



Catholic Schools Week 2012

January 29 - February 4

“Catholic Schools: Christ’s living body active in our world”

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is “Catholic Schools: Christ’s living body active in our world.” The theme is taken from the anthem of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, *Though we Are Many - (Bernard Sexton)*, and reflects the overall theme of the Eucharistic Congress - “The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another.”

Verse 3 of the Anthem:

*“And through this shared Eucharist we are a living Church.
We witness to Christ’s love
His living body active in our world.”*

For 2012 Catholic Schools Week reflects on the school as a community having as its goal the full development of the pupil.

Catholic schools consist of pupils, staff members, parents, school management and patrons. They form a vital part of the local community. The proverb says “it takes a whole village to rear a child” and in its own way each school mirrors the local community in its nurturing concern for its pupils. *Share the Good News*, the national directory for catechesis, sets out the place of the school in the local context. The school and its teachers support parents and their parish in the Christian initiation of children.

When the Catholic school community celebrate Mass they partake of the body of the Lord by participating in the elements of the liturgy.

Truly the school is taken up into communion with Christ and all members of the school community with one another. “Because the bread is one, we though many, are one body, all of us who partake of the one bread” (1 Cor. 10:17). This is also reflected in *Share the Good News* (147) in its faith development objectives for Catholic schools. In this way all of us are made members of His Body, (1 Cor 12:27) “but severally members one of another”. Rom. 12:5.



“Because the bread is one, we though many, are one body”

Time and again attention is drawn to the identity of the Church as the living body of Christ.

The school community is made up of people who form part of each other as the limbs of a body.

The Catholic school community, at a crucial time in the lives of young people, is for them the local Church making Christ present in new and unexpected ways but especially by being caring.

So the mission of all is to be witnesses and ambassadors of the love of Christ in the world. (LG. §7,8; Eph 6:20) “Catholic Schools: Christ’s living body active in our world.”

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No school pupil is immune to liturgy well done.

Particularly in times of celebration and difficulty the entire community recognizes and senses the presence of Christ in the Eucharist

enhancing lives and offering support at critical moments.

The Mass matters because Christ is present in a tangible way through the community gathered, the word spoken, the bread

broken, the Body of Christ shared and the urgent invitation to live the love of God in the day to day circumstance of life and in the relationships of one with one another.

CSW 2012

THEME

RESOURCES

GRANDPARENTS

LAUNCH

EUCHARIST - IEC

Catholic Education Service

“Catholic Schools: Christ’s living body active in our world”

Day for Grandparents

It is envisaged that Grandparents will be invited to celebrate CSW 2012 with their grandchildren in the school as in previous years. A significant part of Catholic education is its commitment to build on the tradition of Catholic education in the area and in the particular school. The rich inheritance of the school is its stepping stone into the future. Grandparents are a vital link in helping children to give thanks for the work of the school and to look forward with joyful hope to the future. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us in his PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CATHOLICS OF IRELAND: “As you take up the challenges of this hour, I ask you to remember “the rock from which you were hewn” (Is 51:1).”

Resources for Home, School and Parish

To help schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2012 resources have been prepared and will be circulated to schools and parishes. The resources will enable pupils, staff members, boards of management, families, the entire School community, and parishes mark Catholic Schools Week 2012. It is recommended that Principals and Chairs of Boards of Management seek to ensure that CSW 2012 is celebrated by all associated with the schools. The national directory for catechesis, *Share the Good News* has a number of discussion points from section 38. Homiletic and liturgical resources will be published in the December/January *Intercom* and the December *Furrow*.

“CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: CHRIST’S LIVING BODY ACTIVE IN OUR WORLD.”



Launch of Catholic Schools Week 2012

An All-Ireland launch of CSW 2012 will take place in St. Mary’s College, Dundalk, Archdiocese of Armagh, on Thursday 26th January 2012. Founded in 1861, St Mary’s College is a Catholic co-educational secondary school located on an 11 acre site in the heart of Dundalk. Under the trusteeship of the Marist Fathers and guided by Mary’s vision of service, St. Mary’s College caters for the educational welfare of over 650 students.



Christ Present in the Eucharist

Ireland will play host to the fiftieth International Eucharistic Congress from June 10th to 17th 2012. Describing the International Eucharistic Congress, Archbishop Martin said:

“It is an important event for the Church in Ireland. It is an important event for the Church around the world. If you look at the Acts of the Apostles when they describe the early Christian community they

always begin by saying they gathered and out of that sense of gathering came a particular lifestyle which is a lifestyle of communion and sharing”.

During CSW 2012 Catholic Schools are encouraged to enable students gather, celebrate and reflect on the Eucharist and thereby recognize Christ present in the school - bringing about a lifestyle of communion and sharing.