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**For the common good: The Catholic
educational mission in transition 1943-1965:**

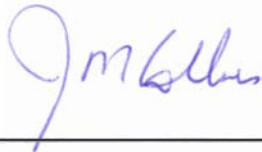
Jenny Collins

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Education at Massey University, 2005.

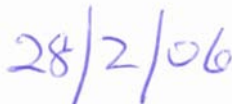
Candidate's Statement

I certify that the thesis entitled For the Common good: The Catholic educational mission in transition, 1943-1965 and submitted as a part of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Massey University, Palmerston North, is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any part of the same), has not been submitted for any other degree to any other university or institution.

Signed



Date



Abstract

This thesis examines the complex historical and political processes that helped to forge, shape and renew the Catholic educational mission during a period of significant change, 1943-1965. It utilises a qualitative methodology, including a “situated reading” of documentary, archival, visual and oral accounts to illustrate how Catholic educators worked to improve the educational standards of their schools and to promote the examination success of pupils while protecting distinctive religious and cultural values and the autonomy of the Catholic education system from state control.

The nineteenth-century mission to provide a basic primary schooling to all Catholic pupils and a secondary schooling for the select few was shaped by an Irish and Roman inheritance, diocesan structures, the characteristics of teaching orders and by distinctive religious, cultural and pedagogical values, gendered practices, and the religious formation of Catholic teachers. From 1943 to 1965, the educational mission expanded to provide a secondary schooling for all Catholic pupils. It encompassed four goals: the transmission of faith and cultural practices; the social and educational advancement of all Catholic pupils; their successful integration as citizens in New Zealand society; and the promotion of religious and intellectual leaders. In the context of the 1944 Thomas reforms, Catholic educators defended the autonomy of their schools from state interference and the distinctive characteristics of Catholic education from “secular” values. In the post-war years Catholic teachers resolved tensions between religious and secular goals by infusing curriculum subjects with religious values and promoting a Catholic world view. At the same time they utilised state models of teacher training and the expertise of inspectors to improve the educational standards of Catholic schools while incorporating pedagogical and curriculum advances to ensure the “secular” success of Catholic pupils.

This thesis demonstrates issues that cross State-Catholic educational boundaries: the process of educational policymaking, the role of the State in education, issues of citizenship, power, identity, gender and difference. By exploring the political, cultural and religious context of teachers’ and pupils’ lives, the location of Catholics in New Zealand society and conflicts over educational values it reshapes understandings about the nature and compass of education in New Zealand.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank my thesis supervisors, Professor Roger Openshaw and Professor John Codd of Massey University College of Education, for their ongoing support and good counsel and for reminding me to see the wood through the trees.

I wish to thank the thirty-one Sisters, Brothers and Priests who gave me the gift of their time and their memories. Without them this study could not exist.

I am also very grateful to the many members of the wider Catholic community, who have encouraged me, given practical support and the gift of their personal time, experience and insights:

Thanks to

- The eight Dominican Sisters, the six Sisters of Mercy, the three Religious of the Sacred Heart and to the five Christian Brothers, the three Marist Brothers, the two Marist Priests and the two former Directors of Catholic education who allowed me to record their stories and to the two Mercy Sisters who shared their stories in an informal interview.
- To the Dominican Sisters of New Zealand, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, the Sisters of Mercy, the Society of Mary, the Christian Brothers, the Marist Brothers for their support for a history of Catholic education that includes the life-histories of Catholic teachers.
- The Archivists at the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Catholic Diocesan Archives, the Dominican Archives, the Marist Archives, the Archives of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Holy Cross Seminary Archives, the Mercy Archives and the Christian Brothers Archives for their assistance with documentary sources.
- The Archivists and Librarians at the Hocken Library, the Canterbury Museum, the Turnbull Library and the National Archives for their invaluable knowledge about sources.
- The Massey University Research Fund for their generous financial assistance.

Personal thanks

- To my husband John, my thanks for your unfailing encouragement, your editing skills and participation in the thinking and discussion process.
- To my son Michael, thanks for your expertise with the technology that produces figures, diagrams and tables.
- To my son Francis, thanks for the chance to share the learning that goes into a PhD.
- To my son David and my daughter Kathryn, who good-naturedly lived through another thesis experience with me.

- To my mother, who was my first teacher.
- To my father, who passed on his love of history and allowed me to record his experience as a “Catholic pupil”.
- To my “English” grandmother, who was first a pupil teacher then gained her teacher’s certificate, before marrying my “Irish” grandfather and raising eight children through the years of the Great Depression.
- To “Nanny”, my grandmother, who knew the Irish family connections and my grandfather who died before I knew him.
- To Professor Ivan Snook and Dr Colin McGeorge for giving me their time and insights in the development stages of this research.
- To Fr Peter Murnane, O.P. who read early drafts and gave me the benefit of his wisdom and insight into Catholic spiritual and religious values.
- To the Dominican group for your encouragement.
- To Anne Jones, who did a fine job of editing my many mistakes.
- To Marian Court, for your friendship, your ongoing support and your insights.
- To Mary Anna Baird, O.P., for her wonderful support, enthusiasm and friendship.
- To Catholic teachers everywhere, for the inspiration.

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Abbreviations

ACDA	Auckland Catholic Diocesan Archives
ASMA	Archives of the Sisters of Mercy Auckland
ATL	Alexander Turnbull Library
CCDA	Christchurch Catholic Diocesan Archives
CFC	Christian Brother
CM	Canterbury Museum
FMS	Marist Brothers of the schools
HCSA	Holy Cross Seminary Archives
MAW	Marist Archives Wellington
HL	Hocken Library
NA	National Archives
n.d.	no date
NZDSA	New Zealand Dominican Sisters' Archives
O.P.	Order of Preachers
RSCJ	Religious of the Sacred Heart
RSM	Religious of the Sisters of Mercy
SSHA	Sisters of the Sacred Heart Archives
SM	Society of Mary
STA	Secondary Teachers' Association

Archival Sources

Archives of the Sisters of Mercy Auckland

Archives of the Marist Brothers

Auckland Catholic Diocesan Archives

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

Christchurch Catholic Diocesan Archives

Canterbury Museum and Research Library, Christchurch

Holy Cross Seminary Archives, Auckland

Marist Society Archives, Wellington

Hocken Library and Archives Dunedin

National Archives, Wellington

New Zealand Dominican Sisters' Archives, Dunedin

Sisters of the Sacred Heart Archives, Auckland