

ENDURING QUESTIONS

The organizing structure of the *Source of Life* Religious Education Curriculum Framework is the six content strands. These can be explored further through the inclusion of Enduring Questions in each unit. The Enduring Questions enable both students and teachers to pursue lifelong wonderings about God and the Catholic Tradition through each unit. These personal reflection questions invite both learners and teachers to reflect and wonder about God and life using various media (e.g. words, art) to make personal meaning of their learning and to explore their response to the invitation of God to 'live life to the full'. Giving time and space to the Enduring Questions assists learners in moving to the preferred faith stance of *Post Critical Belief*, i.e. belief gained through active engagement with stories, symbols, rituals, prayers, etc and which is not definite or fixed.

Enduring Questions of faith and life are the gristle students and teachers should be chewing upon in their Religious Education: information, knowledge and skills are developed to equip the tackling of these questions which endure and persist. Enduring Questions have endless answers which are subject to change and development. Enduring question can be responded to at many levels; communally (by society, culture, religion, philosophy) and individually. Science, rational thinking, critical thinking, can only take you so far into these 'big' questions of life.

In each unit there are two Enduring Questions; the first is *cognitive* (developing knowledge) and the second is *affective* (developing attitudes at a personal level). Ideally the Enduring Questions are used at the start of the unit as well as throughout the learning:

- Display them on poster-sized paper
- Add to them through the course of the unit
- Journaling
- KWL
- "I used to think ... , Now I think ..."
- Gallery Walk
- Classroom prayer