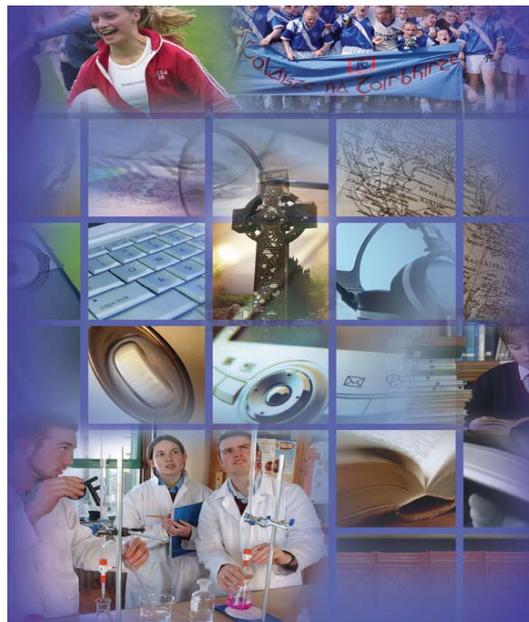




*Welcoming New Principals
and
Deputy Principals*



*“You can rely on God who has called you
to be
partners with his son,
Jesus Christ”.*

1 Cor. 1:9

Opening Prayer

We gather this morning to prayerfully begin, not only the work of this day, but also our new roles of responsibility as Christian leaders in CEIST schools.

We thank God for the gift of life; for His drawing us here; for the new challenges with which we are entrusted.

We acknowledge God's presence round and about us; with us and in us; and we take a moment to become aware of that presence - in ourselves; in each other; and in this place.

CEIST

“Catholic education invites people to become Christ-like in their lives so that the Reign of God might continue to dawn in our world”

CEIST Charter

Today, while considering the practical aspects of undertaking leadership roles in our schools, we will be particularly exploring the responsibilities and challenges of becoming the spiritual leaders of Catholic schools, of communities of faith.

Readings.

Faith the Foundation

In a climate of growing secularism, Catholic schools are distinguished by faith in the transcendent mystery of God as the source of all that exists and as the meaning of human existence. This faith is not simply the subject-matter of particular lessons but forms the foundation of all that we do and the horizon of all that takes place in the school.

Vision '08.



A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus ... got up from the table, removed his outer garments and taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing ...



When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments again he went back to the table. “Do you understand” he said “what I have done to you? You call me master and Lord and rightly; so I am. If I then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you. In all truth I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, no messenger is greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know this, blessed are you if you behave accordingly”.

(Jn 13: 3-5; 12-17)

Let us pray:

1. Heavenly Father, we thank you for calling us to the work of leadership in our schools and pray that you will give us the courage to fearlessly soar across the paths of many with the message of your love, to serve our school communities faithfully, and to always walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls us to this important role. Lord hear us.



2. We ask you to give us words filled with grace so that we may know how to respond to the broken-hearted student, to a rebellious teen, a concerned parent, a discouraged teacher. Lord hear us.

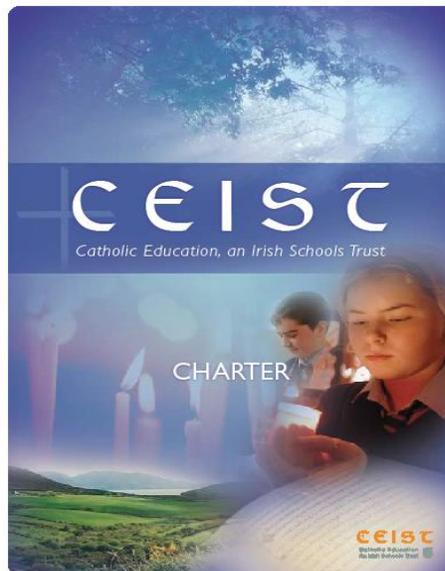
3. We pray that fear of criticism may never stop us from doing what is right and ask You to fill us with your strength to keep going no matter what... that the paperwork will never become too heavy and that we may always be full of joy and always thankful. Lord hear us ...

4. When we need it, Lord, send someone to cross our paths to say a cheery "good morning..." that really means: "I'm glad you're here!" Lord hear us.

We pray together: Ar nAthair ...

God, our Father, send a hand with a loving touch; a hand that understands for it was pierced. Send that hand that hugged small children, taught the wise and calmed the sea. Father, send us the loving hand of Your Son, Jesus Christ and fill us with the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We make this, and all our prayers through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from an unknown author)



“Our attention and focus will be trained on recognizing the God of surprises hiding and playing at the heart of life”.

Daniel O’Leary