

**The Role of Education in and for Faith Development
in the Schools of the 21st Century**

Canon Frank Sheehan
(Chaplain, Christ Church Grammar School, WA)

ABSTRACT

Can you assume consensus within your school regarding such loaded terms as “ethics”, “education”, “faith development” and “the Life of the Spirit”? Participants will be asked to explain their understandings of these ideas. How would you identify “the Life of the Spirit” within a school? If someone said he or she was “Spirit-filled”, would you immediately gain or lose interest in that person as a member of your Board or as a possible Principal? When we use the word “Spirit” are we necessarily using religious language? Are we talking about love, joy, peace, patience, amiability, kindness, fidelity, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22)? Do we need either St Paul or the Holy Spirit for these gifts? Does the affirmation of these fruits of the spirit amount to much more than bathos? Or does this language have the power to pack a punch? Is religion a positive influence within your school? Are you wary about it? Do you seek to control its influence? Is it interesting or relevant to anything much?