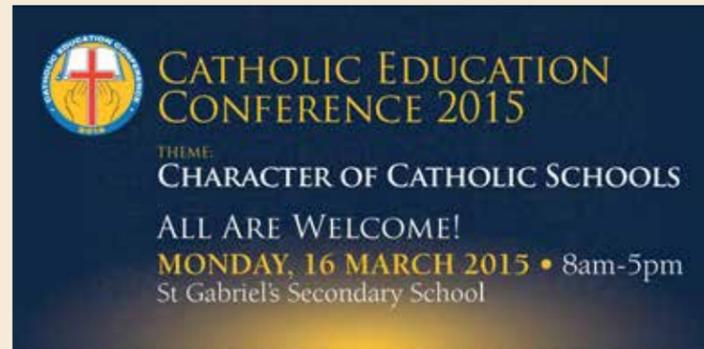
# Publicity Collateral

## 2015 CEC 2015 REAP 2015 Teachers' Day

1. Conference programme booklets distributed during the Conference.
2. Post-Conference documents distributed to Catholic schools, parishes, relevant organizations.
3. Conference banners displayed in selected Catholic schools and parishes.

REAP posters distributed to Catholic schools and catechetical offices in parishes.

Teachers' Day posters distributed to all Catholic schools and parishes.





## Formation Programmes

## Communio

### 24 April

The first Communio of the year was an opportunity to consult with the Principals on the proposed 2-page document "Features of a Catholic School (Singapore)". Taking into consideration a few changes to be done on the document, a broad consensus was reached among the school leaders that the document is acceptable and doable. 27 school leaders and members of the Catholic Ethos Working Group gathered for this consultation.

### 31 August

This was an exclusive dialogue session between the Principals and His Grace to exchange their views and perspectives on Catholic education. Some of the issues taken up were on the unity of the Catholic schools, the relationship of ACCS and the schools, the percentage of Catholic students, the formation of school leaders and staff, and the possible revival of the Catholic Schools Principals Council. The number of participants was 34.



## Character of Catholic Schools by Fr Christopher Gleeson, SJ

On 18 March, about 10 members of Board of Managements had an intimate sharing session led by Fr Gleeson on how to ensure a strong Catholic character in their schools. His recommendation is for the schools to tell the story of their Religious founder as a lens on the Gospel. He also urged school boards to undergo retreat because one's own spirituality as a member of a school board is critical in injecting Catholic life in the school.



## Retreat for Administration and Operation Staff

This annual event seeks to bring AM/OM together to offer a platform to build fellowship & networking among themselves while explaining to them the Catholic Ethos & seeking their cooperation in strengthening Catholic cultures & values in schools.

On its 3rd run, 11 Admin and Operations staff came for this retreat held on 5 June at the Catholic Centre. The programme started off with Fr Edward Seah giving them an overview of what ACCS does. They were then led for a short walk covering the former building of SJI, now occupied by the Singapore Art Museum and viewing a few buildings related to the history of the Catholic Church in Singapore. Fr Edward shared important memories of the school and the De La Salle brothers while touring the old SJI building.

Upon returning from the short tour, Ms Cecilia Lim, Principal of Marymount Convent, guided the participants in their reflection on their roles in supporting Catholic Ethos in their schools. It was followed by a dynamic group sharing and discussion.



## Induction Programme for Newly Appointed Principals and Vice Principals

This year, two rounds of the Induction Programme were held for newly appointed Principals and Vice Principals of Catholic Schools. The first round was conducted in the first half of the year where 16 school leaders participated in the Programme on 17 April. The second round happened in the second half of the year with 10 participants on 28 August.

Mr Timothy Goh (Principal, SJI Jr), Mr Stephen Chin (Principal, St Gabriel's Secondary) and Ms Magdalene Chin (Principal, CHIJ Kellock) were the Catholic School leaders who shared their experiences and challenges in leading a Catholic school during the sessions.

Fr Edward Seah and Sr Cecily Pavri were the main facilitators of the programme which covered a range of topics:

1. Catholic Schools as important part of Church's Mission.
2. Understanding Fears, Expectation & Strengths.
3. We choose Catholic Schools.



# School Chaplaincy Teams

## Formation for SCT by Fr Christopher Gleeson, SJ

This is a session for Chaplaincy teams and clergy to deepen the discussion begun at the 2015 Catholic Education Conference on how Chaplaincy teams can foster the faith formation of teachers and students that will impact the whole ethos of the school and provide a genuinely Catholic environment for all our students. More than 20 people came for this 17 March formation.

## Training for School Chaplaincy Teams

To assist schools to better prepare persons to be part of a School Chaplaincy Team, ACCS conducts yearly training programmes to equip team members with basic skills and knowledge.

A total of 22 school chaplains from eight schools/ institutions attended this year's Basic SCT Training. There were 10 parent volunteers, 11 teachers and 1 religious sister.

## Module 1: Role of School Chaplaincy Team in Catholic School - 7 May

1. Familiarize the importance of Catholic Education and Ethos.
2. Reflect on the challenges & need of forming SCT in schools.
3. Jesus as role model in journeying with students.
4. Working as team in school.
5. Sharing on programmes/ projects to promote.
6. Catholic Ethos & Values

Facilitator - Mrs Lesley Goonting, works in Human Resource/QM; Consultancy/ Training; 20 yrs as Catechists; Parent Volunteers in SCT team CHIJ OLG for the past 3 yrs.

## Module 2: Chaplaincy Team Ministry Skills - 8 May

1. Understand School Chaplaincy Teams in schools.
2. Mentoring, Listening & Accompanying students.
3. Preparation of Prayer, Liturgy & worship.

Facilitator - Fr Edward Seah, ACCS ED (Ad Interim); Assistant Director of Catechetical Office; Assistant Parish Priest of St Anne



### Module 3: Education Context Today - 28 May

1. Learning Environment (by Mrs Pauline Wong, Principal of CHIJ St Teresa's convent)  
Identified and explained the external and internal factors affecting the learning environment.
2. Today's Youth Culture (by Mrs Michelle Soliano Lew, Counselor at Montfort Care; former Programme Manager (Education & Outreach) with Family Life Society)  
Knowing who are the youths now and what/who influences them; Looking at the Youth Lab Report 2015

### Module 4: Understanding Human Development & Faith Formation - 29 May

1. Understanding different stages of children's need.
2. Importance of Faith formation for the young.

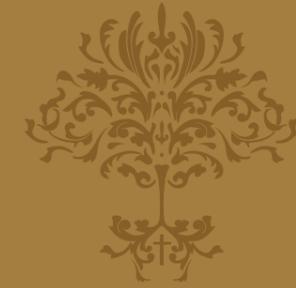
Facilitator: Bro Collin Wee, FSC Director of Hope House; a Clinical member of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy; Lecturer at St Francis Xavier Major Seminary.



## RE Coordinators' and Chaplaincy Year-end Gathering

Sharing session among the 19 participants and fellowship were the focus of the 17 Nov Year-end Gathering of RE and Chaplaincy Coordinators. Mrs Patricia Lee, a former RE teacher, was the session's facilitator.





## Early Childhood Education

## Character Education Workshop

The 4 January workshop entitled “Children’s Behaviour and Reverence” aimed to equip catechists and parents with various ways to teach young children the appropriate social behaviour during Mass. Dr Margaret Carter discussed behavioural expectations for children and shared the processes by which children learned how to behave. 15 participants benefited from this workshop.



## Preschool Teachers’ Day

St Anne’s Church Kindergarten and Nativity Church Kindergarten took the lead in organizing this event on 4 September at Yio Chu Kang Grassroots. It was a relaxing treat for the teachers to engage in games, dances, songs and even the popular dance fitness routine “Zumba”. Over 110 preschool staff came for this first ever combined Catholic Preschools Teachers’ Day Celebration.



## Religious Education Accreditation Programme (REAP) Refresher Course

In collaboration with the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, ACCS offered this programme to Catholic educators, parent volunteers and catechists. It was a programme to help participants learn how to teach RE in a creative way using digital media, craft, music and drama.

Six senior officers from the Brisbane Catholic Education Office came down from Australia to conduct the Programme for 90 participants on 15 August at the Catholic Junior College. It was opened not only to the preschools but also to primary and secondary levels of all Catholic schools.

Students from CHIJ Secondary (Toa Payoh) and Montfort Secondary offered their services for the photo and video documentation of the sessions.



## Attachment Programme for Australian Teachers

Between 12 and 14 August, 10 Australian teachers were in Singapore for an attachment programme to 4 preschools and 4 primary schools. Called Literacy Education Access Programme (LEAP). The hosting schools were St Francis of Assisi Kindergarten (Jurong West), St Joseph's Church Kindergarten, St Anne's Church Kindergarten, Church of the Holy Trinity Kindergarten, CHIJ OLG, CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh), SJI Jr and Montfort Jr.

The Australian teachers observed the English lessons in Pre-primary level, Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes and participated in sharing sessions with the teachers and school leaders of the host schools in Singapore.



## Thanksgiving Day and Professional Development Training for Preschool Staff

Preschool educators will benefit from the Professional Development training by our Australian Consultant Dr Margaret Carter of James Cook University (Australia) and Merilyn Dasson of ACCS scheduled on 29 Dec at St Francis Xavier Kindergarten.

Its main objective is to begin exploring values based teaching and learning practices in our schools.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Reviewing our image of the preschool child in 21st century Singapore.
2. Reviewing the core values promoted in Catholic (Singapore) preschools.
3. Reviewing the alignment of our classroom management styles with these core values.
4. Connecting core values with harmonious and productive teaching and learning.
5. Guiding children's social learning including knowing what to do when children misbehave.





## Primary and Secondary Schools

# Primary Schools - WWJ Workshops

The "Walking with Jesus" (WWJ) Bible programme for Catholic primary schools has been implemented since 1994. Its overall aim is for the Bible comes alive for the children in primary school and they recognize that Jesus is speaking to them in his word and he wants them to know him and to live with him. It is hoped that the stories of the Bible become food for the children to live by in later life.

Each primary level follows a specific theme:

- Primary 1** - Getting to know Jesus
- Primary 2** - Jesus, living water, bread of life
- Primary 3** - Celebrating with Jesus
- Primary 4** - Journeying with Jesus
- Primary 5** - Jesus, our friend and teacher
- Primary 6** - The New Covenant

ACCS continued to provide the schools with student's workbook and teacher's manual, as well as music in CDs and music scores. To help schools implement the Bible programme, ACCS conducted Introductory and Advanced Workshops.

Two Introductory Workshops were exclusively conducted for SJI Jr parent volunteers on the mornings of 13 Jan (P2, P4 & P6 classes) and 15 Jan (P1, P3 & P5 classes). Catholic staff of the same school underwent a separate workshop on the afternoon of 15 Jan. A total of 40 parent volunteers and teachers from SJI Jr attended the workshops.

On 26 of January, 16 participants from 7 schools attended an Introductory Workshop. They came from Catholic High School, CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh), CHIJ St Nicholas Girls, CHIJ Katong Primary, CHIJ Our Lady of Nativity, CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel and Dela Salle School.

An Advance Workshop opened to all schools was conducted on 23 Feb and was attended by 6 participants from CHIJ Katong Primary, CHIJ Kellock and De La Salle School.



# Secondary Schools - Civics and Moral Education for Catholic Schools (CMECS)

ACCS has made available the Civics and Moral Education for Catholic Schools (CMECS) materials for Catholic schools interested in using these as resources to support the Catholic perspective of the recently introduced Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) programme. The different schools are now adapting and trying varied ways of teaching RE according to their needs and resources.

Teachers have been invited to attend common formation programmes organized by ACCS. These include School Chaplaincy Team workshops and REAP Refresher Course.

## Secondary 1 : Summary of Lessons

- Theme 1: I am Unique
- Theme 2: I Connect
- Theme 3.1: I Reach Out - Mission
- Theme 3.2: I Reach Out - Human and Natural Ecology
- Theme 3.3: I Reach Out - Citizenship
- Theme 3.4: I Reach Out - Community

## Secondary 2: Summary of Lessons

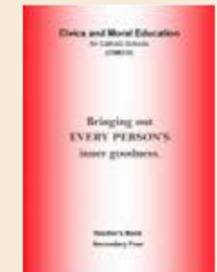
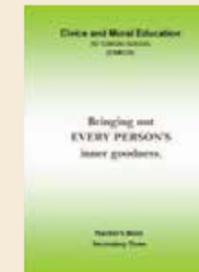
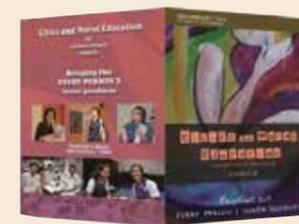
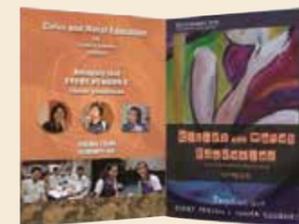
- Theme 1: I am Unique
- Theme 2: I Connect
- Theme 3.1: I Reach Out - Mission
- Theme 3.2: I Reach Out - Human and Natural Ecology
- Theme 3.3: I Reach Out - Citizenship
- Theme 3.4: I Reach Out - Community

## Secondary 3: Summary of Lessons

- Theme 1: Sharing in the Common Good
- Theme 2: Stewardship in Action
- Theme 3: Sharing Common Ground
- Theme 4: Foundations for Sexuality Education
- Theme 5: Youth Leadership

## Secondary 4: Summary of Lessons

- Theme 1: A Vision of Life
- Theme 2: My Aim and Purpose in Life
- Theme 3: Caring for Myself and Others
- Theme 4: Love is a Decision
- Theme 5: Vocation: Work, Career and Family





## Resources

### List of Online Courses for personal or professional development offered by various organizations

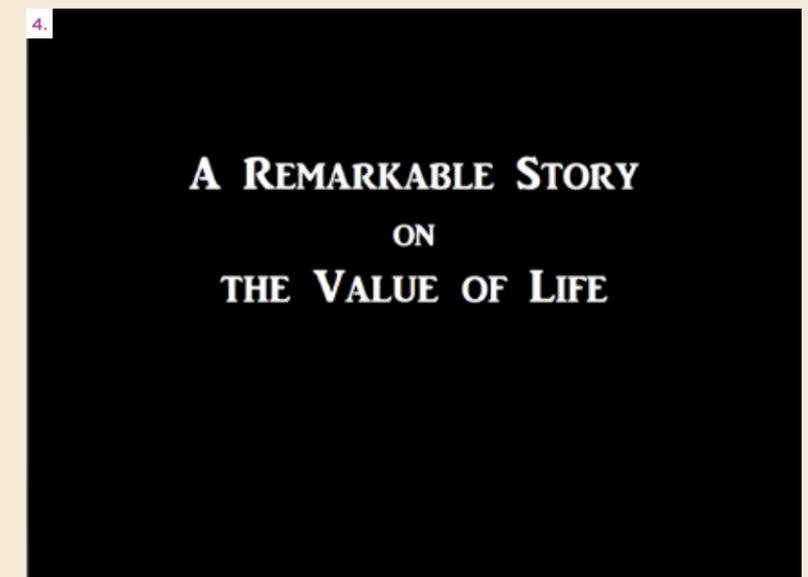
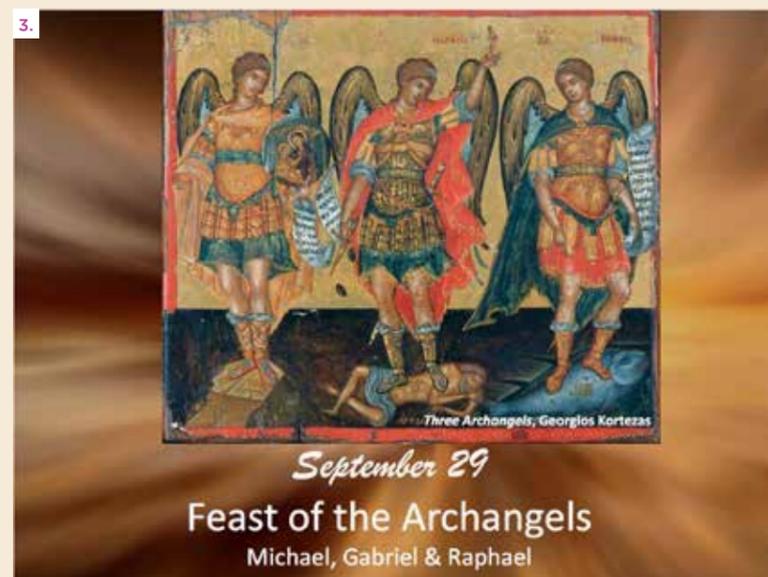
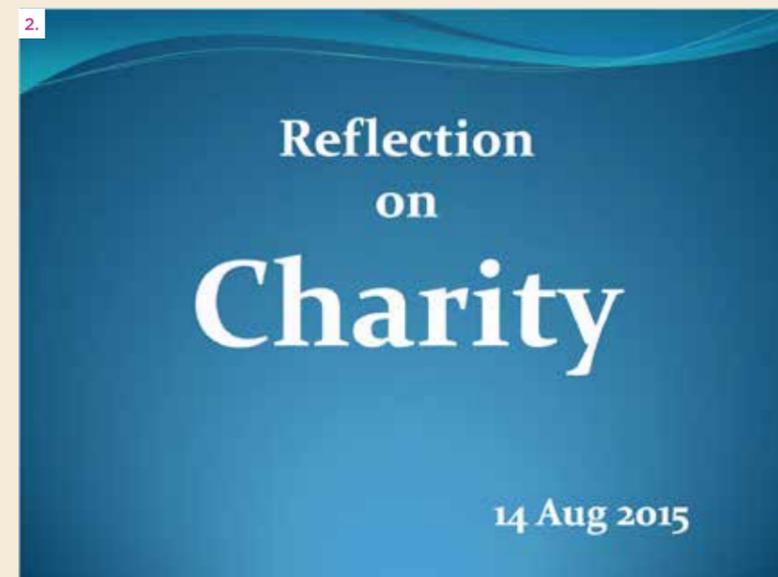
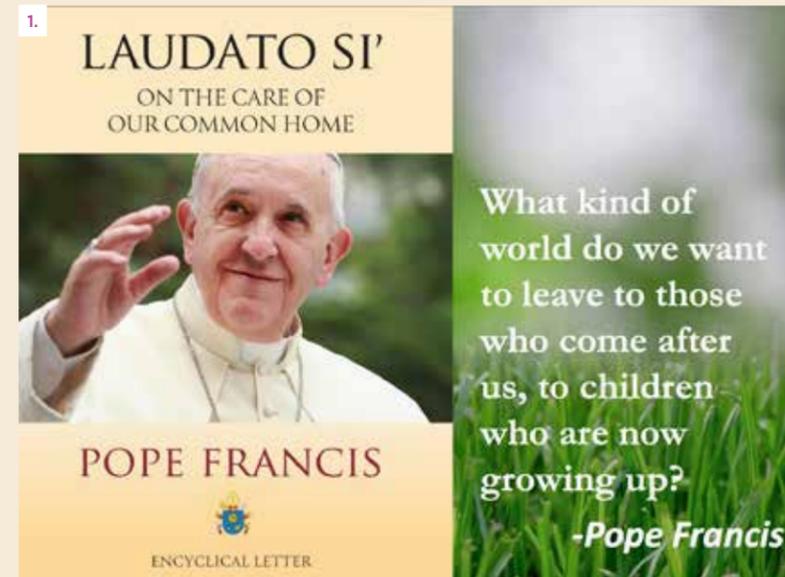
This was part of a follow-up email sent to participants to the 2015 Catholic Education Conference.

#### Morning School Assembly/RE Resources

To support Catholic schools in their Catholic identity, the following resources were prepared and sent to the schools giving them the prerogative to use them as resource either during Morning School Assembly or during RE time:

1. July - A 3-minute video on Pope Francis' latest environmental encyclical "Laudato Si". The video was produced and promoted by an inter-religious group called Religions for Peace. It featured members of the organization discussing the importance of coming together to protect and preserve Earth and its riches.
2. August - PowerPoint presentation on the life of St Maximilian Kolbe and how he embodied the virtue of charity in his life. His Feast Day is commemorated on 14 August.
3. September - PowerPoint presentation in memorial of the Feast Day of the Archangels on 29 September. Short description of the special mission of Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael was conveyed, followed by a reflection on how one can emulate their goodness in simple ways.
4. October - PowerPoint presentation telling a touching story of how a young Catholic seminarian saved the life of a starving Jewish girl during World War II. This young seminarian later became Pope John Paul II and most recently St John Paul II. A short entertaining video about the saint's life was also shared to the schools for viewing.

#### Morning School Assembly/ RE Resources





## Campaign Support

**#Proud2BCatholic**

Online campaign by the Archdiocese of Singapore to inspire courage and to empower Catholics to stand up to be bold witnesses of the faith to the world.

Members of the Catholic education community were invited to take part in this campaign as individuals or as a Catholic school.

**2016 Angelico Art Award**

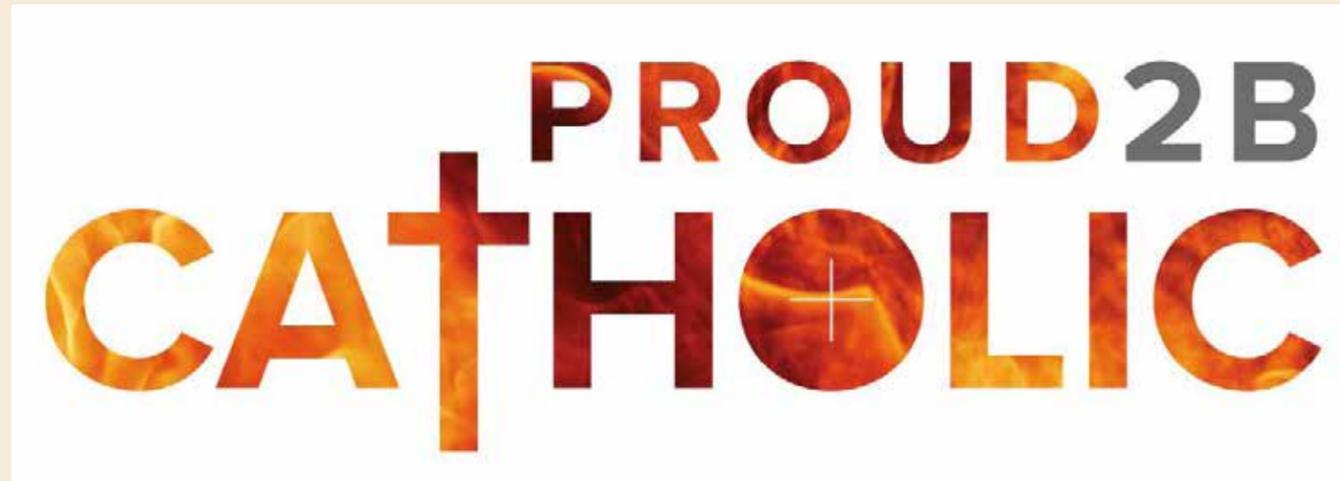
Jointly organized by Heartspace and the Catholic Business Network, the Angelico Art Award is the first thematic Christian art prize in Singapore and it seeks to strengthen one's Christian identity through art.

ACCS provided assistance in the distribution of the competition materials to Catholic secondary schools and junior college.

**Open House: Catholic Secondary Schools**

This was the third time that ACCS undertook this publicity support for the Open House dates of Catholic secondary schools. A common advertisement was placed in the Catholic News in October to help P6 students and their parents in their decision to look for a suitable Catholic Secondary School for the following year.

#PROUD2BCATHOLIC LOGO



ANGELICO ART AWARD 2016



OPEN HOUSE: CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE**  
Discover the value of a Catholic Education...

SCHOOL	DATE/TIME
<b>ASSUMPTION PATHWAY SCHOOL</b> (mixed) 30 Cashew Road, Singapore 679697	<b>30 Nov (Mon)</b> 9am-1pm
<b>CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL</b> (boys) 9 Bishan Street 22, Singapore 579767	<b>28 Nov (Sat)</b> 8.30am-12.30pm
<b>CHIJ SECONDARY (TOA PAYOH)</b> (girls) 626 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319764	<b>24 Oct (Sat)</b> 9am-3pm
<b>CHIJ ST NICHOLAS GIRLS' SCHOOL</b> (girls) 501 Ang Mo Kio Street 13, Singapore 569405	<b>28 Nov (Sat)</b> 9am-4pm
<b>CHIJ ST THERESA'S CONVENT</b> (girls) 160 Lower Delta Road, Singapore 099138	<b>21 Nov (Sat)</b> 9am-1.30pm
<b>HAI SING CATHOLIC SCHOOL</b> (mixed) 9 Pasir Ris Drive 6, Singapore 519421	<b>21 Nov (Sat)</b> 8.30am-1pm
<b>HOLY INNOCENTS' HIGH SCHOOL</b> (mixed) 1191 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 534786	<b>7 Nov (Sat)</b> 9am-1pm
<b>MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL</b> (boys) 25 Mount Vernon Road, Singapore 368051	<b>28 Nov (Sat)</b> 8:30am-12.30pm
<b>MONTFORT SECONDARY SCHOOL</b> (boys) 50 Hougang Avenue 8, Singapore 538785	<b>28 Nov (Sat)</b> 9am-1pm *Meet the Principal* sessions at 10am and 12pm
<b>ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION</b> (boys) 21 Bishan Street 14, Singapore 579781 (holding site)	<b>27 Nov (Fri)</b> 2pm-5pm
<b>ST ANTHONY'S CANOSSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL</b> (girls) 1600 Bedok North Ave 4, Singapore 469700	<b>20 Nov (Fri)</b> 1:30pm Affiliated Schools 3pm Non-Affiliated Schools
<b>ST GABRIEL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL</b> (boys) 24 Serangoon Avenue 1, Singapore 556140	<b>Anytime during office hours</b>
<b>ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL</b> (boys) 490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058	<b>28 Nov (Sat)</b> 9am-1pm

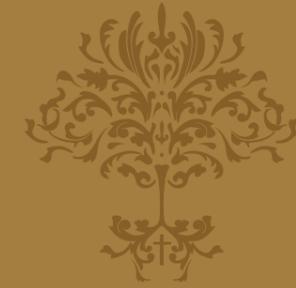


## Sacrament of the Eucharist

ACCS, through its Executive Director Fr Edward Seah, was invited by several schools to celebrate Mass in different scenarios:

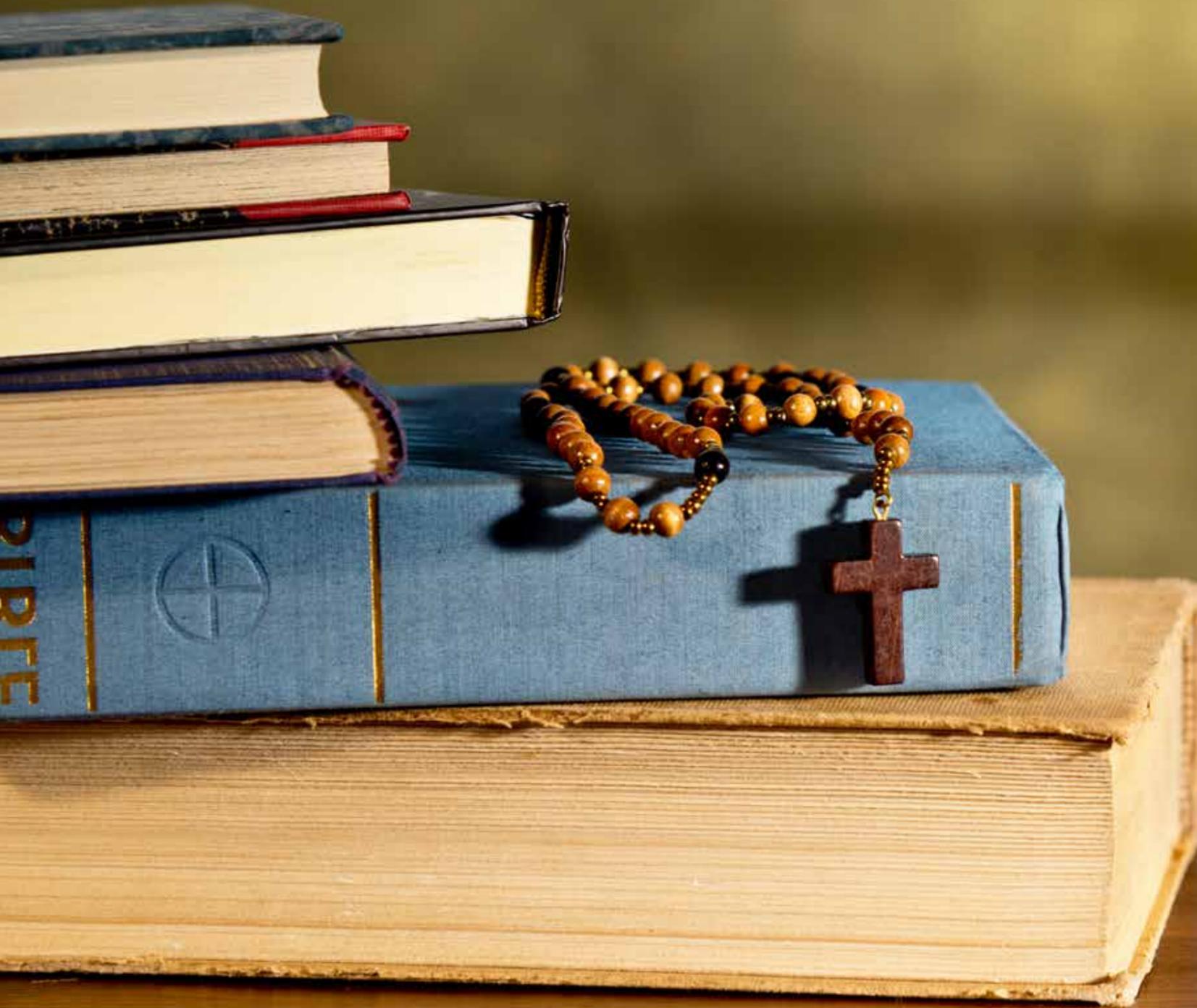
1. For all students;
2. For a particular student level (e.g. PSLE students); and
3. Exclusively for Catholic students.





## Appendix

## Appendix 1. Key Features of a Catholic School (Singapore)



### Preamble

1. These features or elements necessary to build and sustain the Catholic Culture and Ethos of a Catholic School are meant to be built up gradually as best practices are shared and implemented among Catholic school leaders.
2. Key elements in a Catholic Culture are the centrality of the person of Jesus, the dignity of every human person, Gospel values and the fundamental principles found in Catholic Education documents of the universal church.
3. The list below describes what is desired from a school that has a Catholic character/Ethos.
4. The supporting role of other related bodies like ACCS, Clergy and sponsoring authorities are not included in this list but will be developed as separate documents.
5. The features or elements below are to be read together with the ACCS vision documents of 2012: 'Leading a Catholic School', 'Common purpose and goal', 'Indicators for Catholic Ethos'. The reasons for each element can be found in these documents.
6. Below is set out the four main areas where the Catholic Character of a Catholic school is evident. These four areas are aligned to the Catholic Ethos Indicators distributed to schools in 2012.

### A. Implementing Vision, Mission and Culture

1. One of the senior management team has the responsibility to develop and strengthen Catholic ethos in the whole school. This includes ensuring that all staff are adequately introduced to and continually revisit the vision of Catholic Education and Catholic Ethos. This includes formation or training required for understanding the Ethos of a Catholic school.
2. The Principal ensures alignment between the SMC constitutional articles concerning Catholic Ethos and the day to day running of the school and programmes.
3. The alignment of the school's day to day running and programmes are regularly reviewed (internally more frequently, with SMCs less frequently).

## B. Religious Education & Practices

### 1. Religious Education is a part of the teaching and learning experience of Catholic students in the school and is held within the school day.

a. Time for Religious Education for Catholic students (and any others interested) is allocated and adequate.

b. There is a systematic instructional programme for religious education. The programme will be appropriate and of a good standard that aims to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, sharing of faith, testimonies, and is community based. It should be interactive, inter-personal, and relevant to the lives of young people.

c. Instruct students and parents that Catholic students are expected to attend RE classes in School and Catechism in the parish.

d. RE time is protected and will not be used for other purposes.

### 2. Prayer is a regular occurrence and well prepared.

### 3. Eucharistic celebrations are well prepared.

## C. Character and Citizenship Education (CCE)

1. The School is systematically putting in the Catholic perspective into the values and morals it is teaching. In essence the values and morals must include a divine perspective.

2. Planning for the CCE curriculum is informed by a Catholic Perspective.

3. Coordinators and staff have attended training offered in this area by ACCS or other entities.

4. ACCS CMECS resources (Secondary) are known and used by the CCE coordinator and staff.

## D. Spirituality

### 1. School Chaplaincy Teams to be institutionalised

a. The Chaplaincy team's plans and programmes are included in the planning sessions and included in the year's calendar.

b. The School's Chaplaincy team to be facilitated by the Religious Education Coordinator or member of Senior Management responsible for Catholic Ethos.

c. There is a designated chaplain for the school who is a priest.

d. In the absence of a priest, persons who are qualified and have attended suitable training provided by ACCS or other entities may fulfil some of the functions ordinarily undertaken by chaplains.

### 2. Visual Images

a. Religious Images and visuals are regularly renewed and highlighted.

b. Shrines or prayer corners are well maintained.

c. Best practices related to ways of promoting Catholic culture are shared. Examples include how Easter images are displayed or used; scriptural passages on the boards; short messages or slides on the close circuit TVs in the schools.

d. Ritual best practices are shared, e.g. the washing of feet, Lent, Easter.

e. Many religious feasts and 'Days' are celebrated and reflected on in a way that strengthens our Catholic identity: for example - Racial Harmony day; Earth Day.

## Conclusion

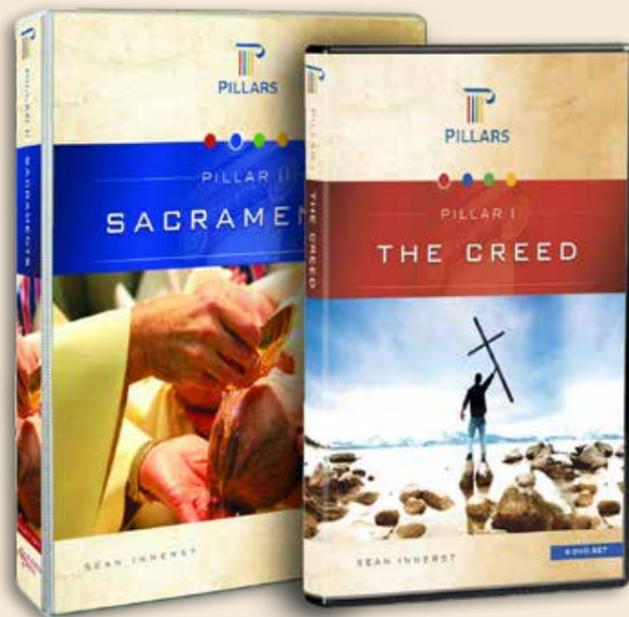
This document, drawn up after wide consultation with Sponsoring Authorities, principals and teachers and the Commissioners describes what is essential & basic to a Catholic School. It is not attempting however to be comprehensive in any way.

19 June 2015

## Appendix 2. Staff Welfare and Development

### DVD-based Study Program

Once a week, the staff gathered for a group study on the Catechism of the Catholic Church using Sean Innerst's Pillars series on the Creed and the Sacraments. Each series comprises 12 45-minute video presentations. The series on the Creed presented the Catechism as a sure map for a Catholic's journey of faith. On the other hand, the series on the Sacraments explored the power and purpose of these fonts of inexhaustible grace.



### ACCS Staff Retreat

Sr Mel Benedictos, RC was the Retreat Director for this 2 day-1 night retreat at Cenacle Retreat House on 25-26 June.

- Session 1:** Reflection on our relationships with others;
- Session 2:** Reflection on our relationship with Jesus;
- Session 3:** What is about Jesus I would like to know more?;
- Session 4:** Reflection on individual work in ACCS; and
- Session 5:** How can ACCS be a collective witness of Christ?

The retreat concluded with a Eucharistic Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Seah.

## Appendix 3. Provisional Calendar of Activities 2016



### Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools

#### FORMATION PROGRAMMES FOR SINGAPORE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2016

##### EVENTS

- Principals' Commissioning & Service of Commitment
- Induction I
- Induction II
- Attachment to Brisbane Catholic Schools
- Gathering of RE Coordinators & School Chaplaincy Teams
- LEAP (Visit by Brisbane teachers to Singapore)
- Teachers' Day Eucharistic Celebration

##### AUDIENCE

- New Principals & all Schools Leaders
- Newly appointed Principals & Vice-Principals
- Newly appointed Principals & Vice-Principals
- Primary & Secondary Principals
- All RE Coordinators & School Chaplaincy Teams
- Primary, Secondary & Preschools
- School Leaders, teachers & allied educators

##### DATE TIME

- Jan 23 4:00pm
- Feb 19 or 26 3:00pm - 5:30pm
- Jul 15 or 22 3:00pm - 5:30pm
- Jun 6-9
- July
- Aug 15-17
- Sep 10 4:00pm

##### COURSES

Workshops by Dr Margaret Carter:  
**"Thriving & not just surviving  
 challenging behaviours  
 in schools today!"**

- Walking with Jesus- Workshop I
- Walking with Jesus- Workshop II

Development of School Chaplaincy Team:

- Module I: Role of Chaplaincy Teams in Catholic Schools
- Module II: Chaplaincy Team Ministry Skills
- Module III: Educational Context Today
- Module IV: Human Development & Faith Formation

Faith Formation led by facilitators from Brisbane Catholic Education Office (BCEO)

- REAP Course I
- REAP Course II: leading to ACU certification
- Professional Development Training & Thanksgiving Mass

- Parent Volunteers (Primary & Secondary Schools)
- Teachers (Primary Schools)
- Teachers (Secondary Schools)
- Teachers & Parent volunteers
- Teachers & Parent volunteers

- RE-Coordinators & Parent Volunteers (All levels)

Principals, Vice-Principals & Heads of RE & SCT  
 Teachers (All Levels)

- Teachers & RE Educators (All levels)
- All who attended REAP course I
- All Staff (Preschools)

- Jan 8 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Jan 12 2:30pm - 5:30pm
- Jan 14 2:30pm - 5:30pm
- Jan 25 9:30am - 12:30pm
- Feb 23 2:30pm - 5:30pm
- Apr 7 9:30am - 1:00pm
- Apr 8 9:30am - 1:00pm
- Apr 14 9:30am - 1:00pm
- Apr 15 9:30am - 1:00pm
- Aug 12-13 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Aug 18 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Nov 25-26 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Nov 28-29 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Dec 28 9:30am - 3:00pm



YEAR OF MERCY

Website at [www.accs.sg](http://www.accs.sg)  
 Tel: 68587080 Email: [accs@catholic.org.sg](mailto:accs@catholic.org.sg)



**“Catholic educational institutions offer to all an approach to education that has as its aim the full development of the person, which responds to the right of every person to access to knowledge.”**

**Pope Francis,**

Address to Participants in the Plenary Session of  
the Congregation for Catholic Education, 13 Feb 2014



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