



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: Renewing the Promise: The Pastoral Letter of the Ontario Catholic Bishops about Catholic Education

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to share with you, “**Renewing the Promise**” the newly released pastoral letter by Ontario’s Catholic Bishops. An electronic copy is attached to this memo for your benefit. The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) has also distributed copies to other key stakeholders in Ontario Catholic education. This pastoral letter addresses the contemporary role of Catholic education in our modern society.

“**Renewing the Promise**” is the current statement by the Bishops about Catholic education and its stakeholders in Ontario. Their previous pastoral letters, “**This Moment of Promise**” (1989) and “**Fulfilling the Promise**” (1993) spoke about the importance of Catholic education in Ontario and its shared leadership by many stakeholders. Similar themes were discussed in the survey and discussions generated by **Our Catholic Schools (2006-2007)** in the province.

This pastoral letter is an inspiring document to be read in its entirety. A sample of its message is given below in the excerpt from “**Renewing the Promise**”

“Our Catholic schools offer an extraordinary contribution to the social and environmental fabric of our society and the world. In partnership with parents, who bear the primary responsibility for the education of their children, all those who work in Catholic education are called upon to reflect, in a faithful and discerning fashion, God’s presence in this world.

As we seek to renew the great promise of Catholic education, we are reminded that we bring particular gifts and charisms that are responsive to the signs of our times.”

I invite you to share this letter with all your board and your many stakeholders in Catholic education. “**Renewing the Promise**” will ignite deep discussions for all of us! Continue to pray for this blessed gift of Catholic education in Ontario and many parts of Canada. Enjoy the many activities this week during Catholic Education Week.