

Archbishop Edward Gilbert launches Values & Virtues Students' Workbook & Teachers' Guide

On Tuesday 23 March, Archbishop Edward J. Gilbert C.Ss.R. will launch the 2nd Edition of the Students' Workbook and the Teachers' Guide for the Archdiocese's Values and Virtues Formation Programme for Post SEA students in RC Primary Schools.

The launch will take place at 9:00 a.m. at Canon Max Murphy Centre, St Philip & St James RC Church, Main Road, Chaguanas. In the Foreword to the Students' Workbook, Archbishop Gilbert says:

“The Values and Virtues Programme can help address the admitted serious challenges to international society, namely, the general breakdown of family life and the pervasive lack of values in the lives of so many people...the Programme is a welcome contribution to the ongoing efforts of the Catholic Church to form the young people of the Archdiocese and Nation so they can choose truth and authentic values for their lives...the young must find ways to enable themselves to live a full and productive life which must embrace the common good.”

The Workbook focuses on the 4 Modules of the Programme: Self Awareness, Relationships, Being Responsible, Balance and Wholeness.

Composer and singer, Derek Fields, from Barbados, will be present at the launch to sing his song, *Child of God*. He has granted permission for this song to be the Theme Song for the Programme.

The Minister of Education will be represented by Mr Laurence Jaggassar, Curriculum Officer. Msgr Jason Gordon will make a presentation on the theme: *Values & Virtues and the Vision for Catholic Education*.

The Programme falls within the remit of the Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ). CCSJ's Chair, Leela Ramdeen, says:

“The time is ripe for us as a nation to nurture citizens with strong moral characters. One of the factors leading to the breakdown in family life, crime and violence, selfishness, corruption and other social ills, is the lack of values and virtues underpinning the lives of many of our citizens.

“If we do not form the consciences of our people, then we will not build a strong nation. Today, some individuals shoot and kill human beings like themselves without batting an eye-lid. Those bringing in drugs and guns into our blessed country and giving them to our young men to “put down a wuk” don't seem to have a conscience.

“Unless we start inculcating the right kind of morals and values in the hearts and minds of our students, the future does not bode well for us. If we love our country, we must address this issue with zeal. I urge the Minister of Education to ensure that such a programme forms part of the Curriculum of all schools in T&T.”

For further information, contact Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ. Tel: 299 8945