

THE CATHOLIC DIMENSION

*Speaking of Catholic Education in
Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon*

Published by the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

June 2019

*I would draw God as the sunrise
every morning;
a breath of fresh air.
The first small snowflake
that lands on the now freezing floor.
He would be drawn as
the birth of spring
and the heat of summer.
He is drawn as everything beautiful,
everything precious;
for he is the definition
of all those things that he created.*

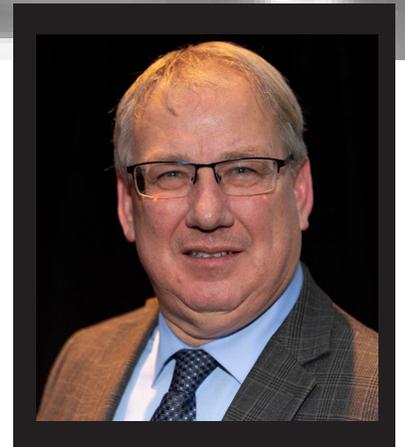
Karla Mena-Ospina
Holy Family Catholic Elementary/Junior High School



Submitted by: Dean Sarnecki
Executive Director, ACSTA

The following was written for an end of the school year “Offerings” for the Edmonton Journal. It was published in 2006:

Well, it happened again. It happens every year. I thought it would get better with time but it doesn't. In fact I feel some years its getting worse. The pain, the separation, the grief; it is difficult and I probably will never get over it completely but usually by mid-October I will have at least recovered enough to move on and do it again.



Yep, schools out for the summer. For the past ten months I have been a teacher to 160 and chaplain to 880 students at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School. I have a weird “job”. In a way I do what every teacher, social worker, nurse, doctor, parent does – I am called to love those I meet. However, unlike others, I receive a stipend from the school system...for loving. Now I admit, I am not a perfect “lover”. Far from it. If Jesus is my model of love – and He is! – I fail miserably in my attempt to love all the students that I encounter daily. I really do try but petty things like personalities, behaviours, interests – or lack of interests – my own faults and failures, my own selfishness and self-centeredness, often get in the way of my loving. I do try, its just Jesus is perfect and I'm not.

So what happens? In my imperfect way I love as many people as possible. I consciously care and demonstrate concern for my students. I listen to their stories; I share in their lives – the happiness and grief, loneliness and friendships, dreams and disappointments. I too share with the students my dreams and life, the dreams of God's revelation, my hopes and fears for myself and them in the present and the future. We share lives.

But then abruptly, it's over. Graduation ceremonies come and the students are filled with excitement and the teachers share to some extent in that but it isn't the same. The kids, caught up in the moment often forget those who have guided them, taught them, led them and the staff is left almost as an afterthought for many students. Exams happen. The grade tens and elevens

write and leave for the summer – but that is just a minor and temporary sense of loss – we will see each other in September. The grade twelve’s write government exams and are gone. A few come to visit before they leave for good – “Can I get a picture with you?”, “I will never forget you”, “I will email/phone/drop in to see you in the fall” and a few actually do but not many.

I don’t blame the students. I occasionally run into some of my old high school teachers. And really, outside of the high school experience we shared, what is there to talk about? I’m stuck in time, reliving my high school years vicariously through the kids on a daily basis, while the students have grown up; literally, graduated to a new life. Not better, or worse, just different.

Our “jobs” are like that of a master potter; potters mould the clay, fire it, and then sell or trade the pot and start again. We mould students, we teach them English, math, social, music, art, phys. ed. We teach them to get along with others, to share what they have, to be honest and have a vision. We teach them to love, to love as God loves, to be Christ to each other, and surprisingly, most students get it. As they are loved, they love us in return.

It is interesting though that the potter is sometimes moulded by the clay he works. Some of the clay sticks on the potter and becomes part of them, changes them; the moulder becomes the moulded. When you are loved, you are changed. You share with the beloved a part of yourself and when the beloved leaves, that little piece dies and that leads to pain and grief.

That is, I believe, what happens at the end of the school year. I know that the students have to move on, they have their whole lives ahead and they will meet and be moulded by many long after high school. And I know my pain and suffering, the feelings of hurt and abandonment are selfish and self-centred on my part but I just want the students to know I too was engaged and shaped by our encounter and I will miss them tremendously!

As God says through the words of the prophet Isaiah, **“I will never forget, for I have carved you on the palms of my hands”** *(Isaiah 49: 15-16)*. I want my students to know, that I too will never forget them. They have been engraved in my mind and on my heart.



Pope Francis to the Rescue

You Are My Beloved Child



By: Eugenia Kowalczyk, Ph.D.
ACSTA, Director of Advocacy

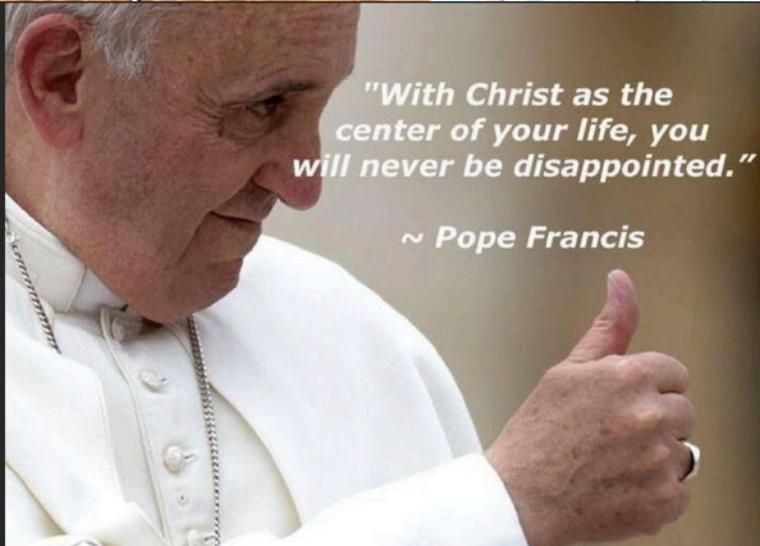
Our Catholic youth are challenged each and every day with the hustle and bustle of peer pressure, schoolwork, social media, and acceptance. Indeed to be a young person growing up in such a dynamic, fast paced, ever changing social milieu can leave even the most grounded, spinning. If only life would slow down we often catch ourselves thinking. There is so much to do and so little time; every day reads like a litany of to do's. Our youth are experiencing change at a staggering speed and in its grasp a potential loss of identity.

To be a Catholic youth is indeed complex. As many of us know, it takes a lifetime to discover who you are and what you stand for. One might say, "a work in progress." Today's youth is inundated with fads, fashion, and cultural ambiguity while simultaneously sensing an erosion of tradition, values, virtues, and God. Being caught in this whirlwind requires a "shut down, restore, and update" of priorities and expectations. Pope Francis to the rescue!

Pope Francis has made communicating with the youth a priority. Throughout the past year, Pope Francis has sent direct messages to our young people of encouragement, hope, and renewal. During World Youth Day in January, 150,000 young people from 155 countries gathered in Panama. The Pope's message of hope, love, and resilience resonated in his address stating, "There is a strength in young people, a strength that all of you possess. It is a strength that can change the world." His advice continued with the words, "Dear young people, take courage, enter within yourselves and say to God: 'What do you want from me?' Allow God to answer you. Then you will see how your life is transformed and filled with joy." Helping our young people understand that they are unconditionally loved and that God has great things prepared for each of them is an antidote for modern day anxieties, fears, and feelings of inadequacy. God holds each child tenderly in His loving hand and knows each by name. How reassured our children would be if they took this message to heart.

Most recently, Pope Francis in his post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit* states, "Young people are not meant to be discouraged; they are meant to dream great things, to seek vast horizons, to aim higher, to take on the world, to accept challenges, and to offer the best of themselves to the building of something better." Such encouraging words are reaffirmed with the acknowledgement of how important our youth are to the faith. Pope Francis boldly reminds our young people that, "they are the 'now' of God." Although times are changing, and many challenges lie ahead, we must constantly remind our young people that God loves them. Pope Francis states unequivocally, "Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life, at every moment, you are infinitely loved." Indeed a beautiful message of hope and reassurance for every person, at any age, in any circumstance.

Keeping Up
With
Pope Francis



"With Christ as the center of your life, you will never be disappointed."

~ Pope Francis

DO NOT BE
CONTENT TO LIVE A
MEDIocre
CHRISTIAN
LIFE:
WALK WITH
DETERMINATION
ALONG THE
PATH OF
HOLINESS

POPE FRANCIS

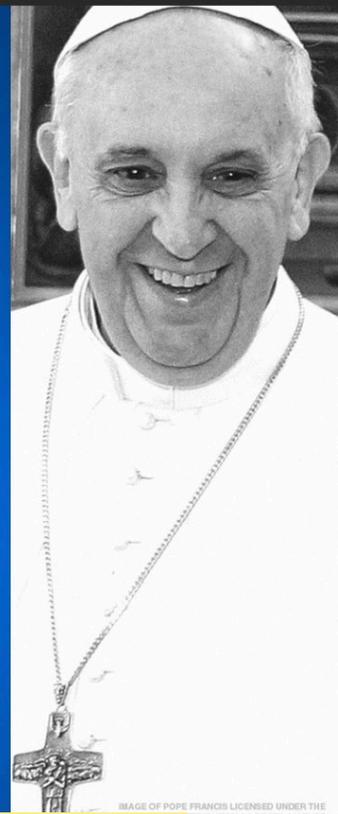
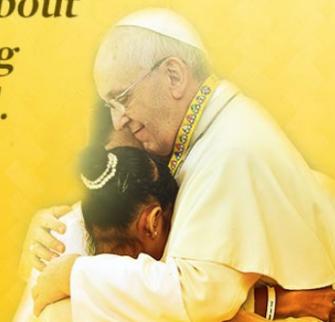


IMAGE OF POPE FRANCIS LICENSED UNDER THE
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DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE,
THE CHURCH EXPECTS
GREAT THINGS
OF YOU AND YOUR
GENEROSITY.
DON'T BE
AFRAID TO
**AIM
HIGH**

"Real love is about loving and letting yourself be loved. Let yourself be loved."



Dear young men and women, in Christ your every desire for happiness is fulfilled.

He alone can satisfy your deepest longings, which are so often clouded by deceptive worldly promises.

"Dear young people, let us not be satisfied with a mediocre life. Be amazed by what is true and beautiful, what is of God"

Pope Francis

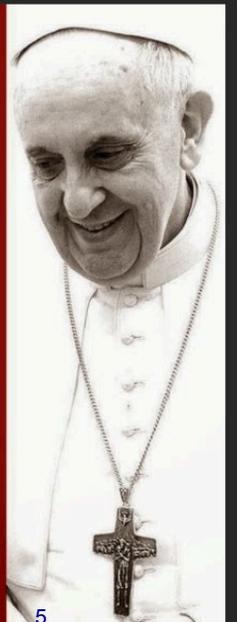


"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected..."

-Pope Francis, in his homily during the Concluding Mass of his Apostolic Journey to the Philippines

DEAR YOUNG
PEOPLE,
DO NOT BURY YOUR
TALENTS,
THE GIFTS THAT
GOD
HAS GIVEN YOU!
DO NOT BE AFRAID
TO DREAM OF
GREAT THINGS!

POPE FRANCIS



Legally Speaking:



Submitted by: Cristina Wendel, Dentons Canada LLP

THE EDUCATION ACT: WHAT'S OLD WILL BE NEW AGAIN



Alberta's *Education Act* was passed in 2012 but has been sitting, unproclaimed, since then. The legislation was passed by the Progressive Conservatives but was never proclaimed into force as the government was still in the process of working on the regulations when it lost power to the NDP. The NDP government chose to make changes to the existing *School Act* instead of proclaiming the *Education Act* into force. However, after 7 years of waiting, the *Education Act* may become law with Premier Jason Kenney, having pledged to proclaim the *Education Act* into force.

While the *Education Act* will have implications for schools generally, such as by raising of the age for access to education from 19 to 21, there are a number of provisions in the *Education Act* which will have unique implications for Catholic education.

Student resident qualifications is one of those provisions. The *Education Act* defines a resident student based on where the student resides during the school year, as opposed to the *School Act*, which determines student residency based on where the parent(s) resides. Under the *Education Act*, a student is a resident of a separate school district if the student resides within the boundaries of that district, and the student's parent (where there is only one parent) or parents (where there are two parents) declare(s) that they are of the same faith as those who established that district, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic. When a student has two parents, but one parent has not declared his/her faith, the parents shall choose whether the student is a resident student of the board of the separate school division or of the public school division.

Another new provision in the *Education Act* is the granting to school boards of the rights, powers and privileges of a "natural person". In exercising these rights however, boards must not act in a manner that is inconsistent with their statutory responsibilities. Further, the Minister retains the right to prohibit, restrict or limit the use of these rights, powers or privileges by regulation. In general, this gives boards the right to sign contracts, hire staff and acquire property without ministerial approval. However, for Catholic boards, this provision may also give them the opportunity to assert their entitlement to act in accordance with directions of the local Bishop, pursuant to Code of Canon Law and in accordance with Catholic principles and doctrines.

Despite some earlier concern that the *Education Act* would include a provision allowing the Minister to order shared facilities, that has not been done. A blended board is possible, but it can only be established upon the request of both the public school division and the separate school division. In addition, while the *Education Act* maintains the provision whereby the Minister may direct boards to co-operate with respect to the transportation of students, it removes the wording in the *School Act* that specifically states that the Minister may direct the boards to enter into specific transportation arrangements. That being said, there are indications that this issue may be revisited.

The *Education Act* provides that separate school residents maintain their residence in a separate school district, and their declaration that they are of a minority faith, but are granted the additional right, without interference with their residence or minority faith, to vote for and run for public school trustee (with equivalent provisions for Francophone regional authorities). The “Brassard Choice Provision”, as it is known colloquially, enables separate local residents to vote or run for the position of the public school trustee.

The establishment provisions for new school districts contained in the *Education Act* are colloquially known as the “flower petal formation”, as opposed to the traditional “4X4” formation provisions in the *School Act*. This change could be problematic if there is a challenge to the constitutionality of the “flower petal formation”.

The *Education Act* requires support for student organizations. It requires that a principal must allow a student’s request to establish a voluntary student organization or to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. The principal must also designate a staff member to serve as a staff liaison. While the *School Act* requires that the principal “immediately” allow the request and designate the staff member “within a reasonable time”, the *Education Act* does not contain any set time limits.

Student organizations specifically include gay-straight alliances, diversity clubs, anti-racism clubs and anti-bullying clubs. The students may select the name for the organization which may include “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance” after consulting with the principal. However, the *Education Act* is silent on whether the principal must agree to the name and there are no express prohibitions on the principal’s ability to interfere in the name selection. Contrary to the *School Act*, the *Education Act* does not contain any restrictions on the disclosure of information regarding participation in student organizations. Disclosure would be governed by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This is likely to be a key point of discussion and debate if the *Education Act* is proclaimed.

Another difference between the two acts relates to the code of conduct requirements. The *Education Act* requires that a board establish, implement and maintain a policy regarding the board’s obligation to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that includes a code of conduct for students that addresses bullying behaviour. The code of conduct must be publicly available, reviewed annually, provided to all staff, students and parents and contain the following requirements: a statement of purpose; one or more statements that address the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the *Alberta Human Rights Act*; one or more statements about what is and is not acceptable behaviour; one or more statements about the consequences of unacceptable behaviour; and be in accordance with any other requirements established by the Minister. This is different from the *School Act* which, among other things, specifically requires that the policy and code must affirm the rights in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Charter* for all staff and students and state that neither staff nor students will be discriminated against.

Another provision of note is that while the Minister may prohibit the use of a course, a program of study or a learning and teaching resource in schools, that right is subject to a board's right to provide religious instruction. This will prevent the Minister from prohibiting any course or program that is focused on Catholic content.

The *Education Act* would allow Catholic school boards to require school council members to be Catholic.

The provisions in the *Education Act* dealing with filling board vacancies could potentially be a concern. They provide that where two attempts to fill a vacancy on a board have failed to yield any nominations, the Minister may appoint a trustee to fill the vacancy; however, there is no express requirement that those appointments be members of the denominational minority.

There are also a number of provisions in the *Education Act* dealing with the establishment of school divisions and separate school regions, as well as property assessments that will be of importance to Catholic educators.

It will remain to be seen whether the current government will proclaim the *Education Act* into force and if so, whether it will be in its current form, or with some adjustments and whether it will be in force for the 2019/20 school year.

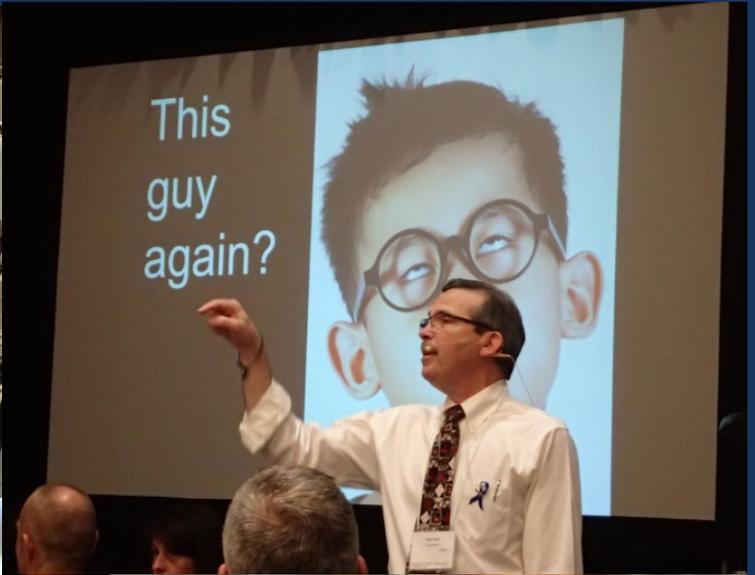


Keynote Speaker:
Roy Petitfils

Sharing Purpose In Catholic Education

The Tug of War of Faith and Real Life







mark your **Calendar**

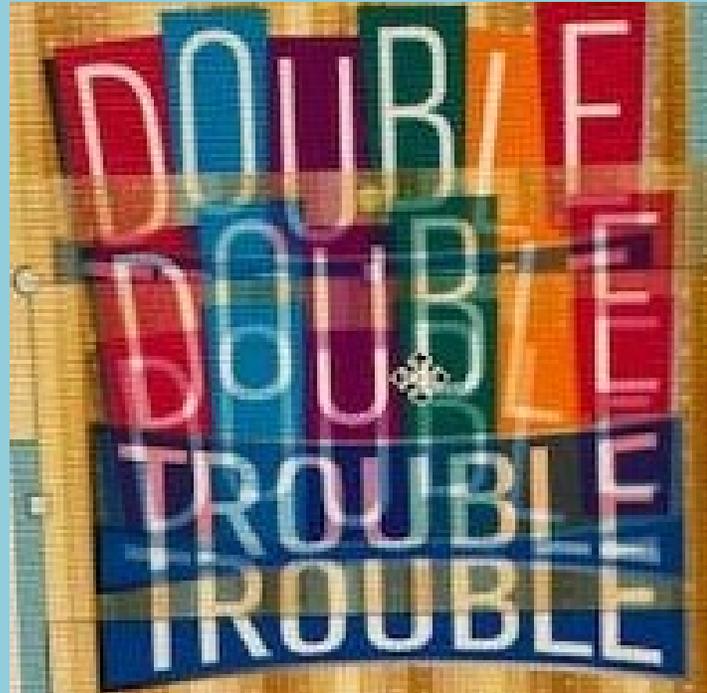
S.P.I.C.E. Retreat



April 23-26, 2020

Location: [Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge](#)

Keynote Speaker: **David Wells**



**BOOK
EARLY**

Registration
Opens
January
2020

Catholic Dimension Summer 2019

Blueprints Retreat



April 28 - May 1, 2020

Location: [Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge](#)

Keynote Speaker: **David Wells**



Submitted by:
Bonnie Annicchiarico, Ph.D
 GrACE, Executive Director

The Spirit is Moving

I was in a meeting the other day and one of my colleagues likened the movement in grateful support of Catholic education to the experience of the early apostles. Faced with doubt, fear and challenge, Christ's first disciples were divided and disheartened. They had a powerful message of life and hope to share, yet they were fractured and unsure. When the Holy Spirit moved upon them, all of that changed. They were inspired, invigorated and emboldened. They had courage and took risks. They spoke with passion. They witnessed. There was no stopping them!

In the seven months since the launch of GrACE, the Holy Spirit has been at work. Advocates have become inspired, invigorated and emboldened. They have had courage and taken risks. They have spoken with passion. They have witnessed and...there's no stopping them!

Here are some current GrACE statistics:

Each Alberta Bishop has hosted a GrACE workshop in their diocese. 100% of our Catholic School districts have participated.

GrACE groups have been formed in 11 Catholic districts.

More than 1200 Catholic education stakeholders have been part of a GrACE engagement experience.

Among the stakeholders present at these engagement sessions are parents, teachers, priests, parishioners, students, bishops, superintendents, and trustees. Their words speak for themselves:

- *I feel motivated and inspired to be a supporter and promoter of Catholic education through my Sunday homilies, visible presence and prayers. (Priest- Diocese of St Paul)*

- *It is an honor and a gift from God to have publicly funded Catholic education. I am grateful to have this mission. I want to be fully available to advocate for Catholic education. (Priest- Diocese of St Paul)*
- *I feel comfortable, confident, energized and grateful about being an advocate for Catholic Education. It is past due---but I am SO hopeful about the outcome. (Diocese of Grouard-McLennan)*
- *The day I chose to be a Catholic is the day I became an advocate. Its part of who I am. It is an extension of the work that we are asked to do as missionaries of the Gospel. (Diocese of Grouard-McLennan)*
- *I feel inspired to advocate for Catholic education. I know it is vital. (FrancoSud)*
- *Today's meeting informed and empowered me to spread the Gospel and start a movement! (Diocese of St Paul)*
- *I am buoyed up the realization that we are creating advocacy for Catholic education in all districts in the province! I have a sense that we are all in this together! (Diocese of Edmonton)*
- *I feel inspired and motivated to be an even stronger advocate for Catholic education (Diocese of Calgary)*

As another school year draws to a close, we can be so grateful for the unity within our Catholic education community and for the many who will ensure a hopeful future for Catholic schools in Alberta. We have been tried and tested and shown our resolve. With the Holy Spirit moving, all things are possible.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses. Acts 1:8

“We All Have a Part to Play”



Submitted by : Dr. Matt Hoven

Associate Professor of Religious Education

Peter and Doris Kule Lecturer in Catholic Religious Education - St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta

Accounts from around the globe about the clergy sex abuse scandal and apparent leadership coverups can't help but stir doubt in the hearts of many. Whatever lies at the root of the crisis, there is common ground in the fact that many feel the need to re-anchor themselves in what is most important in the Christian tradition. I've found a rededication to discipleship/friendship with Jesus and reaffirmation of the family as the heart of the Church as personally helpful. Among other possible religious practices, these for me have been a means of sensing God's grace in a dark time. As someone employed in a Catholic post-secondary institution, I wonder further what a rededication looks like corporally and professionally.

One important step toward re-anchoring the promise and gift of Catholic education is to recall the lives of teachers in our schools who often do excellent work despite the challenges faced. One particular group of interest for me are educator-coaches in our schools. I interviewed ten of them in Edmonton Catholic Schools a few years ago and reflected on the way they acted like religious educators. Many of them had studied at St. Joseph's College or Newman Theological College. I asked them about their experiences of coaching sports

at a Catholic school—whether at the elementary or secondary levels.

What I found is that these educator-coaches in Catholic school sporting programs often acted like religious educators, broadly speaking. They formed community, told me stories about prayer, supported disadvantaged people through works of charity and justice, and even noted a few examples of instruction on discipleship and proclamation of the Christian faith. Let me offer you some examples. One coach at a sports academy noted how many of the youth did “not come from a great home life” and that educator-coaches “try to provide a sense of family for these students.” Examples of building long-lasting relationships among players and coaches were prominent. At first thought, prayers of thanksgiving or petition might seem out of place in sport, but these coaches recalled examples where the secular world of sport made room for the sacred. At one elite high school program, a coach recalled leading a team prayer before a game “for a moment of grounding” where they prayed for health and good competition and recognized that the game is “not cutthroat.” Many of the educator-coaches saw merciful service as vital to their work as teachers and coaches. Stories of assisting the lives of immigrant students or those with hard home lives fed these coaches' desire to serve. One explained, “Jesus obviously asked us to serve others...and I think [coaching is] just a way of giving...[and can be] a Christ-like thing.” Verbal instruction and proclamation of faith were less common ways of religious education, but at the right moment coaches could preach it. One coach had a life-threatening experience in his own youth and often drew from that situation to speak about what's most important in life. A younger coach, who at first hadn't

thought she had connected spiritually with a player, recalled that she had. She was surprised by the youth's willingness to speak about religious things in a sporting environment.

I provide these stories as a way of recalling the many good things done in Catholic schools today. Sport-coaches, for instance, frequently lead students to make better decisions that support the ethos of the schools. Of course, considering evangelization outside of the RE classroom doesn't mean that knowledge-based learning is unnecessary. However, there is a role for all staff in Catholic schools to play in supporting a gospel-based school ethos. The integration of religious learning can happen within the broader school community, like in athletic programs that consciously support ways of bringing religious education to athletes. Without such efforts, bringing about a religious dimension to the school gets relegated to only morning prayer and religion class. Intentional efforts and formal structures are needed to consider how sport can act as a place for religious education.

We all have a part to play in building up Catholic education. Instead of falling prey to despair in the current ecclesial crisis, there are ways that Catholics already perform a great service to the Body of Christ and all society. Let's build off of all that's good in our tradition as disciples of Jesus.

¹ Part of this research project was published as M. Hoven and T. Egli (2019) “How Do Sport Educator-Coaches Contribute to RE in Catholic Schools?” in *Global Perspectives on Catholic Education, Volume II*, edited by M. Buchanan and A.M. Gellel. Singapore: Springer, 481-495. Contact the author if you wish to have a copy of the chapter.

“Catholic schools participate in the Church’s evangelizing mission of bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth.” (Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, The Holy See’s teaching on catholic schools, vii). Catholic schools evangelize by proclaiming the Gospel in their community and allowing members to respond freely in faith. Through their lived witness of their relationship with Christ, teachers are models of faith who reveal Christ to their students on a daily basis.



Fruits of this witness were realized at the Easter vigil in Christ The Redeemer parishes. God showered His gifts upon the CTR students, staff, and parents who received the sacraments of initiation at the Easter vigil. In total, 33 students, 2 teachers, and 4 parents were baptized and 11 students and 2 parents received the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. Participation in Catholic Education inspired these people to embark on this wonderful journey.

In Brooks, 3 teachers formed a parish RCIA and RCIC team that journeyed throughout the year with catechumens, candidates, and sponsors. At the Easter vigil, 8 students and one teacher were baptized. Additionally, 11 students and 2 parents received the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. A testament of their witness of faith, 9 teachers were chosen to sponsor the students on this blessed journey. A beautiful moment for Catholic Education in the Brooks community.

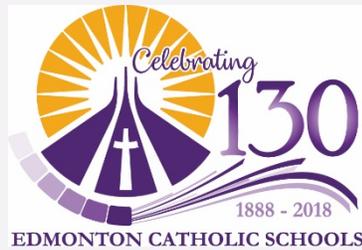


St. James parish, Okotoks, worked with CTR schools to promote sacramental preparation for students older than Grade 2. A teacher worked with the parish coordinator to animate monthly preparation meetings for 22 students (including 2 teenagers). Two entire families – parents and children – were baptized as part of this process! These students loved their experience of faith at school and inspired their parents to join the parish’s RCIA program. Their entire family was baptized as a result. What an example of evangelization as a result of their involvement in Catholic Education!

“First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in



Jesus Christ reveals His transforming love and truth.” (Pope Benedict XVI, 2008) The gift of Catholic education allows students and their families to encounter God in their lives. The initial encounter at school led to an openness to welcoming God into their lives. This openness allowed students, staff, and parents to receive the sacraments of initiation and becoming members of the Catholic Church. When Catholic schools allow time and space for students to encounter God, miracles certainly occur!



Celebrating 130 Years of Excellent Catholic Education

This has been such a special year for Edmonton Catholic Schools as we celebrated our 130th anniversary of providing excellent Catholic education to the families of the City of Edmonton. Our anniversary presented us with such a wonderful opportunity to think about how much our District has grown and changed over the years, but it also presented us with an excellent opportunity to reflect upon how much education has changed. We have grown from one school with 23 students in 1888 to a District of 96 schools with over 43,000 students in 2019!

We have moved from small schoolhouses to virtual classrooms, from slates to digital tablets, and from reading, writing, and arithmetic to a vast array of subjects for study. Teaching and learning are now all about innovation, inquiry, and unlocking every aspect of a student's potential as a child of God.

We were so fortunate to have 3 Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus as our founders, but as our District has grown and religious orders have used their members in so many other vital roles, we have also been blessed to have so many lay Catholics embrace their vocation to help our students come to know and love Jesus.

There have been so many events to engage our communities in celebration and reflection over the course of this year. November 2, 2018, marked the exact anniversary of our opening, and schools and sites across the District celebrated with a special Liturgy of the Word. January saw an entertaining ECSD Oil Kings game day event where our Trustees and Superintendent participated in the puck drop and a Principal, an Assistant Principal, and one of our District Chaplains competed against each other in an exciting intermission challenge! This event also raised over \$2500 for our Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation.

In recognition of the legacy of Catholic education in our community, locally, nationally, and internationally, our Student Senate ran a [Humans of ECSD – Where Are They Now?](#) campaign. These high school representatives interviewed people who had graduated from their school communities and asked them to describe in their own voice the depth and richness Catholic education provides. The launch of this project coincided with Catholic Education Week and provided an opportunity to articulate the unique blessing that is Catholic education.

As our year draws to a close and our schools and sites will look back with gratitude on the past many months of growing together in Christ, they will all have the opportunity to end the year as we began, with a special 130th anniversary liturgy.

Catholic education is truly a gift to any community, and Edmonton Catholic Schools is both proud and grateful to have been an integral part of the fabric of Edmonton for 130 glorious years!

Submitted by Susan Makale

HFCRD Schools Walk 3266km in Support of Migrants and Refugees

Posted on May 16, 2019



In celebration of Catholic Education Week from May 6th to 10th, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division (HFCRD) schools walked 3266km with *Share the Journey*, an international campaign in support of migrants and refugees introduced by Pope Francis. Students and staff across HFCRD symbolically walked with migrants and refugees to bring awareness to the realities that migrants and refugees face.

Pope Francis has challenged the faithful to embrace the experience of migrants and refugees by participating in a symbolic walk of solidarity with our sisters and brothers. His Grace set a cumulative goal for all participating to walk a total of five laps around the world. HFCRD schools' contribution equals 1.6% of the total goal of circling the globe five times. The total distance of 3266km will be added to the final total that is being tracked on the Share the Journey website.

"We are very proud of our students and staff for participating in the Share the Journey campaign. Although they walked an incredible distance, this walk wasn't about the number of kilometers walked, it was about educating the next generation about the international hardships that exist every day," said Superintendent Betty Turpin. "My hope is that through this experience, all participants developed a new sense of gratitude for the many blessings in their lives."

Each HFCRD school hosted their own pilgrimage walk for all students, staff and their school community. Including HFCRD's contributions, the campaign has walked 180,675 kilometers, or 91% of their goal. HFCRD thanks all students, staff, and community members for their participation at their local school.



Congratulations to Evergreen Catholic Schools for raising, per pupil, the largest amount for CCSTA'S Toonies for Tuition Campaign.

ACSTA @ACSTANews · May 6
Rejoice and be Glad - Celebrating Catholic Education Week May 6-10
#BelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd
Check out our resources: acsta.ab.ca/resources

Celebrating Catholic Education

Rejoice and be Glad!

ACSTA @ACSTANews Follow

An absolutely beautiful way to start the day and begin #CatholicEducationWeek! Truly inspiring and uplifting! Thank you!
#IBelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd

GSACRD Faith @gsacrd_faith
Beautiful way to start a school faith + wellness day. 270+ voices from @EcoleFatherJan offering up a Living Rosary - our spiritual workout. Each student leads a prayer and lights up the darkness. @GSACRD @GACE4cathed #CatholicEducationWeek ...

ACSTA @ACSTANews · May 7
Thank you @GACE4cathed for the prayer intentions for Catholic Education Week and World Catholic Education Day. #IBelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd

Prayers of the Faithful for May

For Catholic Education in Alberta for all the teachers and school administrators and staff of our Catholic Schools, that they all be loving witnesses to our Catholic faith, we pray.

For Catholic Education That our Catholic schools may serve others in word and deed. We pray to the Lord.

For Catholic Education: That the good works of our Catholic schools may reveal Christ's love to others. We pray to the Lord.

For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be strengthened by God's grace, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and encouraged by the example of Christ Jesus. We pray to the Lord.

Celebrate Catholic Education Week - May 6 - 10
World Catholic Education Day - May 30
#BelieveinCatholicEd

St. Thomas More @StThomasMoreECS - May 8
Honoring the diversity and welcoming newcomers, Catholic education contributes to celebrating Canada's mosaic of citizens.
#ECSDFaithInspires #IBelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd #GACE4cathed #CatholicEducationWeek2019

Holy Spirit Schools @HolySpiritCSD · May 29
Join our #hs4 family in prayer and solidarity on Thursday, May 30, 2019, as we wear #BlueforCatholicEd and pray for #WorldCatholicEducationDay - a worldwide annual celebration that takes place 40 days after Easter Sunday, on Ascension Thursday. #Blessed #IBelieveinCatholicEd

#BlueforCatholicEd

- Thursday, May 30, 2019 -
Join us as we wear #BlueforCatholicEd and pray for: **World Catholic Education...**

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
where children are cherished and achieve their potential.

Alberta Teachers Association @albertateachers Following

ATA President Greg Jeffery sends warm wishes for a joyful Catholic Education Week!
#CatholicEducationWeek #abed

Celebrating Catholic Education Week
May 5-10, 2019
This week we celebrate the important place Catholic boards, schools and teachers have in Alberta's public education system

The Alberta Teachers' Association

3:22 pm - 6 May 2019

Dr. Eugenia Kowalczyk @eugiepk · May 6
Celebrating #CatholicEducationWeek Challenging @CusackTim @SusanMiskale @LauraThibert #CatholicEduPassiOn because #IBelieveinCatholicEd #ECSDFaithInspires Post one item and challenge three new people each day
Catholic education is a relationship with Christ-Who is Jesus to you?

ESM @ESMhs4 · May 9
Catholic Education Week at ESM! Students discussed what they love about Sharing and growing in faith together! #IBelieveinCathEd #BlueforCatholicEd #hs4

Lakeland Catholic and 1 other liked
Lakeland Catholic @LCSD_150 · May 9
The @LCSD_150 group at Blueprints. What an awesome way to celebrate Catholic Education Week! -3
#LCSDJoy #IBelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd #Blueprints19

Dr. Eugenia Kowalczyk @eugiepk · May 7
Celebrating #CatholicEducationWeek Challenging a few colleagues from @ecsdjoy @EvergreenMike @SuperECSRD @Everlearning1 because #IBelieveinCatholicEd Post one item and challenge three new people each day #CatholicEduPassiOn Post a photo, poem, prayer, image, book...

By providing spiritual and political leadership, we strive to advocate for publicly funded Catholic education with a unified voice.

Celebrating Catholic Education

Rejoice and be Glad!

Historically, Catholic education has been operating in Alberta since the 1840's and has held both a unique and distinct role in Alberta's public education system. Father Albert Lacrosse at Lac Ste. Anne and the Cray team to St. Albert, established the first schools. Subsequently to them, 100 years later, publicly funded Catholic education is presently serving 141,000 students in 482 schools employing close to 11,000 teachers.

WHAT can We do?

- Wear blue to publicly demonstrate your support for publicly funded Catholic education.
- Bring awareness by sharing information on websites, newsletters, posters, emails, and social media.
- Visit your local Catholic school, why did you choose a Catholic school for your child. Dialogue brings awareness and better understanding. Join the conversation.
- Participate in activities happening at your child's school.
- Share, like, and retweet on social media the importance of publicly funded Catholic education. Follow groups such as Catholic school districts, Catholic schools, the Archbishop, Grandin Media, ACSTA, GACE to get started. Use the hashtag #IBelieveinCatholicEd
- Pay for publicly funded Catholic education
- Invite your views, share, discuss, materials on websites such as:
 - <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/resources>
 - <http://www.ecsdjoy.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/>
 - <http://www.stca.ca/catholic-education-week/>
- Labels cannot change the world, but it can cast a ripple across the sea to create many ripples.

Wear

ACSTA @ACSTANews Follow

ACSTA President Serena Shaw shares, "Catholic education is about the way we address each other and being able to see the face of Christ in everybody we deal with-our students, our parents, or anyone in the public." #IBelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd

Catholic education is more than a class or program; it's a...

Bonnie Spurrell has gathered her Grade 2 students around her to read them a book in her classroom. They look to her, hanging on her every word. But they're also watching her behaviour, her act...

grandinmedia.ca

ECSD @EdmCathSchools · May 7
#HolyTrinityECSD was exactly two years old and four blocks away from my first house when I reached Grade 10. My brother Jeff was already part of the first graduating class and my mother, Cookie, was an English teacher there, so it was a very easy choice for me.

John Tomkinson and 1 other liked
ACSTA @ACSTANews · May 10
Well said @JohnTomkinson, Your advocacy and leadership in Catholic education a blessing to us all. #IBelieveinCatholicEd #BlueforCatholicEd

John Tomkinson @JohnTomkinson
Catholic schools in Alberta support parents, families, and students! We are grateful for the amazing gift of parental choice & #CathEd. As we attend our local @SH_Wetaskiwin junior high track & field day, here's...

Catholic Dimension Summer 2019

Dr. Eugenia Kowalczyk @eugiepk · May 9
Thank you to the thousands of parents across our province who choose Catholic education for their children. You have entrusted us with the care of your most precious love. #IBelieveinCathEd

St. John Paul II @stjp2cs
Yesterday, @stjp2cs experienced an awesome day as students showcased their gifts during track meet day. We did not forget about celebrating Catholic Education. Weds. was a focus of our parents. We asked a few

Holy Spirit Schools @HolySpiritCSD Following

Trustee @PJBremner speaks about the importance and value of #CathEd. #hs4 #IBelieveinCathEd #BlueforCatholicEd

ACSTA @ACSTANews
As part of #CatholicEducationWeek @ACSTANews is pleased to introduce our Board of Directors' our elected Trustees advocating for publicly funded Catholic Education. Today meet @PJBremner from @HolySpiritCSD Hear what Pat has to say about ...

2:05 pm - 9 May 2019

World Catholic Education Day: Minister LaGrange

Education Minister Adriana LaGrange issued the following statement on World Catholic Education Day:



Minister LaGrange celebrating World Catholic Education Day with the students, staff, trustees and parents of St. John XXIII Catholic School in Fort Saskatchewan.

"Today marks World Catholic Education Day, a time to appreciate the role of Catholic education in the lives of children around the world.

"As Minister of Education, it is my pleasure to recognize excellence across Alberta's school system and ensure we live up to the high expectations of all our students and their families.

"Catholic education provides an important choice for parents who wish to place their children in a faith-based learning environment.

"I believe in the importance of a distinct and faith filled education and I am pleased to celebrate the legacy of over 170 years of excellence and ongoing contribution of Catholic education to students, parents and educators across Alberta. God bless."

Minister LaGrange joined students, staff, parents and community members of St. John XXIII Catholic School in Fort Saskatchewan to celebrate World Catholic Education Day.

CCSD @CCSD_edu · May 30

Today is #worldcatholiceducationday #CSDedu and Catholic schools across the province are celebrating the gift of #CatholicEd As a sign of solidarity & support, students and staff are wearing blue. Tell us why you believe in Catholic education! #IBelieveInCatholicEd #CatholicYYC

Adriana LaGrange @AdrianaLaGrange Following

Today marks World Catholic Education Day, a time to appreciate the role of Catholic education in the lives of children around the world. Today I had the pleasure of joining @St_JohnXXIII to celebrate!

Our Lady of Grace @OLG_CCSD Follow

The first line of our OLG school prayer is "Grace our hands with strength, to serve all those in need." Don't forget to donate your assigned item for our Food Bank Summer Stock-up. 🇨🇦

#WearBlueForCatholicEducation
#IBelieveInCatholicEd #GrACE4cathed
@CCSD_edu



ACSTA @ACSTANews · May 30

Our sincere gratitude to Education Minister @AdrianaLaGrange for joining us in celebrating World Catholic Education Day. We remain committed to delivering high quality Catholic education to each and every student across Alberta.
#IBelieveInCatholicEd @jkenney @CCSTACconnect

Red Deer Catholic @rdrcs · May 30

Today is World Catholic Education Day and our Board of Trustees are wearing blue to show their support. Catholic education is an important part of Alberta's public education system and we are blessed to help make Christ known to children. #IBelieveInCatholicEd #blueforCathEd

Alberta Teachers Association @albertateachers · May 30

Wishing a very happy World Catholic Education Day to all of our Catholic teachers and students! #IBelieveInCatholicEd #abed

Catholic education has an important place in Alberta's public education system. Today we celebrate the approximately 12,000 Alberta teachers who teach in Catholic schools.

—Greg Jeffery, ATA president

The Alberta Teachers' Association