

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.

Let Down Your Nets

As a school year like no other begins, educators and school staff across our province join those who have gone before as the front-line workers in the next stage of the pandemic. We move forward in faith into uncharted waters not knowing if we are doing enough, doing it right, or doing the right thing. The vocation of teaching and leading has never been easy, but during these times our weakness and our human frailties are only too clear



In Luke's account of Jesus speaking to the crowds on the lake of Gennesaret, Jesus tells Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5: 4) The fishermen are weary and discouraged, yet they do as Jesus directs them. What is the result? Their nets are filled beyond capacity and they are overwhelmed with the abundant blessings of the Lord.

Many of us can identify with the despairing fishermen. We may be asking, "What's the point? We're doing all we can do. We are exhausted." We are feeling overwhelmed in these uncertain times and worried about what's just around the corner.

It's when we are at our weakest that Jesus has room to work in us. It's when we can't do it on our own that we surrender to our Lord and trust that he will bless our work abundantly. In a powerful homily, Bishop Barron reminds us that it's when Simon allows Jesus into his boat and cooperates with him, that the grace of God flows.

As we "let down our nets" in this time of trial, may each one of us make room for Jesus in our boat. May we too, put out into the deep waters of Catholic Education with faith and trust in the blessings that await us.

***"The single most important decision you will ever make is this:
will you cooperate with Jesus once he decides to get into your boat?"***

Bishop Robert Barron



We are so thankful for Catholic Education and for those who teach, lead, serve, clean, drive, encourage, listen, witness, support and sacrifice for God’s most precious gift: our children.

Thank a Teacher October 5

World Teacher Day is **Monday, October 5**. GrACE invites you to recognize the teachers in your life. As front line workers, educators are charged with the learning and safety of our children; the responsibility is enormous. Let them know that we recognize their sacrifice and that we are praying for their health and for the critical work they are doing with our children.



The Calgary Diocese launched the “Thank you for having the heart of Jesus” campaign last spring when COVID 19 was in its early stages. With their permission we invite you to download the logo, posters, thank cards, etc available [here](#) for you to express gratitude to our Catholic teachers on **October 5**.

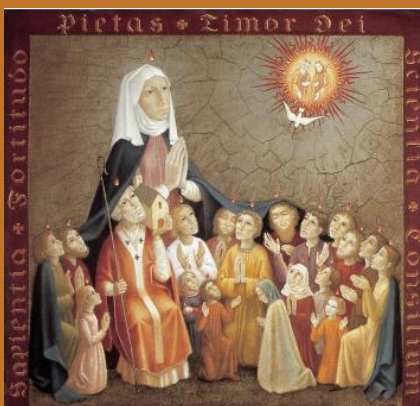
Throughout the month of October, we encourage you to thank the many who make Catholic education possible. School and support staff; custodians and bus drivers work daily to ensure that our children are loved, taught well and grow in their faith.

The Diocese of Calgary suggests:

- Pray for them
- Send them an email, postcard or show the love on your front door/windows . Download [here](#)
- Say thank you whenever you see them serving in health care facilities, grocery stores, gas stations, banks, those delivering your packages or those who are ready to listen.

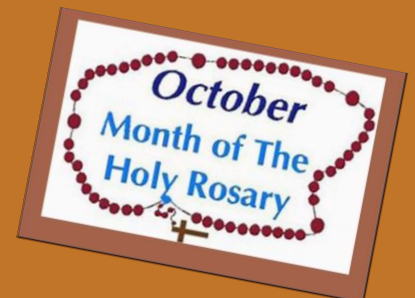
GrACE suggests:

- Encourage school councils and parents to share their appreciation
- Have students reflect and illustrate their gratitude
- Thank educators in the parish bulletin, social media accounts and in public ways
- Arrange for a special blessing from your priest



October is the month of the Rosary. Through Mary’s intercession, we pray for teachers, administrators and school support staff during this pandemic.

Hail Mary, full of Grace



October Prayer Intentions for Catholic Education:

- For protection and graces during this time of Pandemic, we pray to the Lord.
- For educators and school staff called to live a life of love and sacrifice during Covid 19, we pray to the Lord.
- That our Catholic schools may show the love of God in the world, we pray to the Lord.
- That our Catholic schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society, we pray to the Lord.

Alberta's Catholic School Districts: Meet Catholic Districts in the Archdiocese of Edmonton

Did you know that there are 17 Catholic School Districts in Alberta? As well, Alberta's four Francophone boards also offer Catholic education in specified schools. All in all, more than 183,000 students attend more than 450 Catholic schools in our province.

Mark 5 of a Catholic School encourages us to build and share a communal spirit. In the spirit of community, GrACE encourages you to get to know more about Alberta's Catholic School Districts and their leaders.

In the month of September we introduce you to the 10 Catholic and Francophone districts serving more than 85,000 students within the Edmonton Archdiocese.

They are:

Catholic School District	Enrolment
Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord	2795
East Central Alberta CSSD	2403
Edmonton CSSD	44330
Elk Island CSSD	7419
Evergreen CSSD	4297
Greater St. Albert RCSSD	5507
Living Waters CSSD	1871
Lloydminster CSSD	1701
Red Deer CSSD	10455
St. Thomas Aquinas RCSSD	4414
	85, 192

The Archdiocese of Edmonton

Comprised of 419,830 Roman Catholics, the Archdiocese is served by His Grace, Archbishop Richard Smith, who was appointed in 2007.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton has a long and rich history and traces its roots all the way back to the 19th century. Read more [here](#).

The Archdiocese covers some 150,000 square kilometer. It includes 61 parishes with resident priests in cities, towns, rural areas and indigenous communities, and another 64 parishes and missions without resident priests. Every Sunday Mass is celebrated in at least 16 different languages.

Beyond K-12 Catholic Education, the Archdiocese is home to three additional Catholic educational institutions: St Joseph's College, St Joseph's Seminary and Newman Theological College.

St. Joseph's College is a Catholic, undergraduate, liberal arts college on the University of Alberta campus. It also serves as a residence and place of worship.

St Joseph Seminary's mission is the human, spiritual and pastoral formation of future diocesan Catholic priests. In accordance with the Sulpician teaching tradition, the seminarians and Formation Team live together in a supportive fraternal community atmosphere. Seminarians receive much of their academic education at Newman Theological College, located on the same campus overlooking Edmonton's beautiful river valley. Both institutions remain distinct, interdependent and complementary.

Newman Theological College (NTC) is a Roma Catholic academic institution dedicated to the study of theology and related disciplines. It offers education to people who do not intend to become priests, as well as to seminarians from neighboring St. Joseph Seminary, and those who have already graduated from a seminary. Lay men and women, diocesan clergy from western Canada, along with several religious orders of men and consecrated women work together to fulfill the mission of NTC.

Catholic School Leadership

Based on the premise of the **5 Marks of a Catholic School**, the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) created the document **The Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader**. This document is available on the CCSSA website and is a valuable resource for all Catholic School leaders. During this edition of the GrACE newsletter, we would like to introduce you to two new Catholic Superintendents in the Edmonton Archdiocese. As you read their beliefs about Catholic education consider how they illustrate **the Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader**. To each one of them...welcome and thank you for saying yes to Catholic School Leadership!

Edmonton Catholic School District: Meet Superintendent Robert Martin

Robert Martin has begun his new role as Chief Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools on May 1, 2020. Robert has an exemplary record with over 33 years in education, as a teacher, an Assistant Principal, Principal, Division Principal, an Assistant Superintendent and during the 2019-20 school year, Acting Superintendent. He has worked in three different school authorities: St. Paul Education Regional Authority, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools for the past 28 years. Robert also spent 4 years on a secondment serving as Canadian Principal at NATO's AFNORTH International School in the Netherlands.

Robert states, "I am committed to lead the Division in a way that cultivates a culture of collaboration within a faith-filled, safe and caring inclusive environment. I will endeavour to provide leadership where innovation is encouraged, resources are maximized, and strengths and passions are explored. I will support trustees, administrators, staff, parents, and most importantly students; we must always remember that every student matters. In my vocation to serve Catholic education, I am guided by 1 John 4:16: 'So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.' This embodies the hope that I have for each member of our Edmonton Catholic Schools family. During their time with us, I want our students, families, and staff to know, believe, and live in God's love each day so that they come to know themselves as His children."

Robert is married to Isabelle, and they have two adult children who are actively pursuing their aspirations. Robert is a member of Holy Family Parish in St. Albert.

East Central Alberta Catholic Schools: Meet Superintendent Glenn Nowosad

Mr. Nowosad is a graduate of University Saskatchewan, with a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Technology and Design. Glenn Nowosad comes to East Central Alberta Catholic Schools with diverse instructional and leadership experiences in several Catholic divisions across Alberta.

Mr. Nowosad has led many different Alberta sponsored Inspiring Education initiatives and was one of the eMerge project leads that received the Premier's Award of Excellence for his contributions to the research project locally and provincially. He was also recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educational leader by Apple Canada in 2009. Years later, one of Lakeland Catholic schools was the third school in Canada to be recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. Mr. Nowosad has also had business experience as the founder of IT-ET Shift Happens and the co-founder of an international educational leadership company that guided organizations through a continuous improvement process based on a soon to be published book, *Leadershift 2020 - Reinventing Schools for Extraordinary and Uncertain Times*.

Glenn was born in a small rural Saskatchewan community where he was raised in the Ukrainian Catholic rite. He has participated and supported faith development programs at the local and provincial levels by serving as the secretary-treasurer for the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA). Glenn is passionate about leading and supporting quality Catholic education through relevant learning experiences that best meet our students, parents, and teacher needs in the division communities. We are called to "foster" quality educators and support staff passionate about their faith and profession. Evangelization needs to come from within for all our staff, students, and community members. Each of us is on a unique faith journey and Catholic Education provides an opportunity to apply our God-given gifts and talents to serve others.

Welcome to these new Catholic Superintendents in the Edmonton Archdiocese.



Mr. Robert Martin
Edmonton Catholic Schools



Mr. Glenn Nowosad
East Central Alberta Catholic Schools



GrACE is an initiative of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees (ACSTA), the Bishops of Alberta and the Council for Catholic Superintendents (CCSSA).

The GrACE board consists of two representatives from each of the partner boards.

Welcome GrACE Board 2020-2021

Chair- Trustee Pat Bremner (Holy Spirit Catholic Schools)

Vice-Chair- Associate Superintendent Paul Corrigan (Elk Island Catholic Schools)

Archbishop Smith (Archdiocese of Edmonton)

Bishop Terrio (Diocese of St. Paul)

Trustee Lory Lovinelli, (Calgary Catholic Schools)

Superintendent Bryan Szumlas, (Calgary Catholic Schools)

Director Bonnie Annicchiarico



GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Share the intentions for Catholic Education with your school and parish communities.
Pray for our Catholic schools [Catholic Education Prayer Intentions](#)
2. Explore the possibility of a virtual/zoom Catholic Education event.
3. Ensure that your school and parish Facebook, Twitter and websites are linked to GrACE.
Follow us on social media and spread the word about Catholic Education.

**Telling the Stories of Catholic Education:
A GrACE Initiative in Cooperation with the Diocese of Calgary**

Stories have the power to move hearts, share insights, inspire change and build empathy. In our grateful effort to celebrate and advocate for Catholic Education, GrACE recognizes the importance of seeking and telling the powerful stories of Catholic schools.

By sharing our stories:

- we start to recognize the sacramental “God moments” happening all around us.
- we build up the community of Catholic schools with common lived experience.
- we create the opportunity for others to understand more deeply what Catholic education is all about.

Recognizing the power of story, GrACE invites you to reflect on your moments in Catholic education, put them on paper, and share them. The Calgary Diocese publishes *Faithfully* on-line and in-print every month. *Faithfully* gives a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people. This diocesan online publication is sent by email to all subscribers and posted on the diocesan website monthly. Each month they will post 1-2 stories submitted by GrACE on the topic of Catholic education.

How can you support this initiative?

1. Prayerfully reflect on one of your stories of Catholic education.
2. Write the story. *Faithfully* limits each story to a maximum of 500 words.
3. Attach 1-3 pictures to support the story.
4. Submit the Catholic School story to GrACE gracedirector7@gmail.com
5. Tag (personally invite) someone you know to write the next story.
6. Subscribe to Faithfully. [Subscribe to Faithfully](#)

Thank you for your efforts and for sharing your commitment to Catholic Education.

September Stories of Catholic Education

Check out the following Catholic education stories published in *Faithfully* in September.

[Thirsting for More- Lynn James](#)

[A Story of Grace- Paul Tobin](#)



**Alberta Catholic Education Sunday
November 8, 2020**

Catholic Education around our province.....

Our Lady of Grace @OLG_CCSD_ Sept. 17
Thank you Father Avi for blessing our playground today. Father Avi and the admin team then walked around the school praying to the angels and Saints to keep our school safe. #iBelieveinCatholicEd

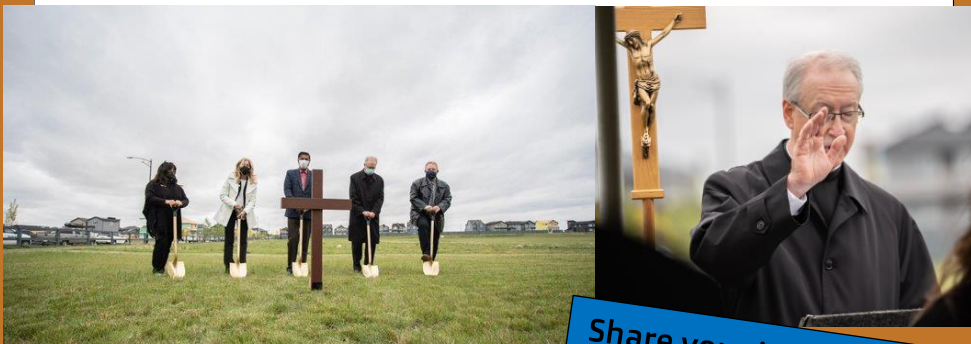


St. JPll Catholic @ STJPllCatholic ECSSD- Sept. 15
"I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43



Mark your Calendars!
Catholic Education Week
May 10-14, 2021

ECSD@EdmCathSchools-Sept. 15
Yesterday, we blessed and broke ground at our future K-9 Catholic School in Keswick. This school is scheduled to open in 2022 and will eventually be home to 900 students. #ECSDfaithinspires



Share your images of faith in Catholic Education. Post on Facebook and Twitter.

GrACE Facebook address is
www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
Grace email is gracedirector7@gmail.com
GrACE Twitter address is @GrACE4cathed

Serving you and praying for Catholic education
Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico, Director of GrACE
GrACE email is gracedirector7@gmail.com