



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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March 7, 2018

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

FROM: Dr. Brian O'Sullivan, MA, Ed. D., Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 6 – May 11, 2018**
Catholic Education: *Renewing the Promise*

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2018, “*Renewing the Promise,*” reminds us 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 and their families whom it is our privilege to serve.

The 2018 CEW theme is drawn from the name of the pastoral letter by the Ontario Bishops on Catholic education to be released in the Spring of 2018. It is in logical succession to their previous letters on Catholic education in Ontario namely, “This Moment of Promise” (1989), “Fulfilling the Promise” (1993), and the report, “Our Catholic Schools (2006-2007). This upcoming letter will draw inspiration from the public consultations with Catholic stakeholders organized by ICE and OPECO since last summer. The goal of these consultations and the pastoral letter is to present a commentary on the contemporary role of Catholic education and its importance to Catholics in Ontario.

I would like to highlight several points leading up to CEW 2018:

- The CEW theme song has been posted on the OCSTA website. Schools and boards can download this copy for their CEW activities.
- Our Catholic student leaders will host a Eucharistic celebration at St. Paul’s Basilica in Toronto on May 8th. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gerard Paul Bergie and approximately 200 students are expected to attend. As well, a Christian Service Activity Package has been developed in collaboration with our provincial Catholic student trustees’ organization (OSTA-AECO) and will be shared with the students on this exciting day.
- The 2018 CEW Resource Kit includes a Mass package with various prayers and readings. This resource is provided to assist school boards if they choose to have a local CEW Mass.

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- Please note that the 2018 CEW posters have been produced in both English and French in acknowledgement of the collaboration between our English and French Catholic school boards. We believe these posters will be very popular with French programs offered in your school boards. These will be mailed to your school board by early March.
- All Catholic Education Week materials are posted on our website at www.goodnewsforall.ca and in French at www.opeco.ca.

I would like to conclude by wishing all of you a wonderful 2018 Catholic Education Week. Please do not hesitate to contact me at bosullivan@ocsta.on.ca if you have further questions.

Sincerely in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian O'Sullivan, MA, Ed., D.
Director of Catholic Education, OCSTA