



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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February 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – April 30 – May 5, 2023**
Catholic Education: *We Are Many, We Are One*
L'éducation catholique: *À plusieurs, nous sommes un*

"We who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)

As you know, each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the distinct identity and significant contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, "Catholic Education: *We Are Many, We Are One*" and will take place during the week of April 30 – May 5.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2023 was inspired by the following considerations:

- The Church worldwide has embarked on a synodal process, "a synod on synodality," which centres on intentional listening: listening to each other and listening to the Holy Spirit. We have each been asked to actively reach out and listen to the voices and experiences of people where they are at and consider what steps the Holy Spirit is inviting us to take as we walk together. As the Catholic Bishops of Ontario highlighted in *Renewing the Promise*, "It is about taking the time to walk alongside one another, to listen and to teach, and in doing so, to transform."
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the importance of Indigenous culture and spirituality as we move forward together.
- The commitment of Catholic school boards to promote the dignity of the human person. Pope Francis' encyclical entitled, *Fratelli Tutti*, will guide us in this good work
- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being exacerbated by the pandemic makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

I would like to highlight several points leading up to Catholic Education Week 2023:

- The CEW theme song has been posted on the OCSTA website. Schools and boards can download this copy for their CEW activities.
- The CEW poster has been sent to all Catholic District School Boards for distribution to your schools.
- All CEW materials are posted on our website at: www.goodnewsforall.ca.
- A Catholic Education Week Eucharistic celebration will be held on May 3 – 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica in Toronto. The mass will be livestreamed.

Attached please find a copy of the CEW Resource Kit as well as posters, 2 for your board office and 1 poster for each Catholic school.

I would like to express deep appreciation to Anne O’Brien, Director of Catholic Education and all of the members of the OCSTA Catholic Education Week Committee for their vision and efforts developing the valuable 2023 materials. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Anne O’Brien at aobrien@ocsta.on.ca if you have further questions.

On behalf of the OCSTA Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you and the school systems you lead for all you do to celebrate/promote the precious gift of publicly funded Catholic education and for our shared commitment to **“place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre”** of students’ learning experiences.

