

This 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 2019

During this Catholic Education Week we are asked to reflect on how we are “Promoting Gospel Values” 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

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)

October 2019

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2019



Promoting Gospel Values

Ad Clerum message
for use on Education Sunday
November 2019.



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

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 *Promoting Gospel Values*. 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.

Our Catholic schools are communities of faith and learning which have at their very centre the person and teaching of Jesus Christ. They are places where our young people not only learn *about* the Gospels, but learn how to live the Gospels. They learn, through their Religious Education programme, about Sacred Scripture and how God reveals himself to us. They also learn about the saints and the many holy men and women who serve an example and inspiration for us in our life of faith.

Catholic education commends to our young people the Church's mission to transform society through love, service and justice, and it reminds our pupils and teachers that they are a part of the Church in action. *Promoting Gospel Values* 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.

In Catholic schools, our children and young people absorb the message that God is present and active in their lives, especially in challenging or difficult times. They learn to recognize the signs of God's love around them and realise that they are called to be instruments of God's grace in their families, among their friends and in the world. In a Catholic school, there is no such thing as a secular subject, as all learning helps to develop that image of God that is in each person.

I encourage you then 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 remain good for Scotland.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ *Philip Tartaglia*,
Archbishop of Glasgow