

## CATHOLIC TEACHER AS WITNESS

- ◆ The integration [of religious truth and values with the rest of life] is expressed above all in the lives of the teachers in Catholic schools whose **daily witness to the meaning of mature faith and Christian living** has a profound impact upon the education and formation of their pupils." (Teach Them, 1976, p. 3)
- ◆ "Teachers' **life style and character** are as important as their professional credentials." (Teach Them, 1976, p. 7)
- ◆ "The extent to which the **Christian message is transmitted through education** depends to a very great extent on the teachers." (The Catholic School, 1977, #43)
- ◆ "The achievement of this specific aim [**growth of faith**] of the Catholic school **depends** not so much on the subject matter or methodology as **on the people who work there.**" (The Catholic School, 1977, #43)
- ◆ "The integration of culture and faith is mediated by the other **integration of faith and life** in the person of the teacher." (The Catholic School, 1977, #43)
- ◆ "The nobility of the task to which teachers are called demands that, in imitation of Christ, the only Teacher, they **reveal the Christian message not only by word but also by every gesture of their behavior.** This is what makes the difference between a school whose education is permeated by the Christian spirit and one in which religion is only regarded as an academic subject like any other." (The Catholic School, 1977, #43)
- ◆ "By their witness and their behavior **teachers are of the first importance to impart a distinctive character to Catholic schools.**" (The Catholic School, 1977, #78)
- ◆ "To give witness to the gospel, **the catechist must establish a living, ever-deepening relationship with the Lord.** He or she must be a person of prayer, one who frequently reflects on the scriptures and whose Christ-like living testifies to deep faith." (Sharing the Light of Faith, 1979, #207)
- ◆ "They [lay Catholics] live in the midst of the world's activities and professions, and in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life; and there they are called by God to exercise their proper function so that being led by the spirit of the Gospel they can **work for the sanctification of the world as a leaven from within.** In this way they can make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life marked by faith, hope, and charity." (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #7)
- ◆ "The lay Catholic, however, can **exercise an evangelizing role** in any, not just a Catholic, school to the extent that this is possible in today's diverse socio-political contexts." (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #14)
- ◆ "The Catholic educator **must be a source of spiritual inspiration** for each of these groups [colleagues, parents, etc.], as well as for each of the scholastic and cultural organizations that the school comes in contact with, for the local Church and the parishes, for the entire human ambient in which he or she is inserted and, in a variety of ways, should have an

effect on. In this way, the Catholic educator is called to display that kind of spiritual inspiration which will manifest different forms of evangelization."(Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #23)

- ◆ "As a visible manifestation of the faith they profess and the life witness they are expected to give, it is important that lay Catholics who work in a Catholic school **participate in the liturgical and sacramental life of the school.**" (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #39)
- ◆ "In particular, the [Catholic] educator should have **a mature spiritual personality**, expressed in a profound Christian life." (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #60)
- ◆ "Every educator needs **a firm hope**, because the teacher is never the one who truly reaps the fruits of the labor expended on the students." (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #72)
- ◆ "...every educator is in need of a **permanent and growing charity**, in order to love each of the students as an individual created in the image and likeness of God, raised to the status of a child of God by the redemption of Jesus Christ." (Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 1982, #72)
- ◆ "...the **effectiveness of religious instruction is closely tied to the personal witness given by the teacher**; this witness is what brings the content of the lessons to life." (The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School, 1988, #96)
- ◆ "Religious instruction can become empty words falling on deaf ears because the authentically Christian witness that reinforces it is absent from the school climate. **All symptoms of ill health have to be faced honestly and directly**, remembering that the Gospel calls us to a continuous process of conversion." (The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School, 1988, #104)

See <http://www.vatican.va> for full text of specific documents  
Resource: [http://web.usfca.edu/soe/ctr\\_institutes/icel/quotes/teacher\\_model/](http://web.usfca.edu/soe/ctr_institutes/icel/quotes/teacher_model/)

