



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

November 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 5 – May 10, 2024**
“Catholic Education: *We are called to love*”

“If we love one another, God lives in us.” 1 John 4:12

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 reality elevates our duties and responsibilities to another plane. Left to our own strengths and abilities, the task seems and is very challenging, but we are not alone in this task. Jesus promised us the abiding strength of the Holy Spirit to be with us always – not just for a century or two at the church’s beginning, but always. But the promise is predicated on our faithful and faith-filled response to that call to service following the example of Jesus who said, “I am in the midst of you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27)

Catholic Education Week begins on Sunday, May 5 – May 10, 2024. This year’s Catholic Education Week theme is “*We are called to love*” The theme for CEW 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope.” With open hearts of love, we can continue to “fan the flame of hope” for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and

as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, “He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers.”

- The theme of the synod, “Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,” invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other’s wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God’s children are loved unconditionally.

Attached, please find the Advance Kit for Catholic Education Week. All Catholic Education Week materials are posted on our website at: www.goodnewsforall.ca. I would like to thank our team of educators from our English and French Catholic boards for their work involved in preparing this resource.

We ask that you please forward this resource to your school and board staff who are responsible for overseeing materials related to CEW 2024.

Attachments