



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

P.O. Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Kathy Burtnik, *President*  
Bob Schreader, *Vice President*  
Kevin Kobus, *Executive Director*

June 8, 2015

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Dr. Brian O'Sullivan, Director, Catholic Education

**SUBJECT:** **Catholic Education: *Opening Doors of Mercy***  
**L'éducation catholique: *ouvrir des portes de miséricorde***  
**Theme for Catholic Education Week 2016, May 1-6**

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*“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” – Matthew 5:7*  
*“Heureux les miséricordieux, car ils obtiendront miséricorde.” – Matthieu 5,7*

It is a pleasure to announce the theme for Catholic Education Week 2016:

**Catholic Education: *Opening Doors of Mercy***  
**L'éducation catholique: *ouvrir des portes de miséricorde***

Pope Francis has declared 2016 a “Holy Year of Mercy” as a way for the Catholic Church to “make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy”. The year will be celebrated from December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016. Throughout the year there will be a series of jubilee celebrations on the theme of mercy for teenagers, deacons, the sick and disabled, prisoners, catechists and clergy. As well, Pope Francis will open the Vatican’s Holy Door (see photo) on December 8. The Holy Door is opened to evoke the concept of forgiveness, which is the main focus of a Holy Year.

The theme of human sin and God’s mercy is illustrated in 15 of the 16 bronze panels that make up the current Vatican door, with episodes from both the Old and New Testament, including the Fall of Adam and Eve, the Annunciation, and the merciful Father and the Prodigal Son.

Catholic Education Week 2016, combines both the theme of mercy and the act of opening doors of reconciliation, mercy, and forgiveness to all around us.

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2016 are as follows:

- Monday: **Mercy that Welcomes** – (*Jesus and the Woman at the Well*)  
**La miséricorde qui accueille** – (*Jésus et la Samaritaine*)
- Tuesday: **Mercy that Loves** – (*The Good Samaritan*)  
**La miséricorde qui aime** – (*Le bon Samaritain*)
- Wednesday: **Mercy that Forgives** – (*The Prodigal Son*)  
**La miséricorde qui pardonne** – (*L'enfant prodigue*)
- Thursday: **Mercy that Lives the Gospel** – (*Zacchaeus*)  
**La miséricorde qui vit l'Évangile** – (*Zachée*)
- Friday: **Mercy that Rejoices** – (*Healing of the Paralytic*)  
**La miséricorde qui rend grâce** – (*La guérison du paralysé*)

**Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique**

Dieu d'amour et de compassion,  
Aide-nous à ouvrir des portes de miséricorde dans nos communautés scolaires,  
dans nos familles et dans le monde.  
Que ta miséricorde guide nos vies et nous conduise au cœur de l'Évangile.  
Comme ton fils Jésus, que nous vivions de cette miséricorde  
qui accueille à bras ouverts, aime sans compter et pardonne sans détour;  
car c'est par ta miséricorde que tu nous appelles à te suivre dans la joie. Amen.

**Catholic Education Week Prayer**

God of Love and compassion,  
help us to open the door of mercy in our school communities,  
in our families and in the world.  
Let mercy guide our living and bring us closer to the heart of the gospel.  
May we live as Jesus with mercy that welcomes, loves, forgives  
and calls us to live the gospel joyfully. Amen.

You will be provided with further updates after we have met with our new provincial Catholic Student Trustee Executive.

Please share this information with your school administrators as well as your board's Faith Consultants, Chaplains and Faith Ambassadors.



Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

