



Mc Auley Conference Series



Mary Immaculate College

Catholic Primary Education in Contemporary Ireland: Facing New Horizons

May 22nd - 23rd, 2009

The purpose of this conference is to examine the currently changing cultural situation in which the Catholic primary schools are now operating and explore ways of responding to this. It will provide an opportunity to explore the experiences of teachers, parents, management and all other stakeholders in Catholic primary education.

Provisional Timetable

Friday

9.30 Registration

10.0 **Welcome:** Professor Peadar Cremin, President, Mary Immaculate College

10.15 The Catholic Church and Primary Education: An Historical Perspective
Dr. Tony Lyons, Lecturer in Education, Mary Immaculate College

11.00 Coffee

11.15 The Catholic Church's Current Thinking on Educational Provision
Dr. Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick and member of the Episcopal Commission for Primary and Post-Primary Education

12.45 Lunch

2.15 The Experience of Providing Catholic Primary Education in Contemporary Ireland
a) *A Teacher's Perspective:* Terry Allen, Principal of St Mochta's National School, Porterstown, Dublin
b) *A Parent's Perspective:* Ciana Campbell, Parent and Chairperson of the Board of Management of Holy Family Senior School, Ennis

3.15 Break

- c) *The Patron's Perspective:* Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Primary and Post-Primary Education
- d) *The Management's Perspective:* Maria Spring, Member of the Standing Committee of The Catholic Primary School Management Association

5.0 Eucharist in College Chapel

Saturday

9.30 Comparative International Experiences

Australia: Professor Kelvin Canavan, FMS, Executive Officer for Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Schools and a member of the Australian Catholic University – NSW

11.00 Break

Scotland: Dr. Roisín Coll, Lecturer in the Department of Religious Education within the Faculty of Education and Post Graduate Convener for the Religious Education Department at the University of Glasgow.

Ireland: Sr. Eileen Randles, IBVM, Chairperson Board of Management, Loreto College, Crumlin Road, Dublin and former General Secretary of *The Catholic Primary School Management Association*

Discussion

1.00 Lunch

2.30 **Future Pathways:** Mr Joe O’Connell, Executive Secretary of St. Senan’s Education Office, serving the dioceses of Limerick, Kerry and Killaloe, and a former teacher

3.30 Break

4.00 What is it to be a Learning Society?

Dr. David Tuohy SJ, An independent consultant in education, and has worked as a secondary school teacher and as a third-level educator at St Joseph’s, Philadelphia, UCD and NUI, Galway.

4.45 Closing Liturgy

Conference Fee: €150¹

Conference Dinner: €30²

Registration details: Places are limited, booking fee of €50 per person (cheque payable to Mary Immaculate College) and registration form must be submitted by May 13th, 2009 to:

Mary T. Martin, Mary Immaculate College, S.C. Road, Limerick

Tel: +353 61 774727; Email: mary.t.martin@mic.ul.ie

Further information from: Dr Eugene Duffy, Tel: +353 61 204968; Email: eugene.duffy@mic.ul.ie

Check Department website for details of available accommodation

www.mic.ul.ie/theology

1. Fee includes tea/coffee/lunch

2. Conference dinner optional



Hosted by
Department of Theology & Religious Studies
Mary Immaculate College
- University of Limerick -