



CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

A Framework for Life



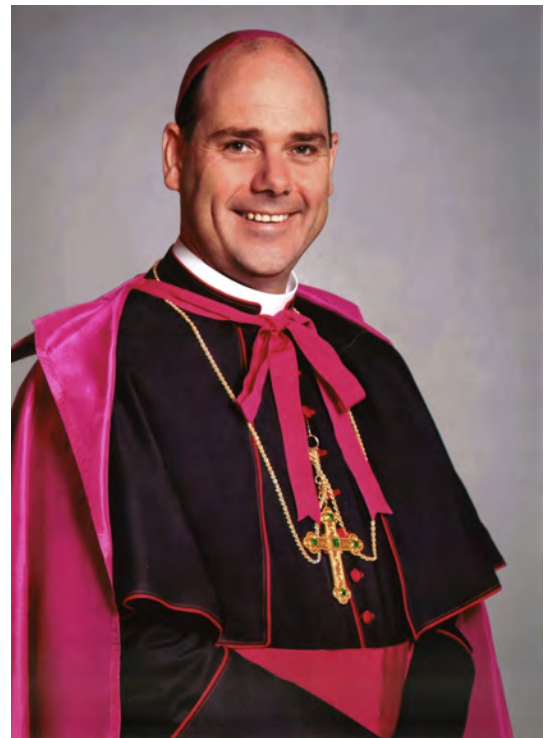
MESSAGE FROM

Bishop of Armidale

Bishop Michael Kennedy

In 2011, the Catholic Schools Office Armidale commissioned an extensive study of the understanding of and commitment to Catholic principles and values through the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project (ECSIP). The data from the ECSIP clearly indicated that there is a very real and immediate need to move away from an implicit secular values education approach towards a more clearly articulated set of core Catholic principles and values that are known, understood and articulated by staff so that they can explicitly teach these principles and values and use them to discern appropriate resources to support high quality educational outcomes. The introduction of the NSW Syllabi for the Australian Curriculum provides a unique opportunity for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Armidale to re-evangelise the curriculum so that Catholic principles and values are clearly and explicitly articulated in every subject area for all students.

In identifying the Catholic principles and values outlined in this document it is my hope that Catholic educators across the Diocese will be able to deliver a truly Catholic education curricula that invites students, parents and staff into deeper understanding of the correct view of the human person and the incomparable dignity that God has conferred upon us in creating us in his own image and likeness. These Catholic principles and values will be a foundation for renewed Catholic curricula in Armidale Diocesan Catholic Schools.



A FOUNDATION FOR RENEWED CATHOLIC CURRICULA

MESSAGE FROM

Director of Schools



**Diocese of Armidale –
Christopher Smyth**

CATHOLIC
PRINCIPLES
AND VALUES
UNDERPIN ALL
WE DO IN
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

Catholic Principles and Values underpin all we do in Catholic schools. These principles and values are explicitly taught in every subject. They have been chosen so that students in every year level will have a framework to help guide them in life once they leave school. Through the Catholic Principles and Values and their application in every subject, our students will be helped to develop a worldview that focuses on God and God's desire for all human beings to create a world where everyone is respected and cared for, the environment is managed for the future and resources are used for the benefit of all. It is the explicit teaching of these principles and values that sets our Catholic schools apart.



There are four



PRIMACY
OF GOD



SANCTITY
OF LIFE

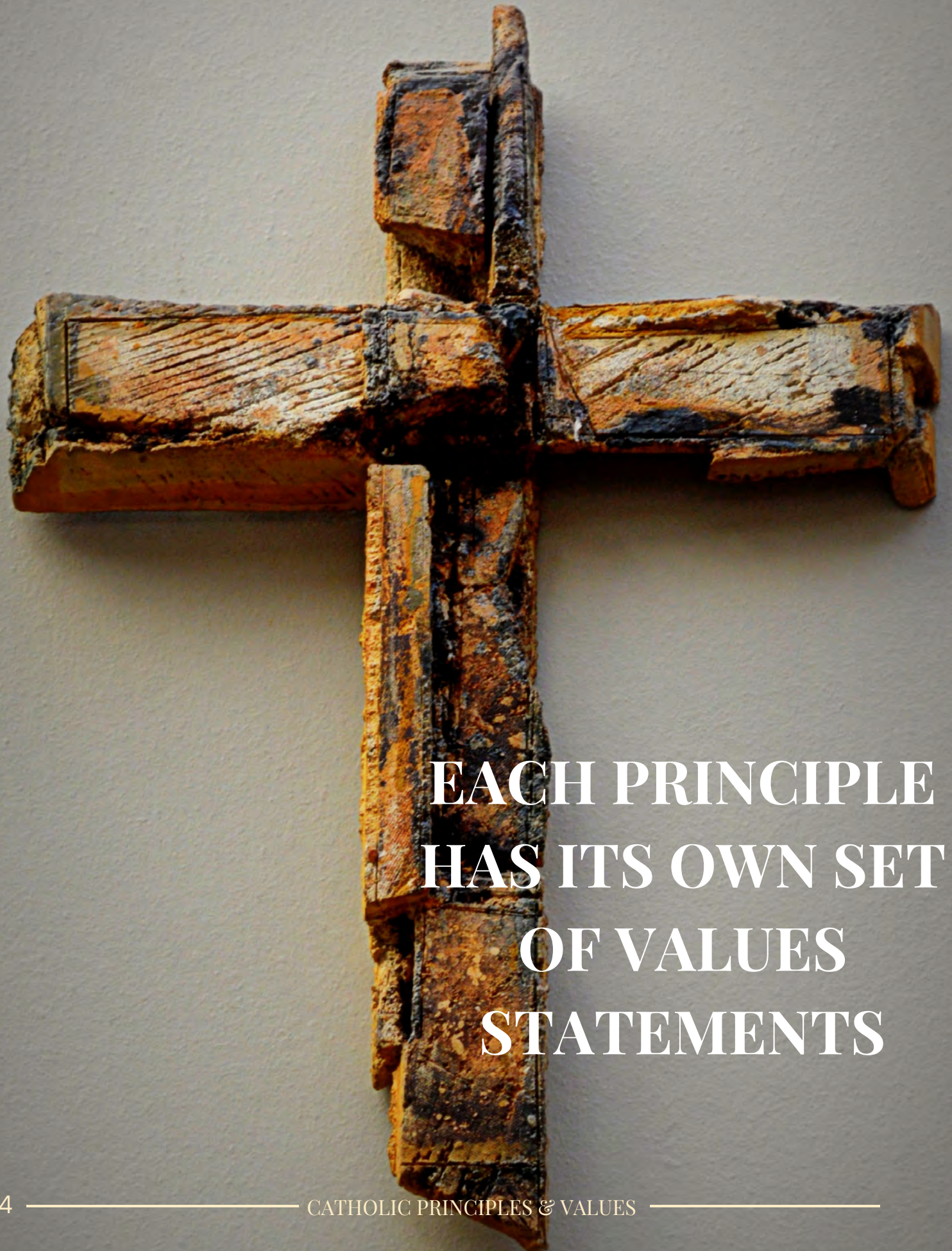
Catholic Principles



FIDELITY IN
RELATIONSHIPS



COMMON
GOOD



EACH PRINCIPLE
HAS ITS OWN SET
OF VALUES
STATEMENTS

Value Statements for The Primacy of God

LOVE OF GOD

and Love of Neighbour





All people are called to love of God and love of neighbour. For Christians this is expressed in the words of Jesus "you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind, (and secondly), you must love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:37-38).

Our love of God is expressed through prayer and worship, "Man has a noble task: that of prayer and love...Prayer is nothing else than union with God." These directives from Jesus form the basis for identifying a set of core Catholic values recognising that at all times our overriding value is love of God.

This principle is at the very heart of all we do in Catholic schools, it is what motivates and drives good Catholic action and understanding of the world.

Value Statements for The Principle of the

SANCTITY

of Life



THE SANCTITY *of Life*

“Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end; no one can under any circumstances claim for himself the right to directly destroy an innocent human being.”

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

“Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of God.” The belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of the Church’s social teaching. Catholics believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities – to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.



STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S CREATION

The Catholic tradition teaches that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. All people have been entrusted by God with this stewardship which must be exercised in such a way that it is respectful of God's plan for creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

In order to be effective stewards of God's creation, it is important that we develop a sound understanding of human ecology so that a deeper understanding of environmental ecology will develop. "A correct understanding of the relationship between man and the environment will not end by absolutizing nature or by considering it more important than the human person." "It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves."

Value Statements for The Principle of

FIDELITY

in Relationships



CALL TO FAMILY

Community, and Participation

SACREDNESS OF SELF

“Chastity is expressed notably in friendship with one’s neighbour. Whether it develops between persons of the same or opposite sex, friendship represents a great good for all.” Through an understanding of chastity the Catholic Church provides a means by which true friendships can be cultivated. A deep understanding of the Church’s teaching regarding chastity and its impact on the full development of the human person provides a means by which proper sexual relationships can be formed that are respectful of the dignity of each person, the family and society.

SACREDNESS OF MARRIAGE

The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis with the value of marriage under threat of becoming a “form of mere emotional satisfaction that can be constructed in any way or modified at will.” The Catholic tradition teaches that marriage is not a private institution but that it is the

“Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not sit in judgement, to serve and not to be served.”



foundation of the family where children learn the values and virtues that will assist them to be fully able to participate in society.

CALL TO FAMILY

Community, and Participation

SACREDNESS OF THE FAMILY

The Catholic tradition proclaims that the human person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. For the proper formation of a just society each person must have a personal faithful relationship with Christ. This relationship will help form the foundation of all other human relationships, particularly the relationships within the family.

The family is the original cell of social life that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. In particular the Catholic ideal of faithfulness in relationships must be preserved and actively promoted. Catholics believe all human persons have a right and a duty to participate in society, working together for the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.



Value Statements for The Principle of

THE *Common Good*



SOLIDARITY

and Fraternity

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, whoever they may be and wherever they may be. Through solidarity and fraternity Catholics consciously work for the fair distribution of goods and resources for human persons so that their human dignity can be upheld. An understanding of solidarity and fraternity is not limited to material goods but also extends to access to the spiritual goods of the faith. Explicitly practicing the virtue of solidarity and fraternity means learning that "loving our neighbour" has local, national and international dimensions in a world that is increasingly interdependent and interrelated. Students must be provided with skills to respond to human need in a Christ-centred way.



PREFERENTIAL OPTION

for the Poor



Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, the Catholic tradition teaches us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. “The Church’s love for the poor...is a part of her constant tradition. This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and his concerns for the poor.”

THE DIGNITY OF WORK

and the Rights of Workers



The Catholic tradition teaches that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.



Catholic Schools Office

Diocese of Armidale

Document prepared with Ecclesial Approval for the CSO
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