

2013-2014 CBC Initiative:

A Provincial wide simultaneous Mass



Each year, Catholic School Boards celebrate Catholic Education Week, marking the week with many faith-filled activities and emphasizing the unique opportunities that come from a Catholic education.

This year, we, the Catholic Board Council (CBC) would like to propose something that has never been done before amongst our Catholic schools and which would unite and strengthen us, in our Catholic faith.

For 2013-2014, the Catholic Board Council is proposing a project that would spread the word of God to all Ontario Catholic Secondary Students by holding one simultaneous Mass, to be said on the same date at the same time, at each Catholic high school in the province of Ontario, during Catholic Education Week.

- When:** The Mass would take place on the selected date of MAY 7TH, 2014, to coincide with Catholic Education Week
- Where:** To take place within the schools at their regular Mass location (i.e. Gym, church)
- Why:** To celebrate Mass in a unique way, bringing together Catholic Secondary Students in the province of Ontario, united in the strength of their faith. To celebrate the Eucharist as one large united Catholic student body.
- Why** To inspire our Catholic secondary students who no longer practice their faith to begin turning back to their churches with this inspirational community building celebration.
- How** A letter has been written and is being sent to his Holiness, Pope Francis. Pope Francis has shown through many of his actions that he wishes to connect with



his people. Never has a Pope before Pope Francis used social media as extensively to connect with his congregation, especially the youth.

Our letter explains our purpose and hope for one united Mass in our Province; to unite ourselves through one powerful faith-filled experience and invite Pope Francis to connect with Ontario secondary students through the wonders of technology by perhaps recording a video message directly to Ontario students that can be broadcast at this Mass.

We truly believe that Pope Francis may connect in some way with his Ontario young Catholics, because he has shown through many recent newspaper articles that he wants very much to reach out amongst his people and touch their lives.

The CBC, in consultation with diocesan and parish representatives, would put a Mass template together for each school to follow and would include the songs and readings that are to be used. This would then be presented to all Board Administrators throughout our province, requesting their own boards support us in this unique, faith-filled initiative. This is not about setting records, or gathering media attention – this is about uniting all Catholic students together through the very core of our faith (celebrating Mass and the Eucharist) and demonstrating to students how truly wonderful it is, to be Catholic. They are not alone – there are many of us. From OSTA (Ontario Student Trustee Association) conferences and CBC meetings, student trustees would be asked to get their school boards involved and excited about this initiative. With all stakeholders on board, this project can take place.

"Dear young friends. If we want it to have real meaning and fulfilment, as you want and as you deserve, I say to each one of you, "Put on faith", and your life will take on a new flavour, it will have a compass to show you the way; "put on hope" and every one of your days will be enlightened and your horizon will no longer be dark, but luminous; "put on love", and your life will be like a house built on rock, your journey will be joyful, because you will find many friends to journey with you." Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Rio, 2013

With God, anything is possible. With God, everything is possible.