

教育日

2016年9月25日

主題：「你們是地上的鹽」



雖然鹽對維生是必要的，攝取過多或過少卻對我們的健康有害。惟因現今社會傾向過度食用鹽分，醫生一般都忠告我們採取低鹽飲食，以保持均衡營養。

鹽的特質和價值

本質上食鹽只是細小的微粒，可從超級市場以極低廉價格買得到。盛在鹽罌裡的鹽，幾乎毫不值錢。但當我們把鹽加在食物或敷在肉上，才確實顯出它的價值。將鹽應用於調味，防腐或增添食物味道時，它的真正價值即突顯出來。鹽的確實價值只在與其他東西產生相互作用時，才會明顯。

「你們是地上的鹽」(瑪 5:13)

耶穌說：「你們是地上的鹽」，祂並不是說：「你們應該是」或「你們可以是」。祂說明了一個事實：「你們是鹽」。祂並非在表達一個選擇，而是最高的稱譽，極大的鼓勵，並為召叫我們服務而提出清晰、有力的邀請。

作為地上的鹽，不只是個意念，那是個付諸實踐的召喚。

公教教育工作者——化成地鹽，為主作証

處於無論在學術活動、研究、科學及科技等多方面力圖追求卓越的社會，公教教育容易變得次要。但世俗教育只應付關乎人文層面的一切，而公教教育處理的則涉及超性而永恆的領域。公教教育以天主為中心，而天主為知識賦予意義，替人的生命增添尊重和神聖幅度。公教教育工作者的基本責任，就是為基督和祂教會所教導的真理和各種價值作見證。

公教教育——不僅教導，更重轉化

我們身為公教教育工作者，不單致力為使人生更美好，培育高效能、成功而聰敏的人，讓他們適應現今世界的體系。我們不但要講課，甚或要優化教學；不僅為讓人們增廣見聞而教學，卻還要更新他們的思維。他們所吸取的必須觸動內心深處，並轉化生命。公教教育工作者承諾培育學生運用解難和創新思維的能力，自主學習，並為自己作抉擇。我們不單要求學生學懂「是什麼」和「為甚麼」，更要懂得「怎麼樣」按照上主和教會所教導的真理和人生價值而付諸實踐。但是，我們可怎樣如鹽粒一般讓自己廣佈各方，才有助我們在自幼

成長的文化中，帶來品味的改變？有時，我們或會感到灰心，但我們必須堅貞不屈，保持「鹽的特質」。在這個我們有分建設的社群裡，上主利用我們微不足道的角色，讓人們認識祂的臨在。

鹽的感染力

一位教授參與家長教師會的晚會，他的女兒敦促他要會見她的生物科老師。教授當晚遲到，故坐在後座。他聆聽那位老師詳盡講述學生所做過的實驗，老師的表達方式令他留下深刻印象。最後，教授往前與那位老師會晤，才發現他是個坐輪椅的小兒麻痺症患者，更得知他擁有多個博士學位，且獲得不同大學所推崇。

教授問道：「你為甚麼一直留在中學任教？」

那位老師回答說：「你能想到什麼事情比起培養年青學生心智，讓他們胸懷正確價值觀念，會令人更覺興奮嗎？」

這就是公教教育的獨特角色——發揮鹽的感染力。

總結

我們是地上的鹽，默默耕耘，以善表善行感染他人。

作為地上的鹽：

- 我們無須名氣顯赫，惟只以大愛去完成微末平凡的事；
- 我們無須按照世俗的準則，追求現世的成就；
- 我們懇切渴望將學生的心靈更新，好讓聖神能在他們心內結出果實；
- 我們若在上所處的小角落，真正發揮影響力，讓人們認識並愛慕基督，那將會是我們終極的賞心樂事。

天主教香港教區
天主教教育事務處
2016

Education Day

September 25, 2016

Theme: **“You are the Salt of the Earth”**



Despite the fact that salt is essential to life, too much or too little can be detrimental to our health. But as the tendency in today's society is to overdo salt consumption, doctors generally advise a salt reduced diet to maintain a good balance.

Characteristic & Value of Salt

Common table salt in itself is just fine particles. It can be bought quite cheaply at any supermarket. Inside its dispenser it is fairly worthless, but when added to food or used to baste meat, it really shows its value. When used as seasoning, as a preservative or to enhance flavour, its real value comes to the fore. It is in interaction with other things that its true value shines.

“You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13)

Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth,”; he does not say, “You should be” or “You could be.” He states a fact, “You are the salt...” He is not presenting an option. It is the highest compliment, a tremendous encouragement and a clear and powerful invitation to the call of service.

Being the salt of the earth is not just something to think about. It is a call to action.

Catholic Educators — salt bearing witness

In a society striving for excellence in academics, research, science, technology and many other fields, Catholic education is likely to become less important. But while secular education deals only with the human aspect, Catholic education deals with the transcendent. God is the centre of Catholic education and God brings meaning to knowledge, as well as respect for and sanctity to life. The basic responsibility of a Catholic educator is to bear witness to the truth and the values taught by Christ and his Church.

Catholic Education — not just to teach but to transform

As Catholic educators, we do not seek only to make life better and produce more effective, successful and intelligent people who can fit into the world system. We are not here only to

lecture, or even to lecture with excellence. We teach not only to inform the mind, but to renew the mind. What goes into heads must move hearts and change lives. We commit ourselves to training our students so that they can learn for themselves and make their own decisions with problem-solving skills and creative thinking. We want them to learn not only the *what* and the *why*, but the *how* of acting according to the truth and the life values which Our Lord and his Church teach us.

But how can we disperse ourselves like grains of salt to transform the taste of the culture in which we have been brought up? At times, we may be discouraged. Nevertheless, we must remain faithful to stay *salty*. God uses our littleness to make his presence known in this society, to which we belong as contributing members.

The Influence of Salt

A professor attended a parent-teacher night. His daughter urged him to meet her biology teacher. The professor arrived late and sat in the back row. He heard the teacher describing all the experiments his students were doing. His presentation was really impressive. Finally, the professor approached him and discovered that the teacher was a polio victim in a wheelchair. He also found out that he had several Ph.Ds and was well appreciated by a variety of universities.

“Why do you keep teaching in high school?” the professor asked.

“Can you think of anything more exciting than moulding young minds and producing souls with the right values?” he replied.

This is the unique role of Catholic education—the influence of *salt*.

Conclusion

We are the salt of the earth, silently working to be a good influence on other people.

To be the Salt of the Earth:

we don't have to be outstanding, but just do small things with great love;

we don't have to pursue worldly success as measured by the world's standards;

we desire to renew the hearts of our students in order to let the Holy Spirit bear fruit in them;

we shall ultimately be contented if we do succeed in having an influence on our little corner of the world by making Jesus known and loved.

Catholic Education Office
Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong
2016

教育日

二零一六年九月二十五日

信友禱文 (參考)

1. 請為教會祈禱。求主以真理之光引領教會，在面對各種不公義、迫害和困難時，仍能堅守聖經的教導，伸張正義，實踐仁愛，見証信仰，拓展天國。為此，我們同聲祈禱。
2. 請為本地教育政策的決策者祈禱。求主賜予他們真正的智慧、廣闊的視野和寬仁的胸襟，使他們能尊重、欣賞不同辦學者的理念和精神。求主亦特別祝福政府與民間辦學團體的協作，讓學校推行的品德與價值教育，果效更顯著，使學生能養成完整人格，盡展個人潛能。為此，我們同聲祈禱。
3. 請為天主教學校祈禱。求主祝福所有天主教學校人員，俾能以我們的善師——耶穌基督——作為楷模，並追求祂所揭示的真理，跟從祂的道路行走，使學校成為培育生命、優化心靈和傳揚福音的園地，既有助學生增進知識，又能培養他們結出純潔、正義、和平、寬仁和彼此服務的美果。為此，我們同聲祈禱。
4. 請為教育工作者祈禱。求主以聖神充滿教育工作者的的心，賜與他們動力、愛心和忍耐，常懷信心與希望，陪伴學生成長，協助他們面對價值混亂、焦慮及失望的處境。為此，我們同聲祈禱。
5. 請為家庭祈禱。求主臨在每一個家庭，使各成員都能效法善師——基督——的榜樣，就是以愛、忍耐、寬恕和犧牲相待。求主特別祝福父母，使他們能以芳表善行培育子女，並教導他們畢生追尋基督所啟示的真理。為此，我們同聲祈禱。
6. 請為學生祈禱。求主護祐他們，開啟他們的明悟，使他們能在福音的光照下，智慧日增，抗拒生活中各種罪惡的誘惑，能擇善棄惡，熱愛及珍惜生命。為此，我們同聲祈禱。

Education Day
25th September, 2016

Prayer of the Faithful (for reference only)

1. Let us pray for the Church. May the Lord enlighten the Church, so that in the midst of social injustice, persecutions and hardships, she can uphold the teaching of Holy Scripture, promote justice, practise charity, and be a true witness to our faith for the extension of the Kingdom of Heaven. For this, we pray to the Lord.
2. Let us pray for the local education policy-makers. May the Lord grant them true wisdom, broad minds and big hearts, to enable them to respect and appreciate the educational beliefs and ethos of different school sponsors. May the Lord also bless the collaborative efforts of the government and various school sponsors, so that moral and value education initiatives in schools may bear fruit in abundance, and students may grow holistically and develop their potential to the full. For this, we pray to the Lord.
3. Let us pray for all Catholic schools. May the Lord bless our Catholic schools, so that their school leaders and teachers may follow our Good Master, Jesus Christ, as their role-model, seek the truth as revealed by Him and walk in His way, so that our Catholic schools may become seedbeds for preparing young people for life, for nurturing spiritual growth and for evangelization. May our young people advance in knowledge and bear fruits of purity, justice, peace, forgiveness and mutual service. For this, we pray to the Lord.
4. Let us pray for all educators. May the Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit. Grant them initiatives and motivations, love and endurance, hope and confidence, as they walk along with their students in the midst of distorted values, anxieties and frustrations. For this, we pray to the Lord.
5. Let us pray for all families. May the Lord be with every family, so that its members will imitate the example of Christ, the Good Master, and treat one another with love, patience, forgiveness and self-sacrifice. May the Lord bless the parents, in particular, so that they can bring up their children by setting good examples and teaching them to seek the truth as revealed by Christ throughout their lives. For this, we pray to the Lord.
6. Let us pray for our students. May the Lord protect and enlighten them, so that under the guidance of the Gospel they will grow in wisdom and be able to resist every temptation, to choose good, to renounce all vices and to have a passion for life. For this, we pray to the Lord.