**ATTACHMENT F**

**Submission about proposed changes to the Text books To Know, Worship and Love**

Changes to textbooks on individual morality:

• Equal emphasis should be given to being kind and keeping the commandments.

• Mortal and venial sin differences should be explained to students prior to making first Confession and first Eucharist.

• Realistic examples of mortal and venial sins which are likely to be committed by children should be provided to students prior to receiving the sacraments for the first time and repeated throughout schooling.

• Obligations to go to confession and Eucharist at least once a year should be explained to students and to their parents prior to students receiving the sacraments for the first time. The obligation to attend Mass each Sunday should also be explained to children and their parents.

• The explanation of the three elements for a mortal sin to be committed should be explained to students early in their schooling. The issues of mitigating circumstances now in the year 7 text book should be omitted and replaced by a discussion on mortal sins students are likely to commit. If a student is unsure if a sin is a mortal sin, they should be advised to confess it anyway.

• Students in Catholic Schools go to Confession at school, but if they do not see other Catholics also attending confession fairly regularly, then they will soon follow suit and abandon the sacrament. There needs to be a program to encourage all parishioners to attend confession at least once a year and more frequently. The program will need to remind them of their obligations to do so and to be in the state of grace before receiving Holy Communion. Catechesis in the parish is a necessary adjunct to catechism in school.

• When discussing the last judgement and bringing about the Kingdom of God, the text books should be more explicit in what is meant. We are meant to bring about a society governed by Christian principles. We are not making this clear. The text books need to be improved to include this obligation.

Changes to textbooks regarding social morality:

• The Church’s social morality policy needs to be rewritten so that the Church accepts responsibility for convincing society to adopt Christian values. It needs to provide ongoing leadership and organisation for individual Catholics to achieve this. The Church provides effective leadership and organisation in pursuing its social welfare mission (St Vincent De Paul Society, Caritas and Charitable Works Fund), but not in pursuing its mission to convince society to adopt Christian morality.

• The Church must provide the “Catholic view” on social issues or the means by which a “Catholic view” may be arrived at and not leave it for each Catholic to arrive at an individual “Catholic view”.

• It should be made clear to students that they do not live in a society which accepts Christian moral values; only a limited number of these values. Students should be discussing the values that they are likely to meet out in society (do whatever it takes to achieve your objective; maximise business profits rather than achieve the common good; “I’m all right Jack”, etc).

• The effectiveness or lack thereof of a Church’s social policy in current day society should be discussed. Students should be presented with a practicable plan for how the Kingdom of God can be achieved. The current plan of unsupported individual effort is not practicable or possible.