



2nd National Catholic Schools Congress 2004

One Vision, One Future, One Voice

Vision Statement

Gathered at the 2nd National Catholic Schools' Congress, representing all those involved in our schools who faithfully carry out the call to educate, we rejoice in the great advances that our young democracy has made. However, we acknowledge with pain that the communities in which we minister remain in need of healing. Ours is a society where poverty and social pressures bring despair, family life is changing, HIV/AIDS ravages our children and young adults, and disparity between rich and poor is increasing. Conscious that our schools also experience these realities, we are impelled to respond with urgency and compassion.

Jesus Christ has shown us the way to happiness and freedom from all that prevents us from being fully human. Catholic schools, as part of the Church's evangelising mission, bring the gift of this wisdom to our world. We are called to share what we have been given, pointing prophetically to the need for justice, solidarity and the affirmation of the dignity of all, especially the 'little ones'. With boldness, we will continue to proclaim Jesus' way of love, compassion, solidarity, forgiveness and service. We will search together for truth and meaning, for clarity of purpose and responsibility, trying to live and teach Gospel values with faithfulness.

The primacy of the poor should be a particular concern. We will affirm and support our schools as communities of care where each person's worth is nurtured. Created in God's image, all people have a claim on the common good.

Reliant on God's providence, we reverence God's presence in us and among us. We give thanks for the contribution already made by our schools to the common good, and we greet the possibilities of the future with joy and hope.

Johannesburg, South Africa

23-25 September 2004