

**Crowley, Michael, 1999, *The Attitudes Towards Religion of Senior-Cycle Primary School Children in the Catholic Deanery of Bandon.***

### **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

This study sought to measure the attitudes of senior cycle children in primary schools toward religion. It was placed in a rural context, i.e. the Deanery of Bandon and confined to the Catholic schools, located therein. Information was collected by administering a 24 item questionnaire (the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Religion) to all of the 28 schools in the chosen area. Subsequent results were factor analysed, and, emerging trends were identified.

This study focused entirely on attitudes toward God, Jesus, Prayer, the Bible and the Church and trends were interpreted in the light of a new emerging cultural consciousness, which, according to current media commentary, enslaves us. At all times, efforts were made to analyse the empirical data in the light of contemporary society, and, results were indeed surprising, with high levels of religiosity being the norm and an indifference to 'modernity' being evident. This study surveyed 500 children in all, representing the overall population of the Deanery of Bandon, being, as they were, a cross-section of the community in terms of gender, socio-economic background and cultural heritage.

It was the intention of this project to ascertain levels of religiosity among the cohort surveyed and, the results, when identified, were in stark contrast to what was expected, given the 'anti-religious' climate that, on the surface at least, appeared to pervade the lives of the children included in this research project.