

Faith and Enrichment Committee Report : November 2013

The Faith and Enrichment Committee has had another very successful and busy year. This report provides members with a brief overview of its activities for 2013.

Annual PAVCSS Conference 2013

There is no doubt that the highlight of the year was the Annual PAVCSS Conference held at the Novotel Hotel, Creswick with Dr Amy-Jill Levine. The theme for the 2013 Conference was:

“The Place on Which You Stand is Holy Ground”.

The sessions that Dr Levine led were:

- To what extent can we understand human nature as an expression of the Divine
- Jesus in his Jewish Context : the Sacred, the Ethical, the Scriptural and the Practical
- When people go astray, the helpful and hopeful messages of Luke 15: exegetical session”

Our Conference Responder was Dr James Nickoloff and we again all enjoyed his responses and the opportunity to catch up with Jim.

The Conference made a surplus of \$36,283.02. This money will be used to support the various programmes of the PAVCSS such as the Memorial Leadership Scholarship.

The feedback provided by Principals who attended the conference was overwhelming positive and was a great endorsement of the planning, preparation and organisation of the committee.

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Mr Paul Ryan who's meticulous attention to details once again ensured a very smoothly ran conference.

Holy Lands Tour for 2014

The committee has initiated and organised the Holy Land Tour for 2014. Dr Abe Ata will lead the tour which will occur from June 13 to June 27 2014 with 19 participants.

Annual Principals' Retreat

The second initiative to be undertaken this year was the two day Annual Principals' Retreat. The committee was indebted to Anne McDonald for her organization of the retreat. The retreat had 14 Principals' participating with Dr Rose Marie as Facilitator. It is intended to offer a similar principal's Retreat in 2015.

2014 Memorial Leadership Scholarship

The 2014 Memorial Leadership Scholarship received seven applications. This was a considerable improvement on previous years. Interviews were held at Presentation

College Windsor on Monday April 29. The interview panel consisted of Liz Monahan, John Fox and Susan Danckert. The successful applicant was Ms Catherine Jenkins, Deputy Principal Genazzano FCJ College Kew. Cathy will be studying “Rediscover Jesus in the Land” in Jerusalem in June 2014

Annual PAVCSS Conference 2014

Dr Richard Gaillardetz, Joseph Professor of Systematic Theology at Boston College, has been confirmed as the Principal Presenter for the 2014 conference to be held at the Ballarat Lodge with Sr Maryanne Confoy as the Conference Responder.

The theme for 2014 will be : “*Vatican 11 : An Unfinished Building Site*”

The keynote addresses will deal with :

1. *Why did we need a Council in the first place?*

The second millennium sees the emergence of a distinctive form of the Church, what we might the “hierocratic form” comprised of :

- a) A Sacral Priesthood
- b) A Monarchical Papacy
- c) An illuminationist and Propositional Understanding of Revelation
- d) A Mechanistic Understanding of the Sacraments
- e) A Confrontational Stance towards everything outside the walls of the Church

2). *The Council That Almost Failed*

- a) What were the dynamics at Vatican 2 that made the Council succeed in spite of the many Curial forces aligned against it?
- b) What does the Council as an event have to teach us today?

3) *Vatican 11 and the Construction of a New (Yet Traditional) Form of the Church*

- a) This summarizes the six” pillars” : that is : the central teachings of the Council that remain vital to our Church today.
- b) We will consider how Pope Francis is showing us the way forward in the ongoing work of implementing the Council’s vision

4) *Ministers Of Hope : How The Council Can Guide Us in our Ministry Today.*

This would look at the unfinished work of the Council that lies before us. We will also consider how the Council can help us address a series of questions :

- a) Given our Catholic context, how do we remain faithful and Faith filled when dealing with the complexities of life in a secondary school?
- b) How can we respect our Tradition even as we disagree with elements of it?
- c) How can we remain true to ourselves and be Faith leaders?

- d) How can we deal with the tendency to separate a commitment to social justice and a commitment to church belonging?

Dr Levine Tour of Schools 2014 & Dr Gaillardetz Tour of Schools 2015

This year the committee has also arranged for Dr Amy-Jill Levine to return to Australia and tour schools across the four Victorian Dioceses presenting to various staff groups from schools and Catholic Educations Offices and clergy. It is estimated that approximately 3,500 staff from our secondary schools will hear Dr Levine in 2014. Dr Levine will also address the annual Archdiocesan priests conference in August 2014; she will also address priests from the Ballarat diocese in July 2014.

Dr Richard Gaillardetz has also agreed to undertake a similar tour in 2015. This has been a wonderful initiative which has enabled the staff within our Catholic Schools to have access to international renowned scripture scholars and theologians.

It should be noted that Dr Levine's and Dr Gaillardetz's tours (and any further such tours from 2016 and beyond) will always be cost neutral for the Association.

PAVCSS Conference 2015

Having regard to the fact the Pope Francis is a Jesuit from Latin America, the committee is keen to engage the services of a Latin American scholar (if possible a Jesuit) to lead Principals in an exploration of Chrsitology from within that context in 2015. The committee takes note of the view presented by some principals that it would be good to arrange for an Australian theologian to play a significant role at the conference. It is envisaged that a leading Australian theologian would be invited to act as Conference Responder in 2015 (in the same way as Sr Maryanne Confoy will be Conference Responder to Dr Gaillardetz in 2014).

Thanks

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Paul Ryan for his work with the Faith and Enrichment Committee. His work has seen the work of the committee flourish and has led to the many new initiatives undertaken by the committee this year.

I would also like to thank Leonie Keaney for her Charing of the committee during my leave in Term 2 especially during the conference week.

Thank you the members of the committee: Leonie Keaney, Paul Ryan, Mary Fitz-Gerald, Patricia Cowling, Mark Murphy, Anthony Kirley, Michael Delaney, and Gaynor Robson-Garth.

Andrew Watson

Chair: Faith and Enrichment Committee