

# Challenge Four

A 2020 Lutheran school will be a school

## WITH A CONSCIENCE

*active in the school community and alive to the injustices of our society*



And be faith informed by

## *Theologia crucis*

*the mystery that the way of the cross creates a capacity to identify those who suffer injustice*

### 1. Exploring the Mystery

Explore the mystery. The way of the cross that flows from this mystery is often hard to follow. Share your experiences of trying to walk this way and the subtle temptation in educational contexts to walk the way of glory instead. How is the way of the cross connected with having a conscience about social justice?

### 2. Facing the Challenge

Discuss the dimensions of this challenge. Is this a challenge you do not really want to face because you have been conditioned to believe that the struggle against injustice is not really part of education? Is it enough to have students show compassion for the less privileged/oppressed and ignore the reasons for their condition?

#### **Conduct a group audit.**

- a) Share programs or class activities that are designed to evoke the compassion of students for those in need.
- b) Share programs and class activities that move beyond compassion to explore injustice.
- c) Share programs and activities that involve taking a stand on issues or becoming involved in the struggle of the poor, marginalised, alienated or oppressed.

### 3. Planning a Vision and a Strategy

Develop a portrait of the values and ideals of a student graduating from your school, a portrait that takes into account the implications of this challenge and the audit conducted by the group.

What strategies would you suggest to enable the development of this kind of graduating student? What strategies might be employed to begin creating a school conscience?

### 4. Resources

- Noko, Ishmael, 2004. *Global Challenges and Currents in Contemporary Society* ACLE Keynote Address.
- O'Donoghue, Michael and others 1993. *Social Justice in Today's World – Finding a Just Way*. Melbourne: Collins Dove.
- Schirmer, Peter 2000. *Social justice in a global context*, SchoolLink August 2000 Vol 6:3
- Various authors 2000, *Social Justice*, SchoolLink Aug 2000 Vol 6:3
- Zweck Dean 2003. *Serving after the Service: Towards a Lutheran Understanding of Christian Social Service*, Lutheran Theological Journal, Vol. 37, No 2, August 2003