

INTRODUCTION SEPTEMBER 2018

The new school year offers us an opportunity to reflect upon our personal, professional and spiritual growth and to set some new goals.

The theme chosen for the upcoming 2019 Catholic Education Week is:

Catholic Education: *Living as Joyful Disciples*
L'éducation catholique: *Vivre en disciples joyeux*

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic school boards. It will run from May 5 – May 10, 2019.

The theme for CEW 2019, *Living as Joyful Disciples*, was inspired by three sources:

- *Renewing the Promise*, The Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario
- *Gaudete et exultate*, The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness¹
- *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, The Synod of Bishops in October 2018²

Mindful of the upcoming Synod on Youth, the theme and sub-themes are very much directed to the young people in our schools, especially in their growth in holiness and their formation as disciples of Christ through the discernment of their vocational pathways.

In the section of *Renewing the Promise* entitled, “A Community that Forms Joyful Disciples,” we read: “*Our Catholic schools help to form joyful disciples as hearts and minds are opened to the transforming love of God and to the flame of faith in action. On a daily basis, Catholic schools demonstrate the joy of believing and witness the Good News to the communities that they serve.*”

I would very much like to thank the consultants from nine of our English and French Catholic boards who worked with me to craft the 2019 CEW theme and sub-themes. These writers will also be producing resources for our Catholic school boards for Advent and for Catholic Education Week in May 2019.

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2019 are as follows:

- Monday: **Rooted in Prayer / Enracinés dans la prière**
- Tuesday: **Living in Community / Vivre au cœur de la communauté**
- Wednesday: **Doing Justice and Creating Hope / Semer la justice et inspirer l'espérance**
- Thursday: **Journeying Together in Faith / Cheminer ensemble dans la foi**
- Friday: **Sharing the Good News / Partager la bonne nouvelle**

¹ http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exultate.html

² <http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>; <http://www.ocytoronto.org/synod/>



Overall Theme Prayer for Catholic Education Week 2019

Catholic Education Week Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for our Catholic school community where we can journey in faith together. Help us to accompany each other in our learning as we grow, living as joyful disciples of Jesus and bringing good news to the world.

May your love speak to our hearts, helping us to bring hope to others and a commitment to justice in all we do.

We make this prayer through Jesus, our Lord and teacher.

Amen.

Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique

Seigneur,

nous te rendons grâce pour notre communauté scolaire catholique qui nous permet de cheminer ensemble dans la foi. Aide-nous à nous accompagner les uns les autres dans nos apprentissages alors que nous voulons vivre en disciples joyeux de Jésus et porter la Bonne Nouvelle au monde.

Que ton amour nous parle au coeur et nous aide à être porteurs d'espérance à travers notre engagement continu pour la justice.

Nous te le demandons, par Jésus Christ, notre Seigneur et notre maître.

Amen.

