

## **Catholic Schools Week. 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2011**

**Award to :**

**Sister Mary de Porres**

At the Diocesan Mass to mark Catholic Schools Week, Sr Mary De Porres was given a special award to mark her sixty years of service in our schools. The citation for this award was given by Mr Ray Collins as follows:

*During Catholic Schools Week it is appropriate to acknowledge the work of one of our Sisters of St Joseph whose dedication to Catholic Education within the diocese has been, and continues to be, outstanding.*



*Sister de Porres has spent 60 years in Catholic Education, the majority of which has been in the diocese of Maitland Newcastle. Her first appointment was to the Greta Migrant Camp in 1950.*

*In 1952 and 53 Sister taught Music in Cundletown, after which she returned to the Migrant Camp for a further three years. She then went on to teaching positions in Wauchope, Merriwa and Belmont. In 1966 she was appointed as Principal of St. Francis Xavier's Primary School at Belmont and for the next 16 years served also as Principal of St. Joseph's, Aberdeen, Our Lady of Victories, Shortland and St Bernadette's at Krumbach.*

*Following her Principalships, Sister spent a number of years at St Patrick's at Summer Hill before her return to the Diocese in a teaching role at St Patrick's Swansea.*

*26 years ago Sister Mary de Porres was appointed as a Year 3 teacher to St. Patrick's at Cessnock. She worked alongside some very young members of staff who she has mentored and guided.*



**Sr De Porres with her award and flowers.**

*After a number of years as a class teacher, with all its responsibilities and stress, Sister stepped aside from this role and took on the position of Remedial/ Resource teacher, one that she still maintains to date. Her dedication to the teaching profession is exemplary. She has always encouraged and supported members of staff especially young staff in their first years of teaching.*

*Her love of literacy and her great desire to teach and support all students in gaining the skills of reading is a driving force at St. Patrick's.*

*Sister Mary de Porres is very much the guiding hand, the teacher, the supporter and the whipcracker of the Reading Programme at the school. She has had a very strong influence on the achievements of the school in this area.*

*Principal at St Patrick's Cessnock, Penny Tully describes Sister Mary de Porres as an inspiring and remarkable teacher and thanks God for her presence at the school.*

**We her sisters congratulate Sr de Porres on her many years.**



**Penny Tully and Sr Mary De Porres.**