

"clear, brief and easily assimilated by all" **The Transfiguration 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2021** Handouts n. 210

Christ achieves the **TRANSFIGURATION of MAN** in His Church  
by making His Mysteries become ours

**Open Letter to the Successors of the Apostles in Australia  
for the Fifth Plenary Council**

**Dear Archbishops and Bishops,**

**T**HE TRANSFIGURATION of Christ is a prophecy of the Resurrection which completed His Sacrificial Death on the Cross, His Paschal Mystery, to achieve the Transfiguration of Man.

This Transfiguration of Man is personalized for each of us in a vocation in life, whether to the **Lay Apostolate, Matrimony, Priesthood or Religious Life.**

Christ's Church exists to fulfil His Ministry of the **salvation of souls** (1 Peter 1:9), to transform and transfigure us **sinner into saints** (Matthew 5:48; 19:21).

An upbringing at home in a family, with a Catholic Schooling (institutional or at home) is a **VOCATIONAL PREPARATION** for the life after schooling, to live as lay apostles, single or married, priest or Religious. Therefore homes and schools exist for the **TRANSFIGURATION of MAN.**

Much of the schooling in secular subjects is similar to that in non-Catholic and non-religious schools. But the motivation is considerably different. For Catholics and other Christians, schooling even for **secular subjects is imbued with Faith.** They know why they are here and they view the world through God's eyes (Philippians 2:5-7). and do His Will to develop His creation (Genesis 1:26,28).

VCII's "Declaration on Christian Education" (*Gravissimum Educationis*) carefully distinguishes an upbringing at home (Chapters 1-4) from schooling (Chapters 5-12), of which it says:

Among all educational instruments the school has a special importance. It is designed not only to develop with special care the **intellectual faculties** but also to form the **ability to judge rightly**, to hand on the **cultural legacy** of previous generations, to foster a **sense of values**, to prepare for **professional life.**

*Gravissimum Educationis* n. 5a

**PLEASE TURN OVER** for suggestions to **INSPIRE** our **SCHOOLING** (institutional or at home) for the **TRANSFIGURATION of MAN**, the **TRANSFORMATION of MAN**, as its major **ideal.**

Please give me your episcopal blessing and be assured of my prayers for you, as I remain always,

Yours sincerely, obediently and gratefully in Our Lord,

Father James Tierney

Born 1935; Convert 1955; Priest 1964; originally A/diocese Sydney, now Broken Bay; retirement apostolate as per letterhead.

## Without a vision the people perish (Proverbs 29:18 KJV)

"With desolation is the land made desolate because there is none that considers in his heart" (Jeremiah 12:11).

"Their prophets see no vision from the Lord..." "Your prophets have seen for you false and empty visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles false and misleading" (Lamentations 2:9, 14).

### Preach the word,

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus... preach the Word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching.

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching,

but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings,

and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths...

As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Our **schooling** is about **God** or His **Creation** or about **Man** imitating God, knowing, making, doing

### ↙ Sharing in the Mind of God ↘

Teach what God has revealed

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

##### Creed-Sacraments-Covenant-Prayer

(Catechism of the Catholic Church and Catholic Family Catechism)

The vital thing for everyone to know is:-

**God made us** -- our DIGNITY

**to know, love & serve Him here on earth**

our DUTY

**and to see & enjoy Him for ever in Heaven**

our DESTINY (cf. Deuteronomy 10:12; 11:13)

By reason, we know a deal about God and His Plan, but much more fully and certainty by **Revelation**, which is like God speaking to man

- through prophets (Hebrews 1:1)
- and miracles (God's signature to the prophetic message),
- with a mediator making a covenant
- with a moral code (10+2+1 Commandments)
- to make a people of God, a Church,
- for an eternal destiny,
- sealed by priest offering sacrifice (man's signature).

Revelation comes to us in the Church by

- Tradition (Hebrews 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- Scriptures (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- Magisterium (Luke 10:16; Hebrews 13:7-9; 13:7).

#### URGENCY

School is a special place to acquaint young disciples with the content of revelation. It is tragic when they are not taught by teachers who are practising the Faith or its moral consequences. Such teachers are also victims of an inadequate spiritual and intellectual formation and an overgrown bureaucracy: we owe them much patience and persuasion.

Practise subsidiarity! "Small is beautiful"!

Teach what Man has discovered

#### THE WORKS OF THE LORD

##### "Heaven & earth are full of His glory"

(Psalm 18:1; Isaiah 6:3)

"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another... in order **that in all things God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ"

(1 Peter 4:10-11; cf. AMDG)

**The Works of the Lord** include also the **Works of Man** who, **being made in the image of a Maker**, thereby "sub-creates", by:-

- Speech, Literature, Poetry, Drama, Music;
- History of man's free will for good & evil;
- Discovering the world: geography;
- Scientific Investigation what it is made of in physics, chemistry, biology, geology etc,
- Inventing cures and labour-saving devices;
- Producing food, clothing, houses, cities, towns, infra-structure, public buildings;
- Social structures of government & service;
- Mental tools: philosophy & mathematics;
- all enlightened by Revelation and man's duty to continue creation. (Genesis 1:26, 28)

So with the **eyes of Faith**, all schooling

is part of the **Transfiguration of Man**.

#### MORE IDEAS

To be tested in pilot projects:-

**Benediction** might replace most school Masses to recover the Sense of the Sacred and avoid indiscriminate & sacrilegious Communions.

**Meditative prayer** could be taught by priests to pupils and teachers for fruitful Communions.

**Confession** needs to be taught by priests to pupils and teachers for a fruitful spirituality as they grow in the **Transfiguration of Man**.