



The role of a teacher...

in the
Roman Catholic
School



First Question:

Why did you
become a
teacher?

And so...

What
Is
A
Teacher?





The definition for a teacher:

- In the dictionary, the definition of a teacher is "a person who teaches or instructs, esp. as a profession; instructor." However, it seems that it cannot satisfy us with such a definition, because there are more notions related to a teacher.
- Some believe that a teacher is a person who can "propagate the doctrine, impart professional knowledge, and resolve the doubts" to the students. This is the idea from "On Teachers" by Han Yu, a famous ancient Chinese writer. He told us that there are three basic functions of a teacher: to lecture doctrines, to teach knowledge, and to answer the questions raised by the students.
- *Especially one whose occupation is to instruct.*

What is the role of a teacher?

- **The Role of the Class Teacher**
- **The class teacher is employed by the Local Authority and is responsible for the child's general learning and development in the classroom.**
- The class teacher: -
- Has responsibility for the education of all the children within the class.
- Teaches according to the guidelines of the National Curriculum.
- Plans and prepares their lessons.
- Maintains good order and discipline among the children and safeguards their health and safety.
- Together with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) has responsibility for differentiating the curriculum to meet the individual needs of all children within the class.
- Assesses, records and reports on the developmental progress and attainment of all children.
- Promotes the wellbeing of individual children.
- Provides information for statutory assessment.
- Submits reports for the annual review process.
- Together with support from the SENCo and/or other professionals, plans and contributes to a child's Individual Education Plan. (IEP)
- Implements agreed strategies as outlined in the IEP.
- Liaises with the parents/carers and other professionals to further the child's progress.

Have you ever wondered what makes a great teacher?

What separates a mediocre teacher from a terrific teacher? It's not easy to define, however, here's a list of qualities listed by parents, principals, educators and students.

- 1. You love **your role**, you love being with your students and you couldn't imagine doing anything else. You were meant to teach special needs children, you know this in your heart.
- 2. You have a great deal of patience and know that little steps in learning go a long way.
- 3. You **know your students well** and they are comfortable and at ease with you, they enjoy having you as their teacher and look forward to going school each day.
- 4. You provide a **non-threatening, welcoming environment** that nurtures each of the students you work with.
- 5. You understand your students, you know **what motivates them** and you know how to scaffold activities to ensure that maximum learning occurs.
- 6. You take each student from where they are and provide experiences that will maximize success. You're always discovering **new things** about your students.
- 7. You are very **comfortable working with exceptional learners** and learners with diverse needs.
- 8. You thrive on challenge, can easily build relationships with your students and your student's parents.
- 9. You are a life-long learner and committed to the profession.
- 10. You have a never ending willingness to ensure that all students reach their maximum potential. You constantly strive to 'reach and teach' every student under your care.

Second Question:

Why did you
become a teacher
in a **Roman
Catholic School?**



What the Church says:

- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education. (1977)
[The Catholic School](#)
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education. (1982)
[Lay Catholics in Schools: Witness to Faith](#)
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education. (1988)
[The Religious dimension of the Education in a Catholic School](#) .
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education.
(December 28, 1997) [The Catholic School on the Verge of the Third Millennium](#)

“THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM”

- 19. In the Catholic school, "prime responsibility for creating this unique Christian school climate rests with the teachers, as individuals and as a community".(24) Teaching has an extraordinary moral depth and is one of man's most excellent and creative activities, for the teacher does not write on inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings. The personal relations between the teacher and the students, therefore, assume an enormous importance and are not limited simply to giving and taking. Moreover, we must remember that teachers and educators fulfil a specific Christian vocation and share an equally specific participation in the mission of the Church, to the extent that "it depends chiefly on them whether the Catholic school achieves its purpose".(



Why teaching in a Catholic school
is far more than a profession...

As the Church reminds us:

“The Catholic school has an
ecclesial identity, because **it is
part of the evangelizing mission
of the Church.**”

*(The Catholic School on the Threshold on the Third
Millennium, 1997)*



The involvement of lay people:

- “For the lay people involved, teaching is more than a profession...it is a vocation to form students, a widespread and indispensable lay service in the Church.
- Teaching is always a challenge; but with the cooperation and encouragement parents, clergy, religious, the laity’s involvement in Catholic education is a precious service of the Gospel, and a way of **Christian sanctification** for teacher and students.”



Identity and Success...

- “The identity and success of Catholic education is linked inseparably to the **witness of life** given by the teaching staff. Such is the role expectation of the school teacher in the Catholic schools today.”
- In what ways do you give “witness of life” to your students?
- In what are you witnessing to?
- What messages are you giving...even non-verbally?


What framework does a teacher in a Roman Catholic school operate from?

- The teaching profession in the Catholic school system can profit from the following:
 - 1) A PROFOUND CONVICTION on the part of each teacher of the NOBILITY of his or her vocation.
 - 2) A day-to-day implementation of this conviction.

In the Catholic context...

- In the Catholic context, therefore, the vocation of teaching is **INSEPARABLE** from participating in the formation of Christ-like future adults.





The virtues which an individual should be encouraged to live when called to do God's work in the Catholic school teaching ministry begins with:

- CHARITY:

All involved in the school community, without exception, must be viewed as sisters and brothers in Christ.

In the ministry of Jesus, he was noted for his acceptance of all.

Following his example, it matter not what is the color of the student's skin, their racial or national lineage, or their so-called intelligence or aptitude.



JUSTICE:

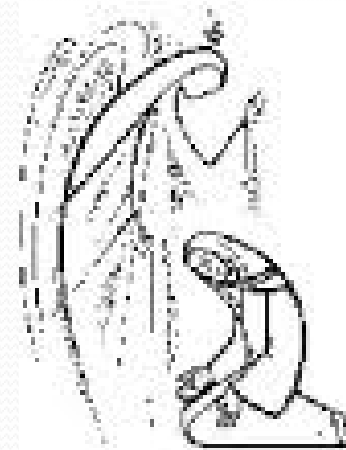
- That essential virtue described by students as “fairness”, necessitates the rejection of any deliberate prejudice or lack of objectivity in grading.

Who do I spend the most time with in class? Talking with, inter-relating to?

Ex. Teacher evaluations: diagramming the teacher during the class...

UNSELFISHNESS:

- The impression should never be conveyed that in the teaching ministry one does not have time for a student reasonably asking for assistance merely because, for instance, aiding that student is unlikely to enhance one's professional prestige.
- What are my ulterior motives?
- Ex. Teacher and extra classes....



HUMILITY:



- We are ever ready to learn from others in the course of our teaching ministry. Of course, one must be always vigilant about any suggestion of arrogance, which should be discarded.
- Am I open to being “humble”?
- Ex. Apologizing in front of whole class. SJA



LOVE FOR THE TRUTH:

- Perhaps the most important: those of us involved in the teaching ministry need to demonstrate an intense love for truth. This means not only striving to master each subject to be taught, but to never hesitate in accepting a fact over a hypothesis when that fact contradicts one's hypothesis.
- Where am I with the “truth”?

Teaching in a Catholic School...

- Far more than a profession:

It is truly a ministry – a “way of Christian sanctification for teacher and student.”



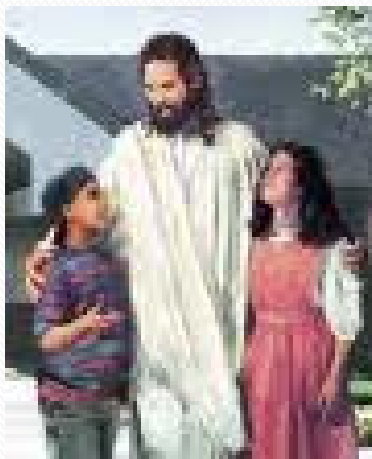
A Burning and Shining Lamp: The Role of the Teacher in the Catholic School

- *"There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth... He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for awhile in his light."*
John 5:32-33, 35

We must remember the essential work that [teachers] do to nourish the faith life of their students who are on their journey with the Lord, and who often are much in need of extensive faith formation. [...] We must also keep in mind that our teachers, like all of us, are on a journey of faith, and they must be allowed every opportunity to develop and be formed into "burning and shining lamps" for Christ.

Must be a “witness”

- **The teacher in the Catholic school is a witness for Christ and his Church.** First and foremost, all teachers in our Catholic schools must be active and articulate witnesses to the One for whom Catholic schools exist - Jesus Christ.



The teacher in the Catholic school knows Christ and his Church.

- As a witness for Christ and his Church, the teacher in the Catholic school must be adequately trained for the mission. [...] While a solid foundation in theology is important, a complete formation program will involve prayer, service, and participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

The teacher in the Catholic school is a model of faith in the Trinity.

- The mystery of the Holy Trinity of God is the example par excellence of community. Teachers in our schools reflect the model of love and community that is found in the Father, Son and Spirit. They reflect the community of the Trinity in their partnerships with the parents and guardians of their students. [...] Teachers must be seen as advocates for justice, both in the world and in the school hallway. Teachers reflect the communal love of the Trinity in their participation in the Sunday Eucharist at their local parish, or the non Catholic teachers give example at school Masses.

The teacher in the Catholic school is an advocate for social justice

- If our Catholic schools are to be places where transformation of the culture will be nourished, teachers will be important motivators of this mission.
- Every program of study in our current curriculum can be a tool for transforming the culture and forming our young people into compassionate human beings as well as critical thinkers.



The teacher in the Catholic school is supported by the faith community

- We must make every effort as a Church to care for, nurture, and celebrate our teachers.

Burning...shining lights...

- We call upon the teachers in the Catholic schools of Sint Maarten to be "burning and shining lights" - witnesses for Christ, instructors for the Church, models of faith in the Trinity, and advocates for social justice.
- We call upon all the faithful to celebrate and support them in their vital ministry and mission



As Christians we are able to express our love of God by teaching others.

Christian teaching is modelled on Jesus the Teacher. Even as a child, Jesus taught in the temple. At the age of 30, Jesus began his public life as Teacher. The Gospels describe His style as Teacher.

- **Jesus taught with authority**
- “Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority.” (Matt 7:28)
- **Jesus taught through storytelling**
- “The people all stood on the beach and he told them many things in parables.” (Matt 13:3)
- **Jesus sought out how people were feeling**
- “He said to them: ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’” (Luke 24:17)
- **Jesus wished to empower people to go out in their newly found strength**
- “Go home to your people and tell them what the Lord in his mercy has done for you.” (Mark 5:19)
- **Jesus taught with signs to authenticate his teachings**
- “He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.” (Mark 5:19)
- **Jesus taught as a person in service to others**
- “And anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.” (Matt 20:28)
- **Jesus took time away in solitude to reflect and pray before teaching**
- “In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.” (Mark 1:35)
- **Jesus was engaged in confrontation when necessary**
- “Alas for you scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who shut up the Kingdom of heaven in men’s faces, neither going in yourselves nor allowing others to go in who want to.” (Matt 23:13)
- **Jesus taught with love**
- “This is my commandment, love one another as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
- **Jesus taught with his lifestyle, not just his words**
- “Can any of you convict me of sin?” (John 8:46)
- **Jesus was a shepherd to the people he taught**
- “I am the good shepherd, I know my own and my own know me.” (John 10:14)

God Made Teachers...

(author unknown)

- God understood our thirst for knowledge, and our need to be led by someone wiser;
He needed a heart of compassion, of encouragement, and patience;
Someone who would accept the challenge regardless of the opposition;
Someone who could see potential and believe in the best in others . . .
So He made Teachers...
- And that is why GOD MADE YOU!



Beatitudes for Teachers:

- *Blessed are you who are called to teach, for you walk in the footsteps of the Master.*
- *Blessed are you who sow peace and harmony in the staffroom, yours will be the joy of the Lord.*
- *Blessed are you who plant seeds of hope in youthful hearts, for you will inherit the dawn.*
- *Blessed are you who are sensitive to the cries of youth today, for they yearn for the coming of the Kingdom.*
- *Blessed are you when you anguish now because your students are difficult, for one day they will thank you for your loving concern.*
- *Blessed are you when efficiency is moderated by compassion and empathy, for the deeper secret of education is yours.*
- *Blessed are you when you reach out to me in your students, for you will surely find me and rejoice.*
- *Blessed are you who lead young people in the paths of justice and peace, for you will shine like stars for all eternity.*