



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**
MELBOURNE

Religious Leadership

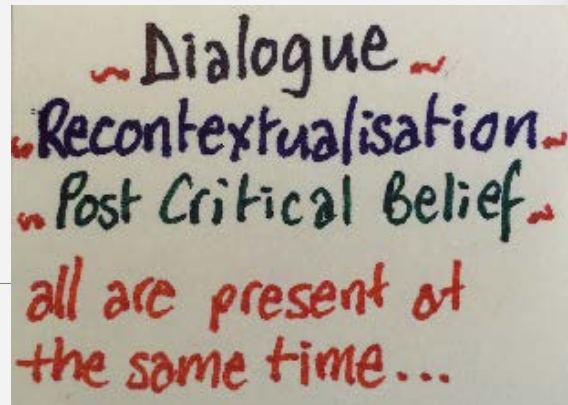
An opportunity to witness to the Good News

Key points from the workshop abstract

Use a **dialogical approach** to inspire and support all those whose work interacts with religious education as they:

- come to a clearer appreciation of their **role as witness** to the **Good News**, wherein **religious leadership** can be enacted around a **method for theologising**

- Ways of working today



Dialogue
Recontextualisation
Post Critical Belief
all are present at
the same time...

Getting started...

Introductions

- Who am I?
- Who are you?
- **What do you think** of when you hear:
 - Religious Leadership?
 - Witness?
 - Good News?



Good
News

Religious
Leadership

Witness

BIG PICTURE IDEA

Religious Leadership is a model for leadership and management that is receptive to the **call of God** as it unfolds in a particular religious tradition and community. When Religious leaders witness to their faith they provide an effective sign of the ongoing presence of Christ in the world whilst remaining deeply immersed in relationship with God. Such receptivity is made possible through faith, with hope and in love. As such, *Religious Leadership* is evident in the dispositions of the leader who seeks to nourish all members of the community that they might flourish.



How do you see yourself as witness? What is your role as witness?



Witnesses: To whom? To what?

You are **my witnesses**, says the Lord, and my servant **whom I have chosen** *Isaiah 43:10*

We are to be **God's leaven** in the midst of humanity *Evangelii Gaudium*

Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses. *Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, no. 41*

...willingness to act as witness, so that they are aware and careful about their school's peculiar context in their work, without being lukewarm or extremist...

testifying what they believe *Educating Today and Tomorrow III (i)*

"Preach the Gospel always, and **if necessary, use words!**" *St Francis of Assisi*

What did we
have to say
about this
earlier on?

Witnesses
Specialists
Moderators

Dispositions

...are able to demonstrate through both word and deed, their own coming to understand the Catholic/Christian faith as it is constructed over time; past, present and future.

...are open to sharing their faith position in a way that offers something of themselves to those who are encountered. Leads to transformation...

What is the **Good News** of Jesus Christ?

What is the Good News for you?

In what ways does the Good News inform your work, your personhood?

What is the Good News?

What did we have to say about this earlier on?



For God so loved the world
that he gave his only begott
n, that whosoever believe
in him should not perish, b
ut have everlasting life. For G
od sent his Son into the wo

Jn 3:16-17



What is the Good News of Jesus Christ?

INCARNATION

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God John 1:1
- And the Word became flesh and lived among us John 1:14
- I have come that you may have life and have it to the full John 10:10

TRINITY

- I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him... Ephesians 1:17

ESCHATOLOGY

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Matthew 4:17

SALVATION

- Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you Acts 13:38



Who can witness to the Good News?



To witness to the Good News you have to receive it first!

What about baptism and the unbaptised?

What about teacher formation and accreditation?

By way of prayer as witness to the Good News of Jesus:
What does your school explicitly offer your students?
What do you explicitly offer your students?

Artwork by Salma Arastu



What might it mean to be a **religious leader**?

- Religious leadership is capable of **appreciating, understanding** and **processing** all that happens in the life of the Catholic school community using a method for **theologising**, for doing theology.
- This ‘doing theology’ is understood and enacted through a theology that places itself firmly in the world.
- It is a theologising that is in relationship with others and with God who is the Other.
- To be a religious leader is to use a faith lens through which to view and make sense of all that confronts and challenges the Catholic community and the world of which it is an integral part.



What might it mean to be a **religious leader**?

- Religious leadership seeks out the **particular**, that which is **distinctive**, of the Catholic tradition/s and engages with it in very intentional ways, all the while recognising the **differences** in those who form the whole of the Catholic school community, Catholics, other than Catholic including those of no religion.
- Religious Leadership in a Catholic community asks of educators that they privilege the **God dimension** of their work. In this way, words and deeds as well as collegiality and faithfulness, calls all members to a particular stance, one that engages in a dialogical way with all that the community encounters.

What did we
have to say
about this
earlier on?



One of many methods
for **doing**
theology

[attributed to Sr Pat Fox rsm]

What is XXX like?
Be precise!

What does the data say?
What do others say?

What do church documents say?

Conduct
-student
-staff -parent

Non-Catholic
enrolments

Sexual
minorities
in your school

Develop the
vision for
action

What does it look like when we do theology?

Who can theologise?

Why theologise?

If you wish to enter the Kingdom ...
MK 10:13-16



How is Religious Leadership enacted?

What makes leadership
religious anyway?

What did we
have to say
about this
earlier on?

What happens in your school when...

- ...the witness of others is visible in your community? [Witness, Religious Leadership]
- ...identity intentionally engages with the particular of the Catholic tradition? [Good News, theologising]
- ...the Catholic school remains open to the diversity of its community? [Witness]

