**REPORT TO THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR RELIGIOUS INSPECTORS AND ADVISERS (NBRIA) FROM THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (CATSC)**

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**(NOVEMBER 2022)**

**CATSC HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2021 – NOVEMBER 2022**

**PROFESSOR JOHN LYDON, NEW JOURNAL EDITOR, 1st JANUARY 2022**

Congratulations to Professor John Lydon, Treasurer of CATSC, who become the new editor of the well-established international journal, International Studies in Catholic Education, following a highly competitive process. This journal is now the most widely circulated journal on Catholic education across the globe and was founded by Professor Gerald Grace in 2009. Since then it has become fully accessible in hard copy and online. More articles are increasingly become open access: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rice20/current>

**PROFESSOR LYDON’S KEYNOTE - BLESSED HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST (BHCAT), 28th APRIL 2022**

Senior Leaders and governing bodies who are part of the Blessed Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust (BHFCAT) in North West London, gathered on the evening of 28th April 2022 at the Sacred Heart Language College in Wealdstone for a conference on Catholic school Leadership. The conference was opened by the CEO of BHFCAT and Executive Headteacher of the Sacred Heart Language College, Geraldine Higgins. This was followed by keynote address by Professor John Lydon CATSC Executive based at St Mary’s University, London. The audience were keen to learn more about the new national Catholic school inspection system and the greater role of governing bodies in this important process.

**CATSC/NfRCE CONFERENCE AT ST MARY’S UNIVERSITY TWICKENHAM, 20th-21st MAY 2022**

CATSC organised an International in-person Conference jointly with the Network for Researchers in Catholic Education, and generously supported by NetCet, on 20th-21st May 2022. The conference took place in the splendid surroundings of St Mary’s University as the host of the conference was Professor John Lydon (CATSC) and was co-organised by Dr Caroline Healy (CATSC) and Dr Sean Whittle (NfRCE). There was a large gathering of researchers, academics, doctoral and Masters students in attendance, with a number of participants travelling from as far as Canada, Malta, Ireland and Scotland. Professor Anna Lise Gordon, Director of the Institute of Education at the University, cordially welcomed the delegates to St Mary’s when she formally opened the conference and commented on the ‘palpable buzz’ she felt at the conference which was the first in-person conference since 2019 due to the pandemic. Emeritus Professors Gerald Grace and John Sullivan joined with Professors Stephen McKinney, John Lydon and Bob Bowie to lead on the interesting debates relating to the theme of ‘Flourishing as a Contemporary Catholic leader and teacher: insights from research and practice’. The keynote speakers were Assistant Professor Amalee Meehan from Dublin City University, Dr Caroline Thomas from Canterbury Christchurch University and Professor John Lydon from St Mary’s University. Panel discussions were led by President of CATSC John P. Nish, Dr Mary Mihovilović, Research and Development, CATSC Executive Council and Raymond Friel, Caritas. The CATSC/NfRCE Conference 2023 is expected to take place 19th- 20th October 2023 at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, South Circular Road, Limerick, Ireland.

**PROFESSOR LYDON ADDRESSES ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK’S EDUCATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE FOR ASPRIING CATHOLC SCHOOL LEADERS, 30TH JUNE 2022**

Over 80 aspiring leaders, mainly newly appointed Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and Assistant Headteacher’s attended the annual conference in Southwark Cathedral’s Amigo Hall on 30th June 2022 on the theme of Catholic mission and identity in school leadership. The conference was opened by one of the Commission’s Education Officers, Sharon Doherty who warmly welcomed everyone and the opening liturgy was led by the Commission’s Chaplaincy Adviser, Susan Elderfield. This enabled delegates to think about the day ahead and their school leadership aspirations. The keynote speaker was Professor John Lydon, Executive Council Member of CATSC, from St Mary’s University who spoke on Catholic leadership ideals in a contemporary context. The second speaker was Mr Oliver Pawle of Korn Ferry Board Services who spoke on the topic of the ‘Importance of Mentorship: being a mentor and having a mentor’. Dr Nancy Walbank was the final speaker who is Senior Education Policy Adviser for the Catholic Education Service of England and Wales (CESEW) who discussed Catholic Identity and Mission in Schools.

**WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ROME, FRI. 11TH NOVEMBER 2022 – SUN. 13TH NOVEMBER 2022**

Three members of the CATSC Executive Council attended the World Union of Catholic Teachers General Assembly held in Rome: President John P. Nish, Treasurer Professor John Lydon and General Secretary Dr Caroline Healy. The theme of the conference was ‘Educating in reality to live the universal fraternity’. There were a number of highlights of this conference, the first being a very special private audience with His Holiness Pope Francis for the WUCT delegation on 12th November which included representatives from Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe. Pope Francis in his address, highlighted the value of WUCT for cooperation among teachers and for their witness to Gospel values in schools and universities around the world. He said:

*Your Union aims to encourage and motivate all these teachers so that they may be fully aware of their important mission as educators and witnesses of the faith, individually or within groups of colleagues. To this end you envision yourselves as a professional network, as brothers and sisters in the faith who, in a spirit of friendship, acceptance, mutual acquaintance and shared spiritual growth, place yourselves at the service of all Catholic teachers, to help them preserve their identity and carry out their mission. I would say that in this task you are 'collaborators of the Pope': in fact, the mission of the Successor of Peter is precisely that of confirming and sustaining the brethren in the faith (cf. Lk 22:32). In this way, you make present in the academic world, the Church's service of supporting Catholic teachers in the faith, so that they can carry out their work and bear witness in the best way possible, in situations that are often complex on the relational and institutional levels...*

*The presence of Christian educators in school communities is vitally important. And the ‘style’ they choose to adopt is likewise crucial. Indeed, Christian educators ae called to be at once both fully human and fully Christian. They must not be spiritualistic and ‘other-worldly’. They must be rooted in the present, in their own time and culture…*

*Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to look forward with hope and to give new impetus to the Union of Catholic Teachers. A noble task and an important mission await you in the world of education and schooling. May Our Lady and all the saints who themselves were educators accompany and inspire you. I too am at your side in this challenge.*

Further, he thanked Prof. John Lydon and other members of the outgoing WUCT Executive Committee (Guy Bourdeaud'hui from Belgium and Giovanni Perrone from Italy) for eight years of service:

*‘I express my gratitude to the members of the outgoing President's Committee for their faithful and generous service over many years, in the certainty that the work they have done - selflessly and with great passion - will bear fruit in the future: work to bear fruit’.*

A new Executive Committee was also elected and Dr Caroline Healy, CATSC and St Mary’s University, Twickenham now holds the role of Treasurer alongside new President Jan de Groof, Professor at the University of Antwerp, Belgium and the General Secretary, Dr Giuseppe Desideri, AIMC’s National President, Italy. The Ecclesiastical Advisor remains the Archbishop of Cambrai, France, Vincent Dollmann. The new Secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Archbishop Giovanni Pagazzi also addressed the assembly and met with the new Executive Committee. The Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, His Eminence Cardinal Kevin Farrell held a meeting with the new Executive Committee. Overall, the conference was a huge success in terms of international solidarity around Catholic education. The next General Assembly is expected to take place in Chile in 2023 and discussions are underway to prepare for the 60th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s *Gravissimum Educationis* in 2025.

**DATES FOR CATSC MEETINGS IN 2023**

**CATSC Spring Executive Council Meeting – Sat. 11th March 2023,** Birmingham Strathallan Hotel, 225 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 9RY

**CATSC AGM 2023 & Summer Council Meeting – Sat. 20th May 2023,** St Mary’s University**,** Waldegrave Road**,** Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX.