



GUIDELINES For Fundraising In Catholic Schools September 2002

VISION STATEMENT REFERENCES

- The SSEB believes that the Spirit is the foundation for discerning issues and challenges in order that we may develop our Catholic identity.
- The SSEB believes that Catholic leadership respects shared wisdom and engages collaborative decision making processes.

ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

Catholic schools are communities whose function is teaching and learning within the values, traditions and contemporary mission and vision of the Church. The Diocesan focus on Social Justice provides an appropriate context to re-examine commitment to the Church's missionary endeavours along with the increasing requests for financial support through fundraising activities from a vast array of organizations. These Guidelines are provided to assist school communities in their discernment.

Education based on Gospel values and as enunciated in Catholic Social Teaching includes the concept of wealth sharing. Acts of solidarity and opportunities for wealth sharing should be tied to attitudinal formation which occurs within the curriculum and the co-curricular program of schools rather than an isolated event or activity.

Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching which underpin the contemporary mission and vision of the Church and guide discernment are:

Human Dignity:

All people are created in the image and likeness of God

Community and the Common Good:

"We are one Body: when one suffers, we all suffer"

Rights and Responsibilities:

*All people have a fundamental right to life, shelter, health care, education and employment.
All people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.*

Preferential Option for the Poor:

The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. We are called to look at decisions in terms of how they affect the poor.

Solidarity:

We are one human family. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic and ideological differences. We are called to work globally for justice.

Stewardship of the Earth's Resources:

The goods of the earth are gifts from God. We are called to care for these as stewards and trustees, not consumers and users.

CRITERIA

The following criteria is provided to assist in assessing Fundraising requests.

- **Is it educational?**

Practical support should be tied to attitudinal formation. The following questions need to be considered:

- What materials are provided?
- Is awareness raising the priority and fundraising secondary?
- Are teachers and students enabled to understand the reality and causes of poverty?
- Does it offer opportunity for solidarity actions, supporting advocacy campaigns and working towards broader solutions to poverty and injustice?

- **Is the philosophy of the organization in accord with Catholic Social Teaching?**

- Does it relate to the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching?

- **Is the organization accountable?**

- What percentage of the donated dollar reaches the project?
- What percentage goes to administration and fundraising?
- What percentage is spent on education?

- **Is the request within the fundraising priorities for the school and parish community?**

- Is our first priority for Caritas during Lent?
- Is our first priority for Catholic Missions in October?

In summary, the application of Gospel Values as enunciated in the Catholic Social Teaching principles and the criteria will assist school communities in discerning response to fundraising requests whilst also recognizing the need to respond appropriately to local community needs. Sandhurst Diocesan Church and educational resources are available to assist school communities.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Caritas Australia is the Agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops providing overseas development and aid.

Catholic Mission is the Universal Pontifical Society supporting pastoral work in impoverished dioceses around the world.

St Vincent de Paul is a worldwide organization supporting the needy within our own communities.

Centacare is the official welfare agency of the Australian Catholic Church providing human services for individuals and families that are caring, respectful and responsive to the needs of the community.