



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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March 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Brian O'Sullivan, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 5 – May 10, 2019**
Catholic Education: *Living as Joyful Disciples*

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2019, “*Living as Joyful Disciples*,” reminds us 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 and their families whom it is our privilege to serve.

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, “Catholic Education: *Living as Joyful Disciples*” and will be celebrated during the week of May 5 – May 10. The theme for CEW 2019 was inspired by three sources: *Renewing the Promise*, The Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario; *Gaudete et exsultate*, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness; and *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, the October 2018 Synod of Bishops. Mindful of the 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.*”

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I would like to highlight several points leading up to CEW 2019:

- The CEW theme song has been posted on the OCSTA website. Schools and boards can download this copy for their CEW activities.
- Please note that the 2019 CEW posters have been produced in both English and French in acknowledgement of the collaboration between our English and French Catholic school boards. We believe these posters will be very popular with French programs offered in your school boards. These will be mailed to your school board by early March.
- All CEW materials are posted on our website at www.goodnewsforall.ca.

I would like to conclude by wishing all of you a wonderful 2019 Catholic Education Week. Please do not hesitate to contact me at bosullivan@ocsta.on.ca if you have further questions.

Sincerely in Catholic Education,



Brian O'Sullivan, MA, Ed., D.
Director of Catholic Education, OCSTA

