Cardinal Winning Lecture

Once a Catholic? The impact of changes in Catholic identity and in Catholic schools

Professor Tony Finn, 1 March 2014
Lord, make me holy.... but not yet........ St Augustine of Hippo (354 -
• “Education (was) a matter of low social priority once the perceived needs of the middle classes had been attended to”

Smout, TC. 1986 'A Century of the Scottish People',

• “The educational system catered mainly for an elite section of Scottish society. Although the door to higher education was more open than in England, workers and their families, women and Catholics in general, were excluded. For these groups, education was sparse and the quality poor.

W W Knox  A History of the Scottish People: The Scottish Educational System  1840 – 1940
HMIE Inspection Outcomes
– all secondary schools

HMIE inspection outcomes - all secondary schools
24 February 2012 - 23 February 2014

- Good: 35%
- Very Good: 28%
- Excellent: 5%
- Satisfactory: 19%
- Weak: 13%
HMIE inspection outcomes - non-denominational secondary schools
24 February 2012 - 23 February 2014

- Good: 34%
- Very Good: 26%
- Excellent: 4%
- Satisfactory: 22%
- Weak: 14%
HMIE Inspection Outcomes – denominaional schools

HMIE inspection outcomes:
RC secondary schools
24 February 2012 - 23 February 2014

- Very Good: 40%
- Good: 36%
- Excellent: 11%
- Satisfactory: 7%
- Weak: 6%
In the 2001 census, 16% of respondents identified themselves as Catholics. This is equivalent to a Catholic population of 816,000.

In 2010, The Bishop’s Conference, using data from 2008, stated that:

a. Scotland’s Catholic population was 667017 AND
b. average weekly Mass attendance was 185,608 (equivalent to a practising rate of nearly 28%).

Practice rates have fallen everywhere in the last decade and in all churches. For example, in Ireland, practice in the recent past was claimed to be around 89%. This fell to 64% by the late 90s, then to 42% by 2009. Some estimates place it at between 16% (Dublin) and 27% (rural Ireland).
Heads say that:
• “(families) feel that children get a better education at a catholic school or that catholic schools have higher standards”.
• “(families) like the ethos and promotion of Christian faith and gospel values”
• “(parents) say that I went to a Catholic school and I think it teaches right from wrong”
• “(our school has) “children from well-informed Christian backgrounds (e.g. the children of our local Church of Scotland minister)”.

Catholic schools have changed. For many pupils, the school is the Church.
Generally, most primary schools have a high proportion of Catholic teachers and most secondaries deliver a balanced curriculum with the support of teachers of other backgrounds.

Sometimes schools with a very high number of Catholic children had relatively small numbers of Catholic teachers to care for them.

Recruitment of staff can be problematical in some areas.

How many Catholic teachers are “practising”?

The contribution of teachers of other religious backgrounds is to be commended.

Approval…..
## Secondary teachers with R C approval, by age, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>All teachers in Catholic schools</th>
<th>With approval in Catholic Schools</th>
<th>With approval in other schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 25</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3946</td>
<td>2674</td>
<td>68%</td>
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</tbody>
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|                   |                                 |                                 |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
|                   | 1145 |   |   |
Primary teachers with R C approval, by age, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>All teachers in Catholic schools</th>
<th>With approval in Catholic Schools</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>With approval in other schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 25</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4002</td>
<td>3503</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>877</td>
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</table>
Towards a modern church......?
We must show reconciliation- not fight among ourselves

“It hurts to see how in some Christian communities, and even among consecrated persons, we consent to various forms of hatred, slander, defamation, revenge, jealousy, desire to impose our own ideas at any cost, and even persecution that seems like a relentless witch hunt. Who are we going to evangelise with that behaviour?”

Pope Francis 2013
Promoting justice
“Because faith is a way, it also has to do with the lives of those men and women who, though not believers, nonetheless desire to believe and continue to seek. To the extent that they are sincerely open to love and set out with whatever light they can find, they are already, even without knowing it, on the path leading to faith. They strive to act as if God existed, at times because they realize how important he is for finding a sure compass for our life in common or because they experience a desire for light amid darkness, but also because in perceiving life’s grandeur and beauty they intuit that the presence of God would make it all the more beautiful.

(....)

Any-one who sets off on the path of doing good to others is already drawing near to God, is already sustained by his help, for it is characteristic of the divine light to brighten our eyes whenever we walk towards the fullness of love”

Pope Francis, Lumen Fidei, December 2013
It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the masterbuilder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.