

Lysaght, Eilis, 2007, *Perceptions of Catholic Values in Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland: A Comparative Study*

This study aimed to ascertain how teachers and students perceived Catholic values in their school. Two schools participated in this study. One was a city girls' voluntary secondary school; the other was a co-educational rural voluntary secondary school. The constructs being researched were the dignity of the human person, community, and justice and social action. These were seen in the literature as being central to the distinctive nature of Catholic education. The research instrument employed was the questionnaire.

Chapter Two clarified the distinctive nature of Catholic education. The Church's publications and declarations on Catholic education were examined. Empirical research carried out in the United States of America, Australia and Britain was also reviewed.

Chapter Three considered the research methodology. Data for this project was collected through the administration of a questionnaire. This comprised four sections. Each of the first three sections comprised seven items, using the Likert scale. The final section contained four open-ended questions, used to elicit respondents' views on Catholic values, and provide valuable feedback.

The findings of teachers, presented in Chapter Four, were compared those from the literature review. Some of the students' findings were at variance with this review. However, there were some contradictions in the students' findings, and, as a result, were not as negative as they first appeared. The constructs in this dissertation were validated, but some interesting insights were also uncovered. The open-ended questions provided valuable feedback. The recommendations in Chapter Five conclude this study.