

An Evening of GrACE: A Message of Hope...memorable insights



Hope is a virtue. It's not the same as "wishful thinking". Hope doesn't influence what is outside of us. Hope changes us.

Archbishop Pettipas



HOPE
H elping
O thers
P ersevere to
E ternity

Archbishop
Pettipas



You Catholic educators have been in a very dark season. We need to recognize when we hope in the Lord he will renew our strength. As Catholic educators you have the call to witness this faith and hope to your students. Hope is alive in Catholic education. We are always seeing that the Lord renews and strengthens us in Catholic Education.

Bishop McGrattan

Take your hand, hold it in front of your mouth and breathe into it. Do you feel your breath hit your cheeks and bounce off your face? As close as your breath is to you, God is this close to you always...wherever you go. As close as our breath is, is a God who created us and holds us in his hand. Trust in the hope of a loving God.

Steve Angrisano

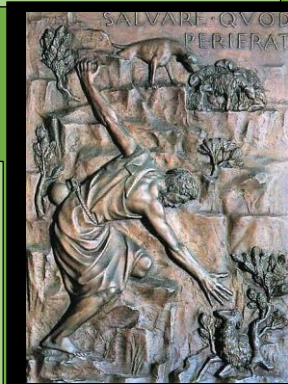


Evening of Hope You Tube

Archbishop Smith

This pandemic has left many people helpless; feeling ensnared by circumstances too big to control. The feeling of isolation right now is widespread; we feel there is no way out.

The reason for hope does not lie within ourselves. It is found in the One that will always coming looking. It is found in the one who sees us as incredibly precious. It is found in the one that has the power to rescue us. He loves us more than you can imagine and without exception or condition. Jesus alone is the reason for our hope.



Jesus will never leave us lost. He will always come looking for you when you are absolutely helpless and unable to do anything for yourself.

The shepherd is placing himself at enormous risk. The sheep has great meaning for the shepherd; he would risk his own life to save him.

That's precisely what Jesus did for us. He did surrender his life for us. Jesus continues to stretch out his arm in rescue to us.

Archbishop Smith



Our Lady of Hope is close to us...she is especially attentive to the prayer of children. She renews our hope through our prayers to her son, through her. Jesus comes to us even the darkness of winter and our COVID fatigue.

Bishop Terrio

2020 Regional GrACE Meetings

November 24	Grouard-McLennan Archdiocese
November 26	Edmonton Archdiocese B
December 3	Calgary Diocese
December 8	St Paul Diocese
December 17	Edmonton Archdiocese A

With the goal of engaging Catholic School advocates, GrACE hosted 5 regional GrACE meetings this fall. Thank you to each bishop who was present and to the many stakeholders who attended. In total and despite COVID restrictions, more than 65 met to review, share and envision GrACE plans across Alberta.

When we gather to talk Catholic education, we are always reminded of the gift we seek to protect and the affirming power of community. Thank you for your commitment, your enthusiasm and your hope. May God bless Catholic education!

Feedback from the Calgary Regional GrACE

- We are encouraged and will be gathering our GrACE Group in the new year to revisit our goals and action plans.
- The sharing is EXTREMELY VALUABLE!!!!
- Hearing from other divisions is inspirational and rewarding. Reconvening our GrACE group will be something on the near horizon. Perspective shared by Bonnie and by our Bishop is always important. We are best when we are in co-operation and dialogue with each other!
- Your outline was great! It has me thinking about what I can take back to our group for January. So excited to share!
- My next step would be to be more intentional in sharing the things we are doing. Making sure that we are sharing the GrACE newsletters in our school newsletters.
- It's a reminder to me that as I am posting or sharing posts, I need to get back to using the hashtags. We know the work is great; we just need to share it. Now more than ever.

I really hope we can all meet in person soon!

Feedback from St Paul Regional GrACE

- Appreciate the conversation and revisiting of where we have come from. The slides are a good reminder for us.
- Thank you for the overview and the goals for this year. It is always wonderful to get together and share what is happening in some areas of our diocese.
- Thinking ahead 3 years will not be enough. We need to continue this. Thank you for all the work.
- Interested in sharing the most appropriate presentations at our parish council meetings. Recommendations for that would be great.
- Excited to see the upcoming plans and looking forward to the ongoing advocacy for Catholic education. Appreciate being part of this meeting, and I agree with Bishop Paul that the zoom meetings allow more of us to attend and be involved.
- As we move forward any help that can be given in reaching out to families as well as students to help them build their relationships with Christ and the Church would be greatly appreciated.

GrACE gives me hope and strength.

I am not alone in my journey.

Feedback from Edmonton B Regional GrACE

- It is great to see the seeds of this movement taking root and growing across our province.
- Very helpful to hear what others are doing and where they are at - love the focus on hope and renew.
- Some real practical and even pretty simple ideas to try!
- I like the group sharing as it gives us ideas of what we can do in our own communities and tweak them to meet our local dynamics.
- It has inspired me to get my GrACE bulletin board going in our school!
- Most helpful to meet and be assured of all the great work that is happening in light of the challenges of today.
- Most helpful to meet and enkindle in us the purpose. Great ideas that have been shared.
- This has been so helpful and inspiring for me. Lots of great ideas. 5 marks of a Catholic Trustee is needed for sure.

We are all in this together.

*I enjoyed being reminded of the hope we can be for others
and how we can try to do at least one thing...
one step forward turns into 10,000 miles at some point*

Feedback from Grouard-McLennan Regional GrACE

- I appreciated the many tools and programs that GrACE has created that we can use as needed. I didn't realize that you had so much!
- This was very helpful and eye opening to see the planning side behind GrACE. Thank you. I found it very informative.
- I think that having the opportunity to hear what's going on in our area is great. I hope we can do it more often.
- I really like all the ideas that were shared and ways for us to move forward in our groups. It is good to know that there is always someone to contact if we need it. I look forward to working on the history of our diocese, schools and parishes.
- Knowing our history in any aspect of life allows us to have better hope in the future.
- Thank you for including me on this Zoom meeting. I've got a much better understanding of what GrACE is and how important it is for Catholic Education and our community. I look forward to continued learning.

*Thank you for this meeting. Much needed at these uncertain times.
It seems sometimes that we have lost our normalcy
but this meeting gave me a sense of normalcy.*

Stories of Catholic Education: ADVENT edition

Please check out 2 Catholic education stories published in the Calgary Diocese' latest edition of Faithfully. Both stories are written by teachers in Calgary Catholic School Division and have a powerful Advent focus. Links are below. Please consider submitting your own story of Catholic Education to GrACE or tapping someone you know to submit. As well, be sure to subscribe to Faithfully to receive your monthly newsletter of all things Catholic.

[Little One We Knew You'd Come](#)

[The Door of Hospitality](#)

Alberta's Catholic Schools Preparing for Christmas



Fort McMurray Catholic Schools taping their weekly Advent message. You can check out all Advent messages on FMCS Youtube channel

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School @CalcuttaECSD · Dec 3
Kindergarten learning the Christmas story through play!



St Patrick Catholic
School, Camrose,
Elk Island Catholic

Tina Madden @MrsTMadden · Dec 6
Beautiful artwork created by grade 4-6W, 3D and 3DC. During the season of Advent, students continue to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. #Faith #Advent #BelieveinCatholicEd @COWCrestonmere

Mrs. Caron Kindergarten A Class
December 1 at 3:32 PM
Advent...
Getting our hearts ready for Jesus's Birthday

Evergreen Catholic Schools @EvergreenCSSD · Dec 7
Kindergarten students of @NicArrowsmith1 @StMargueriteCa1 created amazing 'stained glass' Advent wreaths to take home. Way to go, Mrs. Arrowsmith and Educational Assistant Mrs. @corinabruneau #Advent @EvergreenCSSD @GrACE4cathed @archedmonton Come, Lord Jesus!

Kindergarten Advent wreaths

Red Deer Catholic @rdcrs · Dec 8
Each year, students from @StJosephRD choose a charity they wish to support that aligns with their goals and values. This year, Grade 12 students have chosen to support @cssalberta. Learn more at rdcrs.ca/our-division/w... #rdcrs

Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division
November 29 at 5:28 PM
So beautiful! Thank you for reminding us of the JOY in this liturgical season and the need to place our HOPE in God! 🙌❤️

GRACE CTR: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education at Christ The Redeemer
November 29 at 5:26 PM
Meet Plus, Jude and Clara, grandchildren of CTR Catholic Board Trustee - John de Jong. This video will warm your heart as they share their understanding of hope. See More

Love the message from the grandkids... "hope is being the little sparkle in your tummy." So precious!

Chanice Horuc-Lake @Miss_C_Lake
Students in 7E have been creating Monochromatic art digitally. Can you tell what the theme of our art is?
@HCDSBVirtual

Our Lady of Grace @OLG_CCSD · 12h
Congratulations goes to three students at OLG who won this year's ATA Christmas Card Contest: Kendall in 3S, Abigail in 4V, and Mickaela in 9K!

Bishop O'Byrne High School @BOB_CCSD · Dec 1
Thank you to our Math Department for organized the "Seniors for Seniors Awareness" program last week. Senior High students wrote Christmas greeting cards for senior citizens in care homes. The joy of putting a smile on their faces! 🎄📧 #bobcatnation @CCSD_edu

St. JP II Catholic @STJPIICATHOLIC · Dec 7
Retelling the Nativity story.
#eccsslove

The Christmas Story
Angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her that she was having a baby. Joseph was surprised. Gabriel came to Joseph in a dream and said that don't be afraid. King Herod put a law that the people had to be counted. When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem there was no room in the inn but the baby Jesus was born in a stable and slept in a manger.

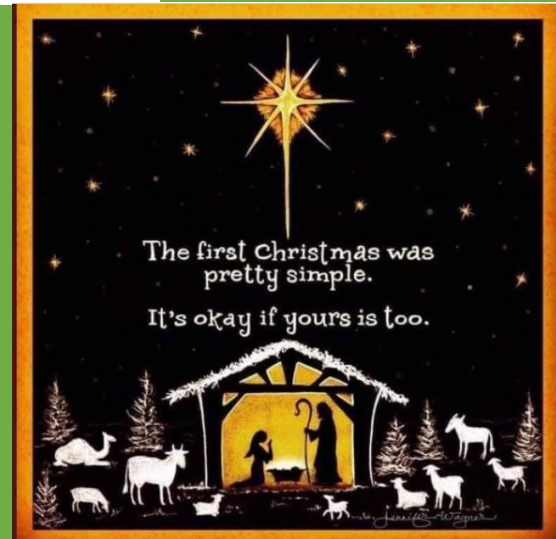


"It was a gift to hear the concerns, joys, struggles, successes and commitment to Catholic Education in Alberta."

Participant Regional Meeting

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.

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



December GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Intentionally share your gratitude with educators, administrators, trustees and staff. Be grateful.
2. Read. Pray. Share. Recommended text [Build Bethlehem Everywhere](#)
3. Rest and renew in order to return 2021 excited and filled with hope for Catholic Education.