



Archdiocesan  
Commission  
for  
Catholic Schools



Annual Report  
2006

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January – December 2006

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***Purpose:*** *The Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools is a Commission appointed by the Archbishop with the function to advise, report to and represent the Archbishop as he so directs, on any matter relating to Catholic education in Singapore.*

**A) MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION**

Chairman	Mr Bernard Chen
Deputy Chairman	Mr John Yip
Archbishop's Delegate	Msgr Eugene Vaz
Congregational Representatives	Br Paul A. Rogers, fsc
	Sr Maria Lau, ij
Members	Mr Noel Hon
	Mr James Koh
	Mr Michael Khoo
	Mrs Theresa Foo
	Sr Cecily Pavri (Study Leave)
<u>Secretariat</u>	
Executive Secretary	Sr Cecily Pavri (Study Leave)
	Mrs Ursula Quah (Covering)
Admin Asst – General	Mdm Shirley A. Louis
Admin Asst – RE	Mr Raymond Lee

**B) MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

**B.1) Steering Committee**

Chairman	Mr Bernard Chen
Members	Msgr Eugene Vaz
	Mr John Yip
	Mr James Koh

**B.2) School-Church Relations Committee**

Chairpersons	Mr Bernard Chen
	Sr Maria Lau
Members	Nil

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**B.3) Religious Education Committee**

Chairman  
Dy Director for Religious Education -  
Secondary Schools  
Members

Msgr Eugene Vaz  
Sr Julia Ong, ij

Br Dominic Yeo-Koh  
Ms Wendy Louis  
Mrs Ursula Quah  
Ms Edwina Yeow

Diploma in RE - Course Leader

**B.4) Policies Committee**

Chairman  
Co-chair  
Members

Br Paul A. Rogers  
Mrs Ursula Quah  
Mrs Judina Cheong  
Mrs Mathews Shu Quo  
Mrs Pauline Wong

Ms Lau Swee Chin  
Mdm Christina Teo  
Mr Thomas Koh  
Mr Marcel Lee

**B.5) Training & Development Committee**

Chairman  
Members

Sr. Maria Lau  
Mr John Yip  
Br Dominic Yeo Koh

**C) MEETINGS HELD IN 2006**

A number of meetings were held by the Commission and various sub-committees in 2006:

- C.1) ACCS Commission met twice.
- C.2) Steering Committee met twice.
- C.3) Religious Education Committee met several times to discuss the Diploma in RE and to develop the Religious Education Programme
- C.4) Policies Committee met once.
- C.5) An ad hoc Planning Group met three times to plan the seminar for School Management Committees and to follow up after the seminar.

**D) PRINCIPALS' COMMISSIONING & COMMITMENT OF SERVICE**

The Principals' Commissioning & Commitment of Service ceremony was held at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor on 21 January 2006. Three new principals were commissioned. The total number of persons who attended the event was 120 – His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia and Msgr Eugene Vaz, Principals, Vice-Principals, Chairpersons from School Management Committees (SMCs) and their families, Heads of Religious Communities sponsoring schools, School Supervisors and ACCS Commissioners and Committee Members.

**E) SEMINARS IN 2006**

ACCS conducted a seminar for School Management Committee members, Heads of religious communities sponsoring schools and School Supervisors on 18 November 2006 at Catholic Junior College. The theme of the seminar was *Building a Catholic School Community*.

*Participants.* There was good support from eighty-four (84) participants. Those attending were His Grace, Archbishop Nicholas Chia, Msgr Eugene Vaz, heads of religious communities sponsoring

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schools, chairpersons and members from School Management Committees (SMCs), school supervisors, some principals and vice-principals and ACCS commissioners and committee members.

*Seminar content.* The seminar opened with an address by His Grace. Participants were involved in discussions on issues relating to the SMCs and school management, and issues relating to principals and school leadership. The intent was to arrive at a common understanding and agreement on the direction of Catholic school education in Singapore, and to build a vibrant and united Catholic School Community.

#### **F) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A key initiative of ACCS is the development of a comprehensive religious education programme for Catholic secondary schools. The programme being developed is intended to provide for the spiritual formation of all students from Sec 1 to Sec 4/5, as well as to promote the distinctive Catholic character and ethos of the schools. The unit "Choices," the first of five planned units of the RE programme for secondary schools was completed and issued to the schools in September 2006 for trial implementation.

#### **G) DIPLOMA IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Diploma in Religious Education was launched in February 2006. The Diploma is meant for lay Catholic educators who are striving to build up the Catholic ethos, guide the mission orientation and live the spirituality of the founding spirit in Catholic schools. The Catholic educator is called to inculcate Gospel values with courage, discern choices in the context of secular demands, and make decisions that are congruent to her/his faith without fear. The task of formation therefore begins with the Catholic educator who is open to respond to the mission of living the vocation of love as a Catholic leader in school.

##### **Programme Design:**

*Experience:* The program is designed to consider the psychological and spiritual diversity and growth of the individual Catholic educator. The starting point of the theological enterprise begins with the educator.

*Discern* From this context the educator discerns with the knowledge of Faith and Sacred Revelation, within the psycho-spiritual dynamics of her/his personality and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*Respond* The introduction to theology enables the educator to process ways of making faith and moral decisions as a leader in school.

*Worship* The program pauses for prayer and liturgy for integration.

##### **Time Frame:**

The Diploma in RE is a two-year course of 160 hours. The Certificate in RE is a provision for those, with valid reasons, who are able to complete only the first 80 hours.

##### **Course Content for 2006:**

Module 1: Anthropology of the Personal Vocation

Module 2: The Catholic Educator in School

Module 3: Contextual Theology

Module 4: Moral Choices

**Participants:** The course began with 41 students. Two students withdrew due to illness.

##### **Requirements:**

Each teacher must attend at least 80% of each module, read the course materials and complete the assignments.

**Course Fees:** Fee was \$870.00 for 1st year and \$980.00 for 2nd year.

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Lecturers of the Diploma:

Fr Michael McGuire	Fr Ignatius Huan
Br Dominic Yeo Koh	Sr Christina Yeo
Sr Julia Ong	Msgr Eugene Vaz
Sr Francisca Tan	Br John D'Cruz
Fr David Garcia	

Formators for Personal Guidance:

Sr Julia Ong	Fr Ignatius Huan
Sr Francisca Tan	Sr Christina Yeo
Ms Geraldine Szeto	Br Dominic Yeo-Koh
Ms Edwina Yeow	

#### **H) CATECHETICAL TEXT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

There are nineteen (19) Catholic Primary Schools in Singapore. All Catholic Primary school use the 'Walking With Jesus' series textbooks for catechism in schools. Student Workbooks, Teachers' Manual accompanying musical CDs, and Children's Lion Bible.

Number of Student Workbooks sold in 2006:

Primary level	No of copies sold	Primary level	No of copies sold
1	1514	4	1192
2	1562	5	1073
3	1306	6	1104

The Teachers' Manuals were distributed free of charge to schools whenever schools placed orders of 40 copies of Student workbooks per level. Only a few Musical CD-1 and CD-2 were sold in 2006.