

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: Thursday, May 3, 2018

RE: **Renewing the Promise – Pastoral Letter**

When you gathered for the ECCODE meeting last month in Niagara Falls, Tamara Nugent provided an updated regarding plans for distribution of the bishops' pastoral letter, ***Renewing the Promise***. This memo provides additional information regarding the release.

1) Pastoral Letter

The Bishops have provided us with a very positive and affirming message with the release of ***Renewing the Promise***. The letter uses the scriptural account of the Road to Emmaus as the basis for their reflection on the mission and vision of Catholic education, celebrating that a true encounter with Jesus can and does take place, each and every day within our Catholic schools. The bishops encourage all who share responsibility for Catholic education to continue to nurture and strengthen Catholic schools as communities that exemplify, in word and in deed, the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their message is timely, coming as it does at the start of Catholic Education Week. The formal release date for the letter is Monday, May 7, 2018. Included with this email is a digital version of the pastoral letter, should you wish to include it on your Board website. The letter will be posted on both the ACBO website (www.acbo.ca) and the ICE website (www.iceont.ca) early next week.

Printed copies

Copies of the pastoral letter have been printed, and are currently being shipped across the province. Each Board will receive printed copies in the quantity requested, and sufficient to ensure that each employee within your organization can receive a print copy of the letter. The first of the school board shipments should arrive today, with the majority of boards receiving shipments tomorrow, and the last of the shipments should be received by early next week. Catholic partner organizations will also receive copies of the pastoral letter by the beginning of Catholic Education Week. As size and circumstance vary, each Board will determine the



timing for release and distribution of the letters in a way that supports local plans, priorities and opportunities.

Next Steps

Over the summer, an ICE writing team will develop discussion guides and resources to support your efforts to facilitate dialogue and to assist you in exploring the Bishop's pastoral letter during the 2018-2019 school year with your local community. In the weeks that follow, ICE will also continue to develop and release a series of monographs, exploring themes first raised though the symposium last Fall.

We look forward to working with you to support purposeful and positive discussion of ***Renewing the Promise***. As always, your interest, encouragement, and support of these initiatives, and of the Institute for Catholic Education, are very much appreciated.

Attachment: Renewing the Promise: A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education

