THE PRINCIPAL’S 2005 XAVIER DAY SPEECH

As I was reading the Sunday Mail on the weekend I noticed the feature that previewed all of the 250, or thereabouts, show bags that will be on sale at the up and coming Adelaide Royal Show. Did anyone go through them?

I glanced through them quickly but it was too difficult to gauge the real value contained in each bag and identify which ones would actually be worthwhile buying. Have you ever felt ‘ripped’ or ‘ripped off’, or been disappointed with a decision you’ve made. I have, and it has generally been when I have made a decision too hastily, or when I have been fooled by the superficial appeal.

I think it is a bit like this when we look at our world and the events that are happening all around us as we live our lives. Identifying what is of value and what is worthwhile is so important. Real happiness and satisfaction in life depends on us being able to recognise these opportunities. When we are discerning in the decisions we make, we quickly discover the things that are worth celebrating.

Xavier Day 2005 is about recognising things that are worthwhile and have value.

- Today we recognise that we are part of a community, a whole lot of people going about the business of teaching and learning, of helping, of welcoming, of playing and praying, of sharing life and preparing for the future.
- We recognise what is happening in Salesian communities in Australia and overseas, in schools, missions and in youth and family support agencies.
- We recognise the gifts that each and every one of us have, as they are demonstrated in the classroom, on the sports field, in music performances, pedal prix, rock eisteddfod, tournament of minds, house debates and so on.

We recognise all of the people that have made Xavier College possible. St John Bosco, Fr Dennis Handley, parents, teachers and students.

This is worthwhile, has value and is worth celebrating!

All of the events held today celebrate what it means to be part of this community, however none more so than this Xavier Day Mass. The symbolism of gathering around the one table is similar in some respects to the way we will mass around the BBQ at lunchtime, but it is a more powerful reminder of what underpins the reason Xavier College exists. It reminds us that we are called to make Christ like sacrifices in order to make a significant contribution to our world and to give of ourselves to make Xavier College:

- A home that welcomes
- A parish that evangelises
- A school that prepares for life
- And a playground where friends meet and celebrate

I would like to pass on the thanks of the entire College community to Fr Germano and Fr Jim for their support today and to Mr Gareth Watson and Ms Michelle Rawady for their overall organisation of the day. I would also like to acknowledge all the others who have been assisting behind the scenes and in particular those who assisted with Mass, including readers, musicians and the vocal ensemble.

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal

“a school of the future in the present”
Xavier College

Proudly Presents

Arts
Presentation
Evening

Date 31/08/2005
Venue: The Gym  Time: 7:00PM

Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

2005 Archbishop’s Awards Dinner

Came and enjoy a night of fine food, good company and excellent entertainment and help to celebrate the good work of many people within our Archdiocese.

Hyatt Regency Adelaide 7.00 pm for 730 pm
Friday, September 30, 2005

Master of Ceremonies: Rob Kelvin
Music by: ETYPEJAZZ
Proceeds to: Catholic Charities Appeal
Dinner: $120 includes 3 course meal and drinks
Dress: Formal
Presentation of Archbishop's Awards 2005 for:
• Service to the Community
• Service to Parish Life
• Service to the Education of Young South Australians

Phone Catholic Church Office on 8210 8210 to reserve your tickets OR obtain booking slip from the school or parish office. Tables of 10 are available as well as 'mixed' tables. Please make your table bookings as soon as possible.

Further information about the dinner, awards or sponsorships:

John Ellis 8210 8234

OPTOMETRISTS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Could your child be suffering from an undetected vision problem?

Does your child constantly squint or rub their eyes, complain of headaches, have trouble concentrating or hold their books very close when reading? If so your child could be one of the 25% of Australian children who suffer from an undetected vision problem.

The earlier and more regularly your children's eyes are examined, the better the prospects for successful treatment. Parents are recommended that their children's eyes are examined at six months of age, three years, five years and then every two years. Eye examinations are covered under Medicare and more than 95 per cent of optometric services are bulk billed.

The Optometrists Association Australia (OAA) has developed a concise checklist to help parents recognise possible vision problems in their children, as well as tips on television watching, reading, the use of video games and UV protection. These important materials can be found on the OAA website at www.optometrists.asn.au

“A school of the future in the present”