

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2018



# Serving The Common Good

Ad Clerum message  
for use on Education Sunday  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2018.



**Scottish Catholic Education Service**  
an agency of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland

January 2018

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year around this time, we celebrate Catholic Education Week. During this week we:

- celebrate the God-given talents and achievements of our young people;
- acknowledge the hard work and faith witness of the staff in our schools;
- mark the unique contribution that Catholic Education makes to our families, our parishes and to wider Scottish society; and

reflect on the mission of the Catholic school for the future. This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week is *Serving the Common Good*. This theme reflects the vision and aim of Catholic education that Catholic schools, centred on the person of Jesus Christ, form young people to discover and follow the Christian vocation to live responsibly with and for others in accordance with the message of Christ and so to build up and transform society for the better. This is a message to which our young people readily respond, as can be seen by the high levels of participation in the Pope Francis Faith award and the Caritas programme.

This year – 2018 – we have even greater reason to celebrate Catholic education. This is the Centenary Year of the Education (Scotland) Act of 1918 which brought pre-existing and future Catholic schools into the public provision of education. This historic legislation qualified Catholic schools for public funding and opened the door to much more extensive access to Catholic education.

Since then Catholic schools have flourished amazingly. Since then Catholic schools have demonstrated time and again that they are much valued and very popular centres of educational

excellence, with many pupils achieving academic and personal success. For that reason, we have adopted as a slogan for the 2018 Centenary the strapline *Catholic schools – good for Scotland*, which chimes well with the theme of this Catholic Education Week *Serving the Common Good*.

The development in the Catholic Church of an explicit body of Catholic social teaching has enriched the vision of Catholic education, emphasizing the Church's mission to transform society through love, service and justice. *Service of the common good* is intrinsic to Catholic education and, along with liturgy, prayer and learning, is one of the defining marks of the Catholic school as an educational community of faith.

During this historic year, I invite you to mark this Centenary, participate in the local and national events and celebrate one hundred years of successful partnership between the Church and the public authorities. I encourage you to give thanks for Catholic Education and to pray for its ongoing success. I ask you to support the work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service and all that it does on behalf of our Church, our young people and our families to promote the positive contribution of Catholic schools in Scotland. I encourage you all to speak out positively on behalf Catholic Education, sharing the good news that Catholic schools are good for Scotland.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ *Philip Tartaglia*,  
Archbishop of Glasgow  
President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland



## **Inserts for Parish Bulletin- 21<sup>st</sup> January**

### **Education Sunday – advance notice**

Next Sunday is Education Sunday, marking the start of a week when we celebrate the importance of educating children and young people in faith.

### **Education Sunday – theme for 2018**

During this Catholic Education Week we are asked to reflect on how we are "Serving the Common Good" in our homes, schools and parishes.

### **Education Sunday – appeal for teachers**

If you would like further information on becoming a teacher in our Catholic schools, please contact the Scottish Catholic Education Service: [mail@sces.uk.com](mailto:mail@sces.uk.com)

### **Excerpts from Church Documents on Catholic Education**

The Catholic school loses its purpose without constant reference to the Gospel and a frequent encounter with Christ. (The Catholic school, Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977, n55)

Knowledge is not to be considered as a means of material prosperity and success, but as a call to serve and to be responsible for others. (The Catholic School, Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977, n56)

Lay Catholics who work in Catholic schools [should] participate simply and actively in the liturgical and sacramental life of the school. Students will share in this life more readily when they have concrete examples; when they see the importance that this life has for believers. (Lay Catholics in schools: Witnesses to faith, Sacred Congregation for Education, 1982, n40)

[Jesus used] all the resources of interpersonal communication, such as word, silence, metaphor, image, example, and many diverse signs. (General Directory of Catechesis 140)