

**TO:** Directors of Education

**CC:** Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario  
Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario  
Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education  
Ontario Catholic School Business Officials Association  
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association  
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association  
Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

**FROM:** Michael Pautler  
Executive Director

**DATE:** Friday, December 2, 2016

**RE:** **Secondary Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document**

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At the October, 2016 Plenary meeting of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops Of Ontario, the bishops gave formal approval to a revised Religious Education curriculum for secondary schools. The new document, **Religious Education -- Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 9-12 (2016)**, has been posted on the website for the Institute for Catholic Education ([www.iceont.ca](http://www.iceont.ca)).

The revised curriculum, which replaces the 2006 curriculum, has been updated, is better aligned in structure and format to current Ministry of Education curriculum documents, and is fully aligned to build upon the foundation of Religious Education that is provided in elementary schools as the **Religious Education – Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8 (2012)** is fully implemented. Because of the importance and the extent of learning to be undertaken in Religious Education, it remains the position of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario that students in Catholic secondary schools should take a course in Religious Education in each year of secondary school. The goal for students should be four credits in this area towards their diploma.

The curriculum posted on the ICE website has been developed as an electronic document, and provides active links to a variety of additional resources and references. The Pdf file is available for download, and is in a print-ready format. As many Boards may wish to provide hard copies of the resource document to your secondary Religious Education teachers, print copies will be available for order at a cost of \$9.95 per copy. Arrangements have been made with Maracle Press to publish the document. The ICE website will provide a direct link to order copies when available. Orders will be shipped directly from Maracle press, and invoicing for print copies will be directly between purchasers and the publisher.

ICE will be working with the Catholic Curriculum Corporations (CCC and EOCCC) and the ICE partners to consider the development of supplementary documents such as course profiles. The ACBO will consider entering into discussion with publishing partners, exploring the possibility of developing texts and/or e



learning resources to support the revised curriculum. The revised policy takes effect immediately, but as is the case with all subject areas, it is understood that policy implementation is a process, and Boards will work towards full implementation as staff become familiar with the revised guidelines, and as resources become available, in a manner comparable to the elementary Religious Education policy document that took effect upon publication in 2012, and which continues to be an ongoing implementation process for Boards today.

As always, your support for the Institute for Catholic Education, and the work we do on behalf of the partners in Catholic Education is very much appreciated. ICE would be pleased to assist Catholic school Boards in any way with job-embedded information sessions as you work to develop plans at the local level to introduce the new policy document to your staff, and to begin to implement the program within your secondary schools.

