



Reflection, Teaching and Fundraising Ideas

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A Metaphor: Discovering New Horizons – New Possibilities to Bring Joy!

Catholic Education Week 2018 is a time to be creative and courageous to make our world a better place. We may want to vision different possibilities to make a difference in our own community or a community in need in the world. Catholic Education Week could also be a spring board for awareness activities and fundraising in Mission Week October 2018.

Biblical References for this theme:

“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him” Hebrews 12:2.

“Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me. My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times” (Psalms 119: 18-20).

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

Pope Francis Quote for this theme:

*“My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal “more”. Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of **courage**, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To **blaze trails** that open up **new horizons** capable of **spreading joy**, born of God’s love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the “craziness” of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and in our neighbours who feel abandoned.”*

[Pope Francis at World Youth Day Vigil Mass Krakow 2016.](#)

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(Quote 2)

*'You young people are **brave adventurers!** If you allow yourselves to discover the rich teachings of the Church on **love**, you will discover that Christianity does not consist of a series of prohibitions which stifle our desire for happiness, but rather a project for life capable of captivating our hearts.'* (Pope Francis 30th World Youth Day Krakow)

(Pope Francis- Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Pope Francis to Poland on the Occasion of the XXX! World Youth Day -27-31 2016- Prayer Vigil for Young People – Address of the Holy Father Campus Misericordiae, Krakow 30 July 2016).

[Horizons](#) Reflection Video

Understanding:

- Where does the horizon begin?
- Where does the horizon end?
- What do you see on the horizon near your school or college? Is it flat or have jagged mountains or deep valleys?
- What is the difference between the morning and night horizon?
- Is your horizon like your life or your faith?
- How can we 'blaze trails' to help those in need?
- New Horizons – New possibilities – How can we make a difference for those in need?
- How do we spread joy in our community?
- What does 'courage' look like in our school when we stand up for someone who is being bullied?
- How is the risen Jesus presented in our school/college?
- Can we do more to discover new ways of reaching out to the poor and needy?
- How can you get off the couch and blaze new and uncharted paths to make a better world?

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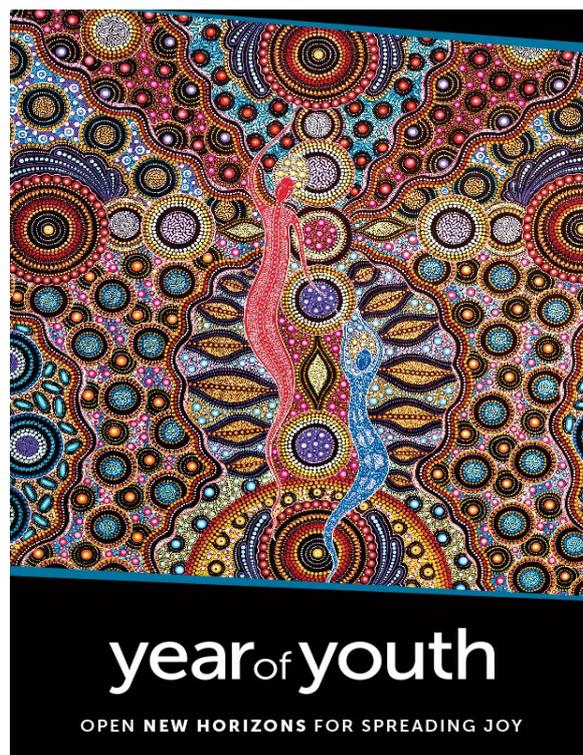
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- How do we spread joy and love in our school/college? What new paths can we find to do more?
- Explain the ways you have tried to be like somebody who has been an inspiration to you in your life.

CHRIST OUR JOY
Artwork of Amunda Gorey



The art work for Year of Youth truly inspires new horizons for spreading joy.
<http://youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth/image>

<http://youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth/image/image-2> information about use of image

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The art work [CHRIST OUR JOY](#) -for Year of Youth truly inspires new horizons for spreading joy. Painted by artist Amunda Gorey, Alice Springs.

The central figure of **Jesus**, risen and glorified, has an arm pointing to God the Father. His other arm reaches towards **Mary** His Mother, and to the Church, drawing us to Him.

The central pink circle represents the Heart of God. Storylines of different lengths and shapes lead to and from the central Heart of God, representing our different journeys and pathways to God. The many dots and circles represent **young people and the Church**. The size, shape and colours of the dots are as many and varied as young people, their backgrounds and stories.

Some young people(dots) are sustained around communities through sacrament and the Holy Spirit (water, fire, and light). Others may be isolated or distant, closer or further away from the central figures. All are integral to creating one vibrant image of Church.

The Cross extends to the borders of the painting. At its centre is the Heart of God Jesus and Mary. It reaches all young people, those communities and those in-between. The Cross breaches the edge of the painting, calling us into the peripheries, to new horizons.

Everyone will see, feel and sense the image differently. Each interpretation is valued as our stories and experiences are different.

Take time to reflect on the image in silence.

What thoughts and inspirations come to you from the image and its story.

(from [Year of Youth brochure](#) – Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith & Vocational Discernment)

For more information about [the Art Work and Artist](#) and use of image:

Look at the artwork of Amunda Gorey and reflect how it inspires you to create new horizons for spreading joy.

Activity using the reflection of the 'Christ or Joy'- art work by artist Amunda Gorey, Alice Springs.

Look and listen to the music as you search this night sky from the music and images on site below. Can you image a central figure of Jesus?

[Voices of Namabia- A Night Sky](#)

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1. Can you image a central figure of Jesus?
2. Where are you in the sky? Imagine that each star represents a young person in the world? How do young people open new horizons to the world to spread joy and hope?
3. Can you imagine a cross?
4. Paint a night sky and incorporate a central figure of God, Jesus, a cross, Mary. Design your own star. Where are you? Are you near or far from God? Display all the night skies in the classroom.

Ritual and Symbolism

1. Design a floor mat as an entrance to classroom using the words – “We are discovering new ways of ‘being’ Jesus in our classroom.
2. Design a prayer space displaying a collection of photos/ideas for spreading joy with the text: *I bring ‘Joy’ to my classroom/school by being like Jesus when I.....*
3. Begin each morning with Prayer Ritual within the prayer space.

For example:

The candle is lit, and a prayerful space is created. The Leader centres the group and reminds them that when one or more is gathered in the name of God, Christ is present.

Are you there, God? It’s me {insert your name}.

In my journeying with you,
may I never lose my sense of direction,
never lose sight of the place towards which I travel.
And should cloud or rain obscure my vision,
may I draw closer to you,
so that my feet may tread
in your footsteps,
your words be my encouragement,
and your love my protection
against any storm that encounters me.

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[Song: Come to The Cross – Epic No Less](#)

[Song: Jesus – Chris Tomlin](#)

[Song with actions for Primary: 10 000 Reasons – Matt Redman](#)

[Song for Lower Primary: Let It Shine Compilation – Listener Kids](#)

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Our Response to Those Who Need Comfort

Special Day Events Fundraising Ideas

Host a celebrity bake-off where students make Rocky Road (or ask for donations of Sour Patch Kids) to create little mementos. These may be sold to raise money for a chosen charitable fund. *See examples below:*

<http://partiesandpatterns.blogspot.com.au/search/label/missionary>



Reads: Though you may hit a sour patch; great days cannot be matched. Although you may walk a Rocky Road; Helping another will lift your load.

Decide upon your act of service as part of the Catholic Social Teaching component around the theme: *I bring joy by.....* i.e. the senior class may meet the younger students at the school front gate and carry their bags to their classroom for them.

Special note: Is it enough that students can show charity by raising awareness and money? Is there an understanding that charitable causes are a reflection of being the risen Jesus to others, that giving to others reflects God's love for ourselves and those around us? Does your 'charity' event also reflect service as part of Catholic Social Teachings? When collecting gold coin donations for charitable organisations, please add an act of service to your day/event.

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Make Your Own Prayer jars for the classroom – children buy a stick to make a prayer stick. The prayers could be for people in the community that are in need.



Collect and donate socks to the homeless. Do you know that this is the least donated item and yet really needed!



Have a rainbow cupcake day. 'New Horizons Cupcakes.' Take them to an aged care facility or homeless shelter.