

GrACE Newsletter

May 2024

Message from the GrACE Executive Director

Maintaining and advancing Catholic education in a rapidly changing and increasingly secular society!

Dear GrACE Apostles,

Catholic education faces a challenging period, with numerous pressures confronting our Schools, Teachers, Trustees and Clergy.

As Catholics, it is crucial to meet these challenges with resilience, collaboration, and a profound dedication to our faith and values.

Uniting as communities of Students, Parents, Parishioners, Educators, and Clergy is vital for overcoming these obstacles.

Archbishop Smith, the Alberta Bishops' liaison for Catholic education, highlighted the significance of active engagement with educational and community partners at our GrACE summit.

This includes schools, parishes, Catholic Social Services, and healthcare, which bolsters our ability to tackle the issues facing students, parents, and teachers.

Such cooperation creates a supportive environment where resources and ideas are exchanged, enhancing the resilience of the Catholic educational system.



Maintaining the unique character and mission of Catholic education is fundamental. It transcends academics, embedding values, ethics, and community awareness in students.

Rooting our efforts in hope and faith allows us to manage societal complexities while focusing on comprehensive education.

By working collaboratively, we can secure our children's future success amidst the intricacies of modern society. This involves empowering children with hope, fortified by our faith in Jesus Christ, a source of strength and inspiration.

Our faith directs the Catholic education movement and extends into the broader world, fostering hope and resilience in the face of secularism.

Catholic education underscores the duty of all Catholics to actively embody and disseminate our faith, including serving, defending, and promoting Catholic teachings and values within the school setting and the wider community.

Blessings and much love.

'Jesus, I trust in You!'

Kate

Executive Director | GrACE

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Inside the **May**

2024



Newsletter

Courage to Lead: Fostering Unity and Renewed Commitment to Catholic Education

GrACE began as a conversation within the Catholic education community to 'weave together the voices of Catholic education in a common vision to share both the value and necessity of Catholic education but now — all together — GrACE fuels a Catholic Education Movement throughout Alberta and beyond!

The Collective Spirit of Catholic Education

Catholic Education and Canada's Legal Context

Catholic Education Rights

Freedom of Religion for Canada's Catholics

Virtue and Vigilance

The importance of Catholic public involvement

Apostles for Catholic Education

Maintaining and advancing Catholic education in an increasingly secular society

Connect with GrACE Online

Follow, repost; share, support and cheer for publicly funded Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond.

Never Miss Out!

Subscribe to GrACE's Monthly Newsletter and more: Hit the Subscribe Link at the end of this Newsletter

The message from GrACE's 2024 Summit



GrACE inspire . invigorate . embolden

The Importance of Unity, Courage and Collective Action!

The GrACE Summit surfaced incredibly powerful and inspiring messages, emphasizing the importance of unity, courage and collective action to ensure Catholic education not only survives but thrives throughout Alberta and beyond.

Catholic Education is Evangelization:

Catholic schools play a crucial role in the Church's evangelizing mission by bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

They are particularly significant as places of evangelization for our young people.

Throughout history, Catholic education has molded our Students in their Christian life and their future salvation. This has involved active participation in the sacraments and growing in the knowledge and truth of the Catholic faith.

The Call to Lead:

The Church encourages us as Catholics, alongside our educational leaders, to live out our role as mission-focused vocations in service to Christ and families.

We all have a role to play in strengthening our Catholic identity; by building a Catholic culture; fostering faith development and integrating Church traditions and doctrinal practices.

Answering the Call – Communion of Catholics:

We need to pray for Catholic education and also to take action to defend it.

The call goes beyond our Catholic educators to each and every Catholic to uphold and advance the mission of Catholic education.

God chooses the unlikely - just as he did his first Disciples – to spread the good news.

We too are called – despite what might be our hesitations – to make a stand for Catholic education.

In support of Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond, we Catholics have unity; a purpose and an urgency to lead with courage and faith.

We must be driven from the ground up with grassroots support rooted in prayer and the desire to fulfill God's will for us.

As Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, 'put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch' (Luke 5,4),

No-one is on their own:

We all have a contribution to make rooted in our Catholic beliefs and safe and secure in God's love and our Catholic faith.



As the Chair of Grace and also the Bishop's liaison, Archbishop Smith symbolizes that our Schools are bound to the Church and her mission which is to announce Jesus Christ.

He often talks of Catholic education as Catholic work versus the work done by Catholics and that it acts in the name of the Church and is accountable to her.



The history and story of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a cherished gift for which we are all grateful!

As stewards of this gift, it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that our faith-based education remains steadfast.

The Mission of our Catholic Schools is to lead the Students to know; love and follow Jesus Christ.



The key to our success as a Catholic Education Movement – just like the emphasis and pattern of the early Church – is participation and encouragement; support and outreach to anyone and everyone that we can enrol in our cause.

The early Church thrived on active participation.

Believers were not mere spectators; they engaged fully

The ultimate outcome of Catholic education is heaven.

Our Children are God's Children, and He wants them, as he wants all of us, to be with Him forever.

To learn that He is the one trustworthy, foundational reference point in all things.

in worship, community life, and evangelization.



Through participation and dialogue at the GrACE Summit, we strengthened our collective resolve to ensure the continued success and widespread benefits of Catholic education.

We heard from speakers about the past, present and the future of the GrACE Catholic education movement throughout Alberta and beyond.

After each presentation, groups led by facilitators spent about 20 minutes discussing the following questions:

What did we learn that we didn't know before?

and

How does our history, for example, or our present, serve GrACE's Catholic Education Movement to preserve, promote, and enhance Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond?

The End Result

- A guide/document for Parents; Parishioners and Local GrACE Committees
- A product/report for GrACE's partners – Alberta; NWT and the Yukon's Bishops; ACTSA and CCSSA to include:
 - Summary of presentations by the Speakers
 - Feedback from the facilitated Workshops
 - Action piece: How might we lead courageously in support of Catholic education?
 - How in unity with our Bishops and our ACSTA and CCSSA partners we begin to build a Catholic education movement throughout Alberta and beyond?



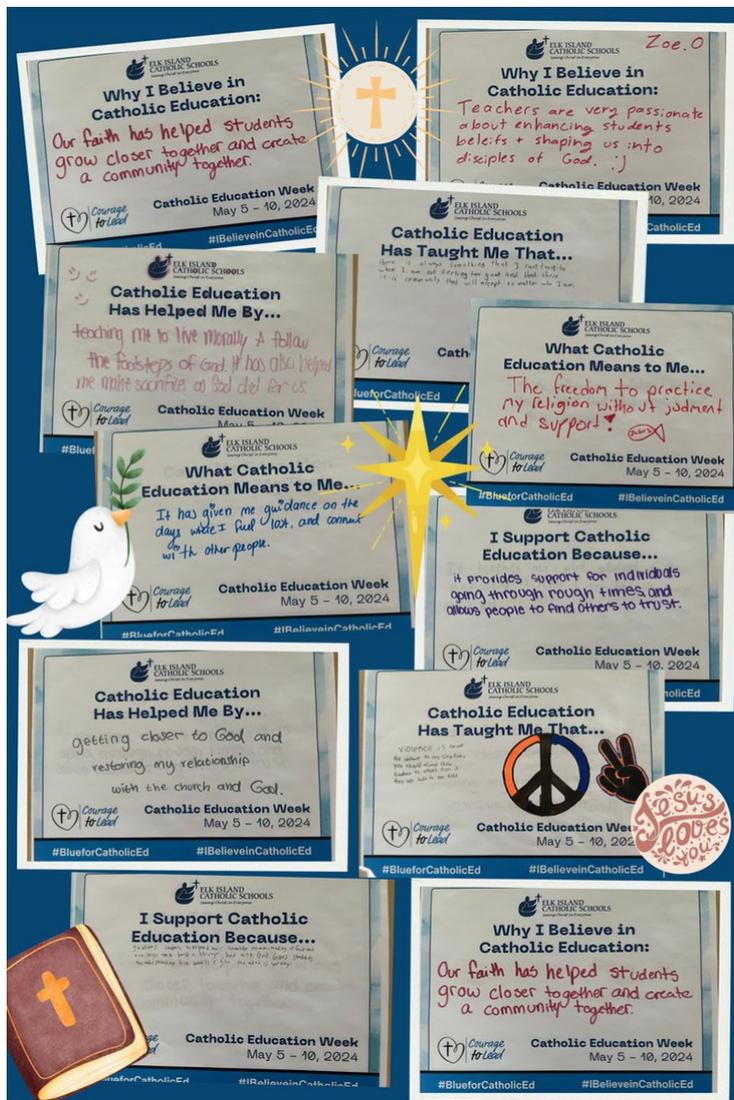


Calgary Catholic School District at the GrACE Summit

Director of Catholicity, John Wasch beautifully led music ministry during Mass and shared the history of Catholic education in Alberta for his presentation at the GrACE Summit.

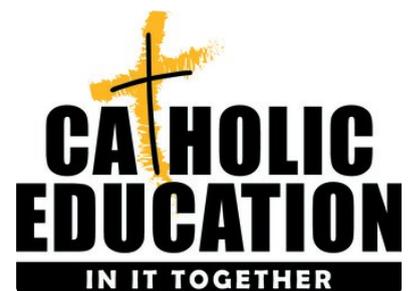


Lynne McLaughlin (Teacher Chaplain), Jessica Thomas (Superintendent, People Services), Nick Simoni (Teacher Chaplain), John Wasch (Director of Catholicity), Caij Meloche (Teacher Chaplain), Lili Szakony (K-6 Religious Education and Family Life Consultant), Lory Lovinelli (Trustee)



The collective spirit of Catholic Education

This intentional effort to build a strong Catholic culture within our educational environment created a fertile ground for the holistic development of students, nurturing their faith, fostering creativity, cultivating compassion, promoting cultural awareness, and empowering them to become courageous leaders who make a positive impact in the world.



In our Catholic schools, art surpasses mere aesthetics.

It is not limited to canvases and sculptures.

Art serves as a divine dialect that resonates with the soul, an active manifestation of our beliefs, and plays an integral part in nurturing a dynamic Catholic culture in educational contexts.

It weaves a dynamic link, connecting the tangible with the ethereal.

Through interaction with art, students gain exposure to the splendor of their creed and are inspired to reflect on its profound messages and importance.

Such engagement fosters attributes like empathy, cultural insight, and bravery, molding our students into leaders who propagate the splendor and veracity of their faith to the world.

It also leaves a profound and enduring legacy in wider society, shaping communities for generations to come.



Building "cathedrals of culture": 10 Catholic school districts gather at Archdiocesan offices for Witness Through Art event - caedm

From portraits of Jesus to St. Mother Teresa to the words of Scripture, students from the 10 school divisions in the Edmonton Archdiocese share their God-given talents as a way to build Catholic culture and community in our Archdiocese. Over 150 students, parents and educators gathered on May 7 for "Witness Through Art."

caedm.ca

Local GrACE Committee Corner



GrACE Champions

SHARE SOMETHING WONDERFUL FROM YOUR PARISH & SCHOOL

LOCAL GRACE COMMITTEE CORNER

MAY: GRAND PRAIRIE



**GRACE PARISH PRESENTATIONS
DONE IN LOCAL PARISHES!**

**PROVIDED A LIST OF EVENTS AND
RESOURCES TO HELP THE FAMILIES
IN THEIR ROLE AS PRIMARY
EDUCATORS OF FAITH, SUPPORTING
OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.**

An Evening With GrACE



“ The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to **unite, engage, educate** and **communicate** with one voice on its behalf. ”

Thursday

April 18, 2024
6:00-8:00 pm

St. Basil Catholic Education Centre

We invite you to join us for an evening of fellowship, food (wine and cheese), and the opportunity to learn more about the purpose and mission of GrACE, including a brief presentation highlighting Catholic Education in Southwest Alberta.

Please RSVP to Felicia Sudo at:
sudof@holyspirit.ab.ca by April 12, 2024.

Holy Spirit Catholic
School Division



where children are cherished
and achieve their potential

**Courage
to
Lead**

A Practical Example of the Courage to Lead is...
"...walking along side with students and staff wherever they are on their journey of faith."
(Administrator)

What is a Catholic Leader?
"A Catholic leader invites others into an encounter with Jesus; to love like him, to minister like him, and to recognize the call to empty ourselves." (Administrator)

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

A Catholic Leader's desire is to...
"...put God and our faith in the forefront of all that we do, and in the decisions we make."
(Administrator)

A Courageous Leader...
"...leads with love always!"
(Administrator)


Catholic Education Week May 5-10, 2024


Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
...where children are cherished and achieve their potential

Catholic Education and Canada's Legal Context



The Catholic identity is recognized and protected both by section 93 of our Canadian Constitution and the Education Act

'The Catholic identity is recognized and protected both by section 93 of our Canadian Constitution – for without recognition of that identity the agreement that created Canada would not have proceeded – but also by the Education Act. Both the constitution and the Education Act make it clear that the Catholic identity of the school must be respected'.

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto

Catholic Education Rights

The right to Catholic education is protected by Canada's obligation to provide access to education for all children



The existence of rights implies the existence of corresponding obligations that are necessary to protect and uphold those rights.

Rights define what individuals are entitled to, based on principles of justice, dignity, and equality. These entitlements can include civil and political rights, such as the right to freedom of speech and the right to vote, as well as social, economic, and cultural rights, such as the right to education and the right to health care.

However, for rights to be meaningful and effectively exercised, there must be obligations on the part of individuals, governments, and institutions.

These obligations serve to ensure that the rights of one person are not violated or impinged upon by the actions of others, and that the rights of all individuals are protected.

In essence, rights and obligations form a reciprocal relationship. The recognition of rights implies that corresponding duties are expected from individuals, governments, and institutions to ensure the realization and protection of those rights.

It is essential to strike a balance between rights and obligations, as the responsible exercise of rights is vital for a harmonious and just society where the well-being and dignity of all individuals are respected and upheld.

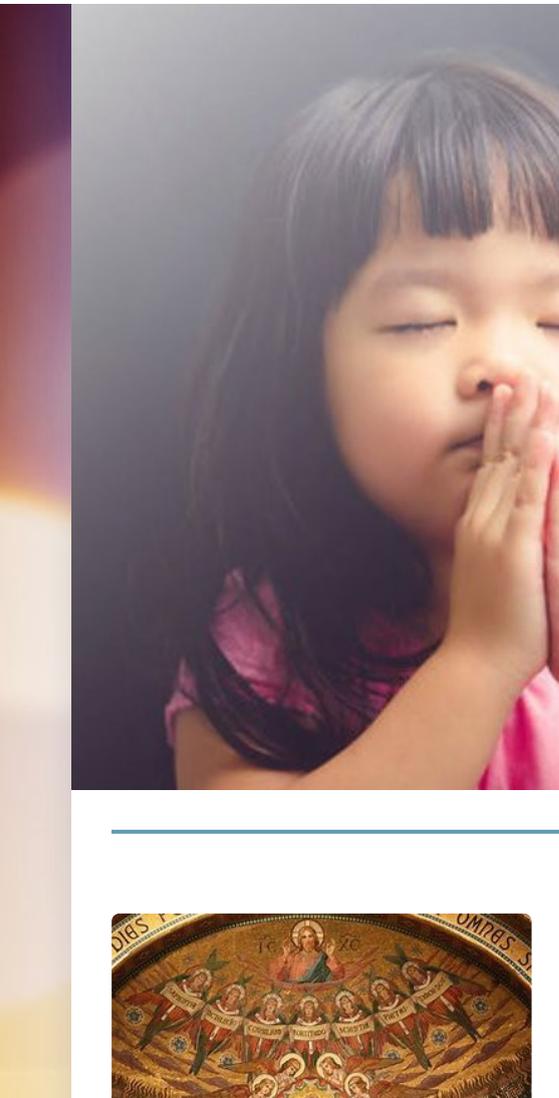
Catholics have denominational rights when it comes to schools that trumps and supersedes any Provincial or Territorial Human Rights legislation.

We must all find a way to express ourselves, especially on issues of disagreement, with the help of the Holy Spirit:-

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Amen.



God wants to do
great things in
and through us by
the **POWER** of
the Holy Spirit



Catholic Community

Freedom of Religion for all Canadians, including Canada's Catholics

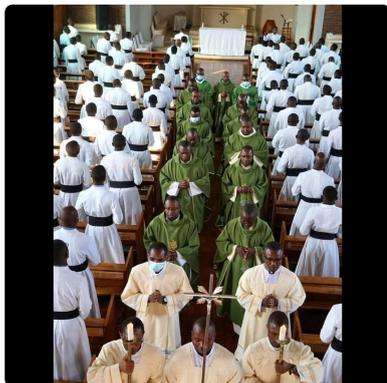
Similar provisions protecting religious freedom can be
found in other Canadian laws

1. **Canadian Bill of Rights:** Section 1©
2. **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:** Article 18
3. **Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Article 14
4. The **Canadian Human Rights Act** and **Section 15 of the Charter** also prohibit discrimination based on religion.
5. The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**



Religious rights in the Canadian Constitution are protected under Section 2(a) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Freedom of Religion: Section 2(a) guarantees freedom of conscience and religion for everyone in Canada.



This encompasses:

- The right to **entertain religious beliefs** of one's choosing
- The right to **declare religious beliefs openly** without fear of hindrance or reprisal
- The right to **manifest religious belief** through worship, practice, teaching, or dissemination.

In summary, Section 2(a) aims to prevent interference with deeply held personal beliefs related to religion, conscience, and spirituality.

It safeguards the diverse religious landscape in Canada, allowing individuals to freely practice and express their faith.

Other International Instruments and the Worldwide Protection and Culture of Rights

- While not legally binding on Canada, similar provisions exist in international and regional instruments:

1. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** Article 18
2. **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** Article 12
3. **American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man:** Article 3
4. **American Convention on Human Rights:** Article 12
5. **European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**
6. **First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America**



Catholic School Boards have the power to reject any Federal or Provincial law; regulation or Human Rights code directive that contradicts the content of our Catholic faith and morals.

It is essential for everyone to find a means of expression, particularly when it comes to matters of dissent.

Virtue and Vigilance: The Importance of Catholic public involvement:



As Apostles for Catholic education, we promote a positive image of Catholic education while addressing concerns in a respectful and open manner.

In essence, rights and obligations form a reciprocal relationship. The recognition of rights implies that corresponding duties are expected from individuals, governments, and institutions to ensure the realization and protection of those rights.

It is essential to strike a balance between rights and obligations, as the responsible exercise of rights is vital for a harmonious and just society where the well-being and dignity of all individuals are respected and upheld.

By fostering understanding and cooperation we contribute to a more inclusive and supportive environment for Catholic education in Canada.

Apostles for Catholic Education

As Canadian Catholics, each and every one of us must:

- Recognize the unique protection afforded to Catholic education by denominational rights enshrined in Canada's Constitution and the historical and ongoing importance of Catholic education within the Canadian educational system. This protection underscores the significant role that we as Catholics must own in shaping and strengthening publicly funded Catholic education.



- Defend these rights involves advocating for the continued recognition and support of Catholic education within the broader educational landscape. It also entails raising the profile of Catholic education by sharing its unique benefits and contributions, thereby increasing public support and awareness.

- Acknowledge the challenges faced by Catholic education, particularly in addressing the diverse issues confronting children today, and stress the importance of cooperation among parents, parishioners, and other educational partners.

Maintaining and advancing Catholic education in an increasingly secular society



Catholic education faces a challenging period, with various pressures confronting our schools, teachers, trustees, and clergy.

It is crucial for us, as Catholics, to respond to these challenges with resilience and a steadfast commitment to our faith and values.

Uniting as communities of students, parents, parishioners, educators, and clergy is vital for overcoming challenges.

At the GrACE 2024 Summit earlier this month, Archbishop Smith, the Alberta Bishops' liaison for Catholic education, highlighted the significance of actively engaging with educational and community partners.

Support for our schools and parishes is key to strengthening our approach to the challenges faced by students; parents; teachers and trustees.

Cooperation fosters a supportive environment, where the exchange of resources and ideas contributes to strengthening the Catholic educational system.

Preserving the distinctive character and mission of Catholic education is essential; it goes beyond academic instruction to nurture values, ethics, and a sense of community in students. Anchoring our endeavors in hope and faith allows us to navigate societal complexities while emphasizing holistic education.

By working collectively, we can secure our children's future success as they navigate the intricacies of contemporary society.

This includes empowering children to remain hopeful, bolstered by our faith in Jesus Christ, which acts as a beacon of strength and inspiration.

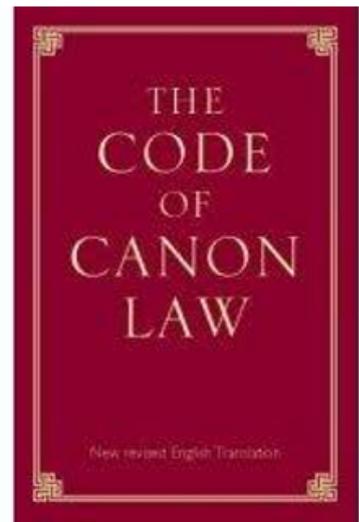
Our faith shapes and directs the Catholic education movement, extending its influence into the broader world, fostering hope and resilience in the face of secularism. Catholic education emphasizes the resilience and hope that our faith in Jesus Christ provides.

What Can We Do?

Can. 800 §2

The Christian faithful are to foster Catholic schools, assisting in their establishment and maintenance according to their means.

Can. 796 §1. Among the means to foster education, the Christian faithful are to hold schools in esteem; schools are the principal assistance to parents in fulfilling the function of education.



The importance of Catholic Education:



Let us pray that Policymakers recognize that with rights come obligations to include respect for our Catholic faith and values.

Rights and obligations are inherently interconnected and interdependent. The existence of rights implies the existence of corresponding obligations that are necessary to protect and

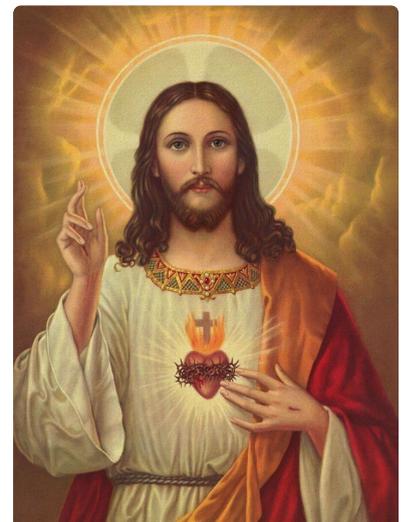
uphold those rights.

Let us pray:

- That policymakers recognize that with rights come obligations to include respect for our Catholic faith and values in all policies, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
- That along with a sense of responsibility and support for students who identify as LGBTQ, we will (or policymakers will) recognize and support students who do not identify as LGBTQ.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most sacred Heart of Jesus, pour down Your blessings abundantly on Your holy Church.



Let's celebrate Catholic Schools and Education!



Publicly funded Catholic Education in Alberta is a unique and cherished historical gift for which we are all grateful. It is an invaluable offering to both the Catholic Community and wider society, carrying growing responsibility in an increasingly secular world.

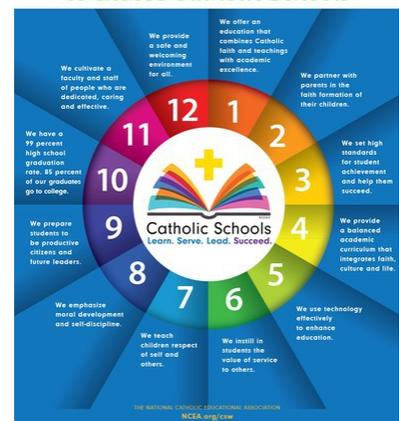
Virgin Mary, favored by God, who has been chosen among humanity to be the Mother of the Lord, join us and lead us to meet your Divine Son.

GrACE's Monthly Newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

There are so many positive stories about Catholic schools and Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond.

Catholic education refers to educational institutions and programs run by the Catholic faith which include schools, colleges, universities, and all who are known for their commitment to delivering academic excellence while emphasizing the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools



Highlight the faith of your School

As a grateful advocate and leader in our Catholic education system, celebrate, showcase, and highlight the faith of your school(s).



GrACE Champions

SHARE SOMETHING WONDERFUL FROM YOUR SCHOOL

SELECT SCHOOL BOARDS WILL BE FEATURED BY GRACE EACH MONTH

MAY: RED DEER CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOL DIVISION

ECOLE MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL

Students in grade 7 from Ecole Mother Teresa School in Sylvan Lake learned about corporal works of mercy. After choosing to focus on the topic: Bury the Dead they decided to raise money during Lent for the Catholic Women's League funeral luncheons for grieving families. Their donation would help to subsidize the cost of a luncheon for families who may not be able to afford the cost.

Here are the ways that students raised the funds for this project:

- school bake sale
- students did chores at home to earn money for the project, or donated a portion of their allowance
- students canvassed their neighbours, explaining our goals for this project
- several families made very generous donations to the project

The original goal was raise \$200, and in total we raised \$714. Their fundraising will help families in need to support them in mourning their deceased by paying for a funeral luncheon.

"What an amazing act of kindness! Thank you so very much to the grade 7 students at Ecole Mother Teresa School. The Sylvan Lake Catholic Women's League are truly grateful for your generosity and hard work to raise these funds." - Lara Bechtel (Sylvan Lake Catholic Women's League: President)





Celebrating Catholic Education Week



Follow us on    @HolySpiritRCSD or  @HolySpiritSchools1
Serving Lethbridge, Picture Butte, Coaldale, Taber, Bow Island, and Pincher Creek

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division



Board Priorities

Strengthening Our Catholic Faith



St. Patrick Choir (Taber)



Trinity E-Learning (Lethbridge)

Our staff and students commit to faith development, and we foster a Catholic worldview of reflection, service, and sacramentality. Whether at traditional in-person schools or online learning at Trinity E-Learning School, faith is the foundation of all that we do. Students at St. Patrick School in Taber regularly attend Mass and assist with ministries such as music, offering their gifts and leadership to their parish community.

Living Truth and Reconciliation



St. Michael's (Pincher Creek)



École St. Mary (Lethbridge)

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division continues to work actively towards living truth and reconciliation in our schools. This means recognizing the impacts of the past, as well as promoting success for our First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners today. Students at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek are working on their ribbon skirts in anticipation of their upcoming Feather Blessing and Graduation ceremonies.

Belonging in Our Diverse Community



St. Catherine's (Picture Butte)

Our schools celebrate and respect all of the varied cultures and ethnicities that enrich our communities, fostering belonging through welcoming atmospheres. At St. Catherine School in Picture Butte, this means learning about and embracing the rich traditions of their Spanish students, such as Dia De Los Muertos, ensuring that they can see themselves and their culture at school.



Catholic Central High (Lethbridge)



St. Francis Junior High (Lethbridge)

We know also that all of our priorities are enhanced by the many opportunities that students have outside of the classroom environment, whether that is in athletics, the arts, or other extracurricular opportunities such as student travel or clubs. These enrich our students' abilities to work as a team, to witness to their faith, and to develop their whole person. At St. Francis Junior High School and Catholic Central High School in Lethbridge, between 50 and 70 students at each school contributed to very successful musical performances this spring.

Learning through Quality Teaching

We aim for all of our students to achieve their potential through quality teaching and collaborative learning environments that build both their foundational literacy and numeracy skills and expose them to innovation and career opportunities. At Our Lady of the Assumption School in Lethbridge, these students are engaging in a learning opportunity that infused STEAM thinking with our Faith Plan call to Build!



St. Patrick Fine Arts (Lethbridge)



Our Lady of the Assumption (Lethbridge)



St. Mary's (Taber)

Where Are They Now?

GrACE shares how Catholic education has shaped lives!

GrACE's "Where Are They Now?" series highlights the impact of Catholic education on individual life paths and celebrates the profound impact of Catholic education, reminding us that learning extends beyond textbooks to shape hearts, minds, and souls.

This month features **Dr. Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk, Mission Engagement Lead, Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton.**

Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk

EUGENIA WAS BORN IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA AND HAS ONE BROTHER. SHE WAS BAPTIZED CATHOLIC AND IS A PARISHIONER AT SANTA MARIA GORETTI, THE ITALIAN PARISH IN EDMONTON. SHE ATTENDED EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FROM K-12 (ST. BASIL, ST. CECELIA, ARCHBISHOP O'LEARY). EUGENIA HAS SERVED ON PARISH COUNCIL, BAPTISM PREP, AND CHOIR MEMBER. MY IDENTITY HAS BEEN SHAPED BY MY FAITH." EUGENIA'S MOM AND DAD WERE TENANT FARMERS IN SOUTHERN ITALY. THEY DREAMED OF A BETTER LIFE AND IMMIGRATED TO EDMONTON IN THE 60'S. AS ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE A STRONG FAITH FOUNDATION, EUGENIA'S PARENTS HELPED SHAPE HER FAITH JOURNEY AND IDENTITY. EUGENIA REFLECTED ON HER FAITH: "RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS ROLE MODELS AND MENTORS HELPED SHAPE MY IDENTITY. WE CANNOT DETACH OURSELVES FROM OUR HERITAGE, UPBRINGING, AND EXPERIENCES. ALL OF THESE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY ROOTED IN FAITH." EUGENIA SHARED A CHERISHED QUOTE BY JOHN WESLEY WITH GRACE: "TO ALL PEOPLE WHO WORK FEVERISHLY TO HONOR THE DIGNITY OF OTHERS: DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN, AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN, TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN, AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN."

EUGENIA HAS A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, MASTER'S DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND IN CURRICULUM AND LEADERSHIP, AND A PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA. HER DISSERTATION WAS TITLED: CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP: EXPLORING OVERLAPPING CONSENSUS OF CATHOLIC IDENTITY THROUGH NARRATIVE INQUIRY. EUGENIA'S RESEARCH QUESTION WAS: WHAT IS THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL LEADERS IN RELATION TO SHAPING, INFORMING, AND INFLUENCING THE CONCEPTUAL FORMATION OF CATHOLIC IDENTITY IN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS? OVER A 33-YEAR CAREER AT EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION, EUGENIA CONNECTED WITH STUDENTS FROM 11 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AS A MUSIC AND LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND PRINCIPAL. EUGENIA WORKED AS THE DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ACSTA FOR THREE YEARS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FOR TWO YEARS. SHE IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO TEACHER FORMATION AND HAS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS BEEN A SESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR AT SIC IN THE CATHOLIC TEACHER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM. EUGENIA SPOKE TO GRACE ABOUT FEELING SO HUMBBLED WHEN ARCHBISHOP SMITH ASKED HER TO LEAD THE SYNOD. "I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THIS EXPERIENCE ABOUT HOW TO HONOR THE FAITH STORY AND EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS."

EUGENIA SHARED THAT SHE IS CONTENT WITH HER CAREER. SHE SEES HER CAREER AS MORE OF A VOCATION. "THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CALLED ME TO SERVE WHEREVER I WAS NEEDED MOST. THIS NOT BY COINCIDENCE BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S PLAN. MY HOPE IS THAT I ANSWERED THE CALL AND THAT I AM NOT ABLE TO MENTOR OTHERS TO TAKE THE TORCH OF FAITH AND CARRY IT FORWARD. "EUGENIA LIVES BY ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8. "THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING, AND A SEASON FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER THE HEAVENS."



School Resources



- ['Instruction of the Congregation for Catholic Education, 'The identity of the Catholic school for a culture of dialogue, from the Vatican, 2022](#)
- [Growing in Faith Symposium - 5 Marks of Catholic Education](#)
- [CCSSA Catholic Leadership Quality Standards](#)
- [5 Marks of Excellent Catholic Leader](#)
- [5 Marks of the Excellent Catholic Teacher](#)
- [Calgary Catholic Schools](#)
- [Redeemer Revelations](#)

Connect with GrACE Online

Follow, repost, share, support and cheer for publicly funded Catholic education!

Follow GrACE on Facebook and Twitter. Post your pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too. Thanks for being a grateful advocate in support of Catholic education!

@GrACE4cathed

GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed

Grace email is gracedirector7@gmail.com

GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)

Instagram: [@grace4catholiceducation](https://www.instagram.com/grace4catholiceducation)



We ask you to help us celebrate Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond

Assist GrACE-:

- Sign up for GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- Share GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- Celebrate Catholic schools and Catholic education
- Provide information to share in GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- Tell your positive stories and benefits from your Catholic school
- Subscribe to GrACE's Facebook, Twitter and social media pages
- Recruit parents to become more actively involved in GrACE
- Support local GrACE group in your parish
- Ensure the GrACE database has your correct contact information
- Encourage a sense of collective responsibility in upholding the mission and values of Catholic education in our shared society
- Make a stand for Catholic schools and Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond
- Assert your choice in favour of Catholic schools and Catholic education and its values
- Champion the benefits of Catholic Schools and Education, alongside its broader implications for the spiritual, intellectual, and social development of individuals and society as a whole
- Action a movement
- Provide information to share in GrACE's Monthly Newsletter
- Subscribe to GrACE's Facebook, Twitter and social media pages
- Share your positive stories and benefits from your Catholic school(s) and Catholic education
- Post your pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too

GrACE Welcomes Karen Koester as Volunteer Editor for GrACE's Monthly



GrACE Welcomes Karen Koester as Volunteer Editor for GrACE's Monthly Newsletter.

Karen is the Religious Education Coordinator for Evergreen Catholic School Division.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Karen attended Grandin (now Holy Child) and J.H. Picard in Edmonton Catholic School District and her home parish was St. Joseph's Basilica.

Karen earned a Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta and a Master's of Religious Education (with Distinction) at Newman Theological College.

Karen has been involved in liturgical music since her youth and has been blessed with the opportunity to organize and oversee music for many ordinations in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

In 2022, Karen was honoured to coordinate the choir for the Mass at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton during the penitential pilgrimage of Pope Francis to Canada.

GrACE Says Thank You



Michelle Collette
Volunteer GrACE Treasurer



Jolyne deMarco
*Volunteer GrACE Instagram
Administrator*



Grant Gay
*Volunteer GrACE Facebook
Administrator*



Caij Meloche

*Volunteer GrACE Engagement
Officer*



Karen Koester

*Volunteer GrACE Newsletter
Editor*

Further Opportunities to Volunteer

Student Volunteers are warmly invited to represent their School in GrACE's social media campaign; GrACE's new outreach and GrACE's database development.

All thoughts on how we can we better utilize technology platforms to ensure even more timely communication channels between and within the wider Catholic Education Family and beyond gratefully received.

Please email gracedirector7@gmail.com to express interest and suggestions.

Catholic Education Prayer of the Faithful for June 2024

For Catholic Education:-

- That our Catholic schools may reveal the glory of God in all that they do, we pray to the Lord.
 - That our Catholic schools always attract faith-filled teachers, we pray to the Lord.
 - That our Catholic schools celebrate the richness of our Catholic faith, we pray to the Lord.
 - That our Catholic schools may be a source of hope for the young, we pray to the Lord.
-

GrACE has strong relationships and the support of many Catholic partners who assist in promotion of GrACE's Catholic education movement to ensure that publicly funded Catholic education throughout Alberta and beyond not only survives, but thrives.

In turn, GrACE supports our many Catholic partners in promoting and protecting the gift of publicly funded Catholic education for generations to come.

Alberta Catholic Trustees Association (ACSTA) Corner



GrACE welcomes Charlotte Taillon to our Catholic Education Movement!

Charlotte Taillon began working for the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association in the role of Communications Coordinator in January of this year.

Originally from British Columbia, Charlotte graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelors of Arts in English and Geography. It was during university that her faith came alive while volunteering with a university student movement called Catholic Christian Outreach, where she met her husband, Paul, during a mission project with Catholic Christian Outreach.

Upfront with the Archbishop

Upfront with Archbishop Smith is a weekly podcast where we seek to bridge the gap between the hierarchy and the faithful by discussing the beauty, truth, and challenges of our Catholic faith.



My Testimony: Archbishop Smith Shares How He Became a Follower of Jesus | E97

Did you know Archbishop Smith used to lead music (with his guitar!) as Mass as a young adult?

email-mg.flocknote.com



Archbishop Richard Smith's Homily for Pro-Life Mass and March for Life Remarks - caedm
Mass for Life 2024 - St. Joseph's Basilica, May 9, 2024 Homily [Acts 18:1-8; Psalm 98; Ephesians 1:17-23; John 16:16-20] Once again, we gather as witnesses to the beauty and inviolability of every human life from its beginning to natural end. Our participation in this mass, and the march that follows later today, spring [...]

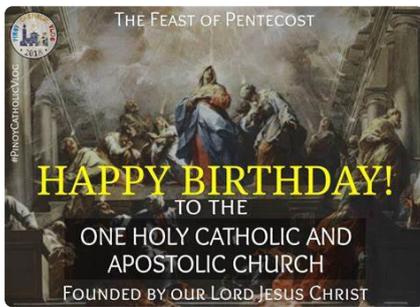
🔗 caedm.ca

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

“Not all issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. There may be legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not... with regard to abortion and euthanasia.”

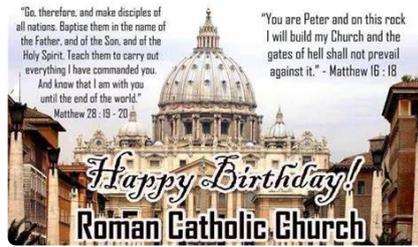
EWTN.com

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024



"Do, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you until the end of the world."
Matthew 28:19-20

"You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." - Matthew 16:18



ENCOUNTER CHRIST, COMMUNITY & CREATION AT

6 separate weeks of camp from Jul 7 - Aug 15



- Play epic games & sports
- Eat great food
- Learn about their faith
- Celebrate the Sacraments
- Make new friends
- Enjoy free time outside
- Try your hand at archery
- Swim or canoe in Gull Lake

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CAMP

Jul 7-11 | Highschool Week (Gr.10-12)

Jul 14-18 | All Ages Week 1 (Gr.4-9)

Jul 21-25 | JPII Leadership Week (15-18 yrs)

Jul 28-Aug 1 | Elementary Week (Gr.4-6)

Aug 4-8 | Jr High Week (Gr.7-9)

Aug 11-15 | All Ages Week 2

\$350 per camper

Scan or visit

<https://camps.caedm.ca/summercamp/>

to LEARN MORE:



Scan or visit

<https://olvc.campbrainregistration.com/>

to REGISTER:





The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

STM YOUTH MINISTRY





COVENANT FOUNDATION'S
**SENIORS'
MONTH**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **bird**



**Champion Seniors' Care
in your Community!**

**June
2024**

Join Covenant Foundation this Seniors' Month to help raise vital funds and advance seniors' care across Alberta.

Funds raised will support state-of-the-art equipment, breakthrough research, leading-edge training, and specialized programs that support greater quality of life for seniors at 22 Covenant hospitals and continuing care sites.

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OF EDMONTON



GrACE Executive Director

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