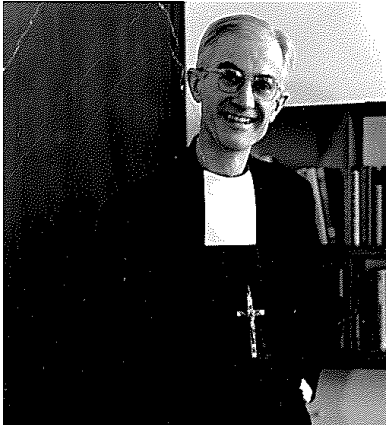


Br Ronald Fogarty Scholarship FMS



Brother Ronald Fogarty was a Marist Brother who made a significant and important contribution to the study and practice of Catholic Education in Australia. His published works are relevant, not only to the Catholic and educational sphere of Australian history, but also provide insight into the development of Australian society as a whole.

“As a true historian, he saw his task as grasping what was going forward in Catholic Education at particular places and times. He documented the tasks, the conflicts, the struggles and the triumphs. He was aware that Groups can be disconnected to

their past and lose their sense of identity. He was convinced that Catholic Education had to live and build on its past and its history, so to speak, lived on what is currently happening. So he was able to demonstrate that Catholic Education is an ongoing process and how the context enlarges, perspectives shift. As perspectives shift, so do priorities and strategies. At a time when Catholic education was facing some of its biggest challenges in the 20th Century, Brother Ronald’s history gave heart to Catholic educators. He showed them that their history was a proud history and affirmed their sense of purpose and identity and gave them encouragement to manage the great tasks and immense challenges that the generation of the 50’s and 60’s faced. It was indeed an immense gift to those involved in building Catholic Education into the future”. (Casey, 2009)

In reviewing Br Ronald’s two volume publication, *Catholic Education in Australia* (1959), W.F.Connell wrote that: “This is a monumental work which far outdistances any other work so far published in the history of Education in Australia.” (Connell, 1960)

In a re-appraisal of Br Ronald’s work, McCorkell (1990) identified four specific themes which Br Ronald determined as basic to the development of Catholic Education: – Church/State relations; the impact of nineteenth century liberalism; the emerging sectarianism and the place of education and religion in Australian society; and the nature of Catholicism itself. “It has been generally acknowledged that these themes are not only relevant to the Catholic or Education sphere of Australian history, but also provide insight into the development of Australian society as a whole. His history celebrates the triumph of a minority group as part of a reaction to the developments instituted by the majority. Overall his interpretation of why and how a separate Catholic education system developed, make a significant contribution to Australian historiography in general”.