

## **OUR CLASSROOM HEROES!**

Perhaps it's not widely known in Australia that Doctor Jill Biden, the wife of the current US President, has been a devoted schoolteacher for 13 years of her life. Doctor Biden, when her teaching career ended, then became a university lecturer in education where she gained a doctorate as well as 2 master's degrees.

The now First Lady recently wrote an insightful and fascinating article in *TIME* magazine that recognizes teachers as the real heroes throughout the world during these global pandemic times. Below are some of her insights:

- *Teachers more than most people have had to immediately adapt to a radical new way of working. They have had to suddenly reimagine presenting new lesson and classroom plans. While doing this it has been so often been emotionally and intellectually exhausting within their own lives. Multi-tasking has taken on a whole new dimension!*
- *Yet amidst all of this those of us who are not teachers should never underestimate how good teachers are so crucial in enabling their students to be more self-confident, resilient, and aware of the world around them. This is more so than in any other profession.*

One of the relatively recently canonized saints of the Church is Saint (Pope) Paul VI in one of his most quoted documents *Evangelii Nuntiandi* he wrote these profound words; *“Modern people will listen more to witnesses than to teachers and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are good witnesses!”* Fr Martin R Maunsell