



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

March 20, 2024

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

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

RE: **OCSTA Catholic Education Leadership Speaker Series:
Catholic Social Teachings on Social Media
April 3, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

“Of particular concern to us as Bishops is research indicating the amount of time persons are spending on social media, and the effect that such extensive use has on users’ mental health and general well-being. Given the average global human life span of 73.4 years, with the average global social media user engaging for 147 minutes per day, at present each of us will spend an estimated six years and eight months of our lives on social media, in contrast to three years and seven months spent eating and drinking.”

Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media, January 24, 2024 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Among the key issues generating concern among Catholic education leaders is the impact of social media on the mental health and overall well-being of students in our schools. To provide current insight and strategies for Catholic Trustees on these matters, OCSTA is launching a 3-part, virtual evening speaker series featuring leading presenters on this topic.



The series will begin on April 3rd with The Most Rev. Scott McCaig, Bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Canada. Bishop McCaig will be discussing the recently released Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media.

Developed by the CCCB’s Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, this timely document acknowledges the prominent role social media has come to play at an individual and societal level and considers the benefits and dangers of social media from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching. It provides tools for moral reflection and self-examination and suggests commitments by which to be guided for a more ethical use of social media.

This first presentation in the series will establish the Catholic social teachings foundation regarding social media usage considerations. We hope you will mark the dates for all three sessions in this series, which are as follows:

1. CCCB – Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media – Presented by The Most Rev. Scott McCaig: April 3, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
2. Impact of Social Media Use and Strategies for Empowering Children – Presented by Margot Denomme, Criminal Lawyer and Laurie McCann, Constable and Media Relations Officer, Toronto Police Services: April 10, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
3. Social Media and Supporting Student Well-Being in Ontario’s Catholic Schools – Presented by CDSB Representatives (Names TBA): May 22, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

OCSTA Conversations

These presentations are part of OCSTA’s priority on encouraging conversations and sharing information with regards to the Catholic identity of publicly funded Catholic education, current issues in education and supporting the role of Catholic Trustees.

The length of each session will be approximately 90 minutes in total, with 60 minutes dedicated to the formal presentation and a further 30 minutes set aside for audience questions.

There is no charge for attending this event and we encourage all Trustees and other Catholic education leaders to register in advance – please see information below to complete registration:

OCSTA Catholic Education Leadership Speaker Series

“Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media” with Bishop Scott McCaig, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

WHEN: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

FORMAT: Virtual (Zoom) – no fee to attend

REGISTRATION: Click on the link below to complete the registration.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrde2uqTkrEtHK2W8LIEbDi_scdrsQrRSc

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining this OCSTA event.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact Sharon McMillan at smcmillan@ocsta.on.ca.