



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 www.ocsta.on.ca

Kathy Burtnik, *President*
Bob Schreder, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

November 10, 2015

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

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

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 1-6, 2016**
“Catholic Education: *Opening Doors of Mercy*”

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” Matthew 5:7

As we approach the Advent season, we are reminded that publicly funded Catholic education is a call to service. Regardless of our position or our responsibilities within Catholic education, our role is a call, birthed in our Baptism to bring the saving message of Jesus Christ into the lives of those students whom it is our privilege to serve. This year's CEW theme, “*Opening Doors of Mercy*” coincides with Pope Francis' announcement of a Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy. Beginning in December 2015 and going until November 2016, this year is an important opportunity to show mercy and inclusiveness to those who feel marginalized in our Catholic community. The Vatican has organized a series of year-long events to promote pilgrimage, to have compassion for prisoners, the physically and emotionally challenged and to celebrate the good works of those in service work in our communities, including clergy, volunteers and youth. Our CEW biblical quote, “*Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy*” (Matthew 5:7) acknowledges the important role of mercy that unites our Catholic community and demonstrates to other world faiths, the role of faith, compassion and forgiveness in our relationship with others – locally, nationally and globally.

Attached, please find the Advance Kit for Catholic Education Week. I would like to thank our team of educators from our English and French Catholic boards of education for their work involved in preparing this resource.

Included with this memo is a copy of the Advance Kit for Catholic Education Week. The Advance Kit is designed to help adult groups (trustees, school board staff, Catholic school advisory councils, parent groups, parish groups, associations, etc.) prepare for Catholic Education Week with prayer services and reflection activities beginning in Advent. School Resource Kits will be sent by the end of February 2016. The Advance Kit is available on the OCSTA website at: www.ocsta.on.ca.

Please provide copies of this memo and attachments to all principals, religious education consultants, chaplains, communication officers, school councils and other appropriate staff.