



Liberating Education

"What sort of young people do we want for the world?"

In a recent online seminar for leaders in Catholic schools the guest speaker raised a salient question.

Don't ask "What sort of world do we want for our young people?" rather "What sort of young people do we want for the world?"

Br David Hall fms of the Australian Catholic University challenged participants to contemplate not what the world and its surrounds offer to young people, though what young people can offer to the world and its people. This in of itself, as a school can be viewed as daunting question that can elicit a plethora of answers to best explain how we form our young men. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition we are called to equip our students with an understanding of who Jesus is and what he taught us. The school scriptural theme for this year addresses this very clearly.

"Whatever you have learned, received or heard from Christ—put it into practice."

Philippians 4:9 -Liberating Education 2020

There are many learnings that we can take from Jesus' life on this earth. One of the key teachings that is present 356 times in the Bible is "Do not be afraid" and this was again illustrated in last Sunday's gospel reading. There are many aspects of life that may intrude on a young person's ability to live with hope and faith, as there are many detractors, distractions and reasons for disillusionment in today's society. This at times can feed into general apathy for life, a set circle of pessimistic thinking or a selfish narrow-minded view of existence.

Our role as a Catholic school is to impress upon for our students the beauty and importance of every day that we have, to focus and educate with an optimistic circle of thinking and to factor in the concept of assisting others in any way that we can. These three gifts can be a huge difference to someone coasting through life and finding no purpose or meaning in their life, compared with a young person who is hopeful for the future and challenges themselves to reach for things that initially they thought were beyond them.

Catholic schools are well placed to be present to the students in helping them develop meaning and purpose, and shape their lives. What does it mean for our youth to "have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)?

We pray that we can highlight meaning in their lives through Gospel Spirituality, providing an education that is Liberating in nature, that considers others through Justice and solidarity and that is inclusive and supportive of all.

Let us pray ...

You Are Mine- David Haas

I will come to you in the silence

I will lift you from all your fear

You will hear My voice

I claim you as My choice

Be still, and know I am near

I am hope for all who are hopeless

I am eyes for all who long to see

In the shadows of the night,

I will be your light

Come and rest in Me

Do not be afraid, I am with you

I have called you each by name

Come and follow Me

I will bring you home

I love you and you are mine

I am strength for all the despairing

Healing for the ones who dwell in shame

All the blind will see, the lame will all run free

And all will know My name

Do not be afraid, I am with you

I have called you each by name

Come and follow Me

I will bring you home

I love you and you are mine

I am the Word that leads all to freedom

I am the peace the world cannot give

I will call your name, embracing all your pain

Stand up, now, walk, and live

Do not be afraid, I am with you

I have called you each by name

Come and follow Me

I will bring you home

I love you and you are mine

Blessed Edmund Rice...Pray for Us.

Live Jesus in our Hearts... Forever.

Amen.