

## **HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green is part of a worldwide network of schools run by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (known to us as Loreto).

- **Founded by *Mary Ward* 1585-1645**
- **Pioneered a new type of religious life for women adapted from the way of life which *St. Ignatius of Loyola* gave to the Society of Jesus.**
- **Found apostolic expression in Catholic education.**
- **Was introduced to Ireland by a Dublin woman, *Frances Teresa Ball*, who made her novitiate in the Bar Convent, York (IBVM).**
- **Established the first house of the Irish Branch in Rathfarnham in 1821.**
- **Called *Loreto* – the name by which all subsequent foundations made from Rathfarnham are still known.**

## Loreto Philosophy of Education

- **Centred in God.**
- **Rooted in Gospel values.**
- **Derives its objectives and specific expression from the insights and vision of St. Ignatius of Loyola and Mary Ward.**

## Philosophy of Education

**We aim to make our educational communities centres where**

- **Love, freedom, justice, sincerity and joy find expression.**
- **Young people feel accepted and allowed to experience the exercise of appropriate responsibility.**
- **The potential of each individual, spiritual, intellectual, physical, is recognised and respected.**
- **Special concern for the disadvantaged and underprivileged is experienced and encouraged.**
- **Positive critical reflection is developed.**
- **The challenge of suffering is faced.**
- **Staff, parents, students, past-pupils co-operate for the common good.**

**In the power of Christ and with Mary as our model, we try**

- **To awaken the hearts and minds of young people.**
- **To help them value and develop their heritage of faith and culture.**
- **To encourage them to use positively the talents with which they have been gifted in the service of others, to the greater glory of God.**

## **The Christian Teacher in the Catholic School**

*“The extent to which the Christian message is transmitted through education depends to a very great extent on the teachers”*

**The Catholic School**

**Rome 1977**

**For the Christian Teacher, this involves**

- **Openness to  
Self .....  
Others....**
- **Growth in**
  - **Reflective search for truth**
  - **Integration of faith and life**
- **Identification with the school ethos**
- **Sharing responsibility for the continued growth and development of the school**
  
- **Seeing the school as part of a living society.**

*The nobility of the task to which teachers are called demands that, in imitation of Christ, the only teacher, they reveal the Christian message not only by word but also by every gesture of their behaviour”.*

**The Catholic School**

**Rome 1977**

## Professionalism

### **An effective teacher ...**

- **Works in collaboration with others.**
- **Encourages students to set realistic goals.**
- **Ensures that the prescribed syllabus is followed and completed.**
- **Keeps abreast of current trends in education.**
- **Co-operates with the school policies.**
- **Shows sensitivity, respect and tolerance when encountering home and family problems.**
- **Listens sympathetically to properly made representations from colleagues, parents and pupils.**
- **Adheres to professional standards of dress, behaviour and language.**
- **Is loyal and maintains confidentiality.**

### **We value the student .....**

- As a unique person – who is already gifted
- who has a *Past, Present and Future*
  - whom God has called by a name of her

## School

Education in a Loreto school will be characterised by

### **EXCELLENCE**

- in affirming personal worth and dignity
- in developing values, attitudes and principles
- in achieving the fullest possible development of every dimension of the student
- in educating leaders who will be willing to work with others for the common good and the spread of the Kingdom of God.

### **HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT**

We assist young people in their search for personal identity by providing opportunities for them to explore and develop their gifts within community.

### **GLOBAL AWARENESS**

- that sees God present and working in all creation - in nature, in history, in persons and experiences
- that develops a sense of global responsibility
- that promotes a solidarity with others that crosses all divides – religious, racial, social, economic and cultural
- that links faith and justice and encourages students to actively engage in transforming society.

### **SERVICE**

- which is freely, joyfully, sincerely and justly given
- which recognises that all reality comes from God and ultimately leads back to God.

**Parent / Guardian**

**Acknowledging that the parent / guardian is the first and foremost educator,**

**the school welcomes**

**Communication  
Participation  
Collaboration**

**based on**

***Mutual Trust and Understanding***

**The Whole School Community**

**Staff, Pupils and Parents**

**value  
challenge  
renew  
affirm each other**

**by**

**SHARING      a common mission ..... vision**

**WORKING      in collaboration**

**GIVING      inspiration  
support  
encouragement**

**SHOWING      respect  
courtesy  
care  
consideration  
appreciation  
tolerance  
friendship  
loyalty**