



Annual Faculty Seminar 2008

on

“Back to the Basic: Teaching & Learning”

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**at John XXIII Conference Center,
Suvarnabhumi Campus, Assumption University
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General Information



- Transfer to Suvarnabhumi Campus
- BBA Office ... under construction
- Foundation for Engineering and S&T
- Home for the future
- Preparation for 40th Anniversary Celebration



Annual Seminar



a) One-day Retreat

- Giving oneself to the **process of reflection**
- A time to **sharpen the saw**
- Giving oneself to others with **quality presence**

b) A call to leadership

c) A call to oneness



The Meaning of a Calling

- A spiritual summon
(God's Call)
- A deep impulse to carry out
the mission (personal
response, answer)





Teaching



- It is both **vocation & profession**
 - Vocation → vocare (latin) means “to call”
- It denotes a summons or bidding to be of service
- Some persons have felt called or “inspired” by divine purpose to **serve.**



The Demands of This Call

- Understanding of the mission
- Know the implications
- Commitment & Sacrifice





Who are you ?

- **Meaningfulness of the profession**
- **People will identify who you are**
- **All, as a community, bear witness to such profession**
- **As teachers, we must live by values**





The Essence of Being a Teacher



1. Its primacy: to hand down the heritage to the next generation
2. What is secondary: to give profession
3. Teacher: a value-radiating person wherein students can look at to imitate



Commitment as a Teacher



- It is not something as we apply for a job
- We have to take care of it, cultivate it, ...
- It is not only something **personal** but also **communal**.
- It is this commitment that **sustains us**.



Education at AU

- Dual Mission:

1. Information → Knowledge

2. Formation → Character





Twin Goals



- Character without knowledge is weak and feeble, but knowledge without character is dangerous and a potential menace to society
- Character and knowledge together are the twin goals of true education

Boston Latin Grammar School, 17th cent.



Twin Goals (Cont.)



- A university must first and foremost **“educate”**,
- To educate is **to draw out** from the student so that **the best** that is within surfaces.
- To provide a **climate** and an environment in which the student can grow not only **intellectually** but also **culturally, socially and spiritually**.



Twin Goals (Cont.)

- Education, therefore, aims not merely at **information** but rather at **formation**, at molding and shaping.
- Not what is **taught** but rather what is **caught** that matters.





Twin Goals (Cont.)

- The primary aim of education is to assist students in their journey and growth towards personhood and gradually to become aware of the duties and responsibilities entailed in such a growth.





Certain Assumption

- Every human being is precious in his or her own right, endowed with enormous **potential** and **capacity**.





The Task of a Teacher

- To enlarge that capacity, by magnifying that present gifts and talents
- To develop that enormous potential





Teachers are:



- Agents of transformation
- Inspirers of wonder
- Encouragers of potential
- Messengers of meaning
- Nurturers of witnesses
- Healers of fear
- Prophets to the nation
- Co-creators with God

Some of the Principles and Opinions in Teaching

- Three principles of teaching
 - P1: Nothing can be taught
 - P2: The mind has to be consulted in its own growth
 - P3: To work from the near to the far, from that which is to that which shall be



Sri Aurobindo



Teaching and Learning

- Teaching and learning are two different things and empirically disconnected processes
 - There is essentially no relationship between the quality of instruction and the amount students learn.





A Model to Imitate

- Jesus Christ:
Teacher par Excellence





Qualities of Some of the Christ

- I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
- The people were astonished at His teaching for His word was with **power**" (Lk 4:32)
- Never before spoke one who had such power to awaken thought, to kindle aspiration, to arouse every ability of body, mind, and soul.





Christ's Methods as Teacher

- It is found in His training of the twelve first disciples.

1. His companionship

2. They were men of native ability and of teachable spirit; men who could be instructed and molded for the work.

3. They differed so widely in natural characteristics, in training, and in habits of life





The Transforming Power



1. Jesus Christ taught them all.
2. Their relationship to Him was closest.
3. Christ understands the characters of each.
4. He created a change/transformation in a person.



The Transforming Power (Cont.)

5. A lesson of love ...

- He cared for them all.
- He takes them as they are.
- No word of direct reproof.
- He sought to change them through personal contact and self-sacrificing.
- Little by little, His example and His lessons of abnegation molded their characters.





Lessons of Life



1. The great law of life is a **law of service.**
2. The seed has in itself a **germinating principle.**
∴ In the development of character, we have to follow certain principles.
3. The harvest of life is **character.**



Lessons of Life (Cont.)



4. The garden of the heart must be cultivated.



5. Learn the lesson of an ant



6. An education, derived chiefly from books, leads to superficial thinking





Lessons of Life (Cont.)

- The world does not so much need men of great **intellect** as of **noble character**. It needs men in whom **ability** is controlled by **steadfast principle**.





Thoughts to Ponder

- To become an authentic teacher
 1. Training for the teacher is essential.
 2. The teacher should have a comprehensive education than can be gained by the study of books.
 3. Knowledge of principles of education is essential.





Thoughts to Ponder (Cont.)



4. Order, thoroughness, punctuality, self-control, a sunny temper, evenness of disposition, self-sacrifice, integrity, and courtesy are essential qualifications.
5. Gain respect through your own character.
6. Guard against accepting other responsibilities that would be unfit for the work.



Thoughts to Ponder (Cont.)



7. Observe the principles of health.
8. Constantly seek higher attainments and better methods.
9. Be quick to discern and improve every opportunity for doing good.
10. Consider the highest good of his or her students as individuals.



The single most important factor in
student learning is an effective
teacher,
but . . .

Global Warming

WHAT
MAKES
A GREAT
TEACHER?

