
PRESENTATION

On-line Programme of Tutoring Children in Remote Areas

Office of the Vice President for Mission

Fu Jen Catholic University

According to the *Apostolic Constitution of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II on Catholic Universities*, a Catholic university has a privileged task. That task is “to unite existentially by intellectual effort two orders of reality that too frequently tend to be placed in opposition as though they were antithetical: the search for truth, and the certainty of already knowing the fount of truth.” Since 2006, the Corps of Rural Areas Education Service at Fu Jen Catholic University has strived to provide support for the socially vulnerable, challenge social imbalance, and improve the quality of rural education in Taiwan by applying academic resources of teaching, technical assistance and social services. The Service makes every effort to cross boundaries in time and space, and resource distribution. Our corps still develops an on-line tutoring Programme promoted by the Ministry of Education for elementary school and junior high school students in remote or minority areas of Taiwan. The Programme not only reduces the digital discrepancy between areas, but also increases supplementary studies in the use of the Internet. The Service offers distance learning guidance.

During these years, Fu Jen Catholic University has provided leadership and support for on-line tutoring at 27 teaching sites (cooperative universities). The Programme has recruited tutors from these universities, combing the Internet and educational goals to cover 85 service sites and reach more remote children in each new semester. Furthermore, Fu Jen Catholic University plays a crucial role in providing a platform to bridge social resources (such as government and corporate resources) with local churches and evangelization. In recent years, the university has promoted cooperation between local communities and parishes. The work of community engagement, such as the winter and summer school’s project in 7 remote sites, invites charity foundations in the business sector to cooperate with parishes to turn them into centers providing information, care, and hope for the socially vulnerable. Meanwhile, concerning the physical and mental development of senior high school students, one of the foundations provides scholarships for encouraging teenagers who are economically disadvantaged to continue their school learning. Some of the foundations also