



100 Days into the school year...



Image courtesy of CTR St. Francis Academy

Gratefully

This month we say good-bye to two outstanding Catholic leaders. On behalf of the Catholic school community we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to retiring superintendents Shawn Haggerty, Elk Island Catholic Schools, and Mike Paonessa, Evergreen Catholic Schools. May God bless you for your service and sacrifice.



Catholic School Districts' Publications

- † [Calgary Catholic Schools](#)
- † [Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools](#)

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 Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

Meet the Superintendents of Alberta's Catholic School Districts



Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Calgary Catholic
School District



Dr. Scott Morrison
Christ the Redeemer
Catholic Schools



Glenn Nowastad
East Central
Catholic Schools



Robert Martin
Edmonton
Catholic Schools



Paul Corrigan
Elk Island
Catholic Schools



Cindy Escott
Evergreen
Catholic Schools



George McGuigan
Fort McMurray
Catholic Schools



Dr. Jessie Shirley
Grande Prairie
Catholic Schools



Dr. Clint Morizuik
Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



Betty Turpin
Holy Family
Catholic Schools



Ken Sampson
Holy Spirit
Catholic Schools



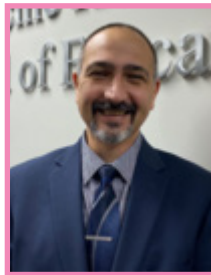
Pamela Guilbault
Lakeland
Catholic Schools



Jo-Anne Lanctot
Living Waters
Catholic Schools



Nigel McCarthy
Lloydminster
Catholic Schools



Dr. Dwayne Zarichny
Medicine Hat
Catholic Schools



Kathleen Finnigan
Red Deer
Catholic Schools



Glenn Brodziak
St. Paul School
Division



Charlie Bouchard
St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Schools

Alberta's Francophone School Districts offer Catholic Education...



Robert Lessard
Conseil Scolaire
Centre-Nord



Daniel Therrien
Conseil Scolaire
FrancoSud



Dolorèse Nolette
Conseil Scolaire du
Centre-Ouest



Brigitte Kropielnicki
Conseil Scolaire du
Nord-Ouest



Simone Gessler
Yellowknife
Catholic Schools

Northwest Territories

NET — National Evangelization Team

GrACE is pleased to introduce those who have not yet met the NET team to this vibrant, transformational Catholic evangelization movement. The National Evangelization Team (NET) is a dynamic cohort of young Catholic witnesses. Over the years they have been a vital part of Alberta's Catholic schools through their retreats and visits to our communities.



Some Catholic school districts have had the blessing of hosting a NET team for a full school year and the impact has been powerful. Holy Family Catholic Regional Division and Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools are two such districts. Superintendent Betty Turpin, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division, offers the following testimonial:



"HFCRD had the pleasure of hosting NET Canada for two years. We were blessed to have young Catholics come to our school division to share their faith and inspire our students to grow their relationship with Jesus. They stayed with local host families, spent every day with students, and were very involved with local parishes. They were proud of their faith and enthusiastically shared it with everyone they met. We can confidently say they made a noticeable impact on the lives of students, staff and parishoners that has lasted long after they left. We were blessed to have two NET teams and we would welcome any NET team to our division again in the future."

NET's Mission: To Challenge young Catholics to love Christ and Embrace the Life of the Church

It is accomplished by:

- † Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ through a personal witness of faith.
- † Inviting young people to live for Christ.
- † Forming young people in Christian character through the study and practice of our faith.
- † Equipping youth workers and young adults with the ministry skills needed for evangelization

What is Retreat Ministry?

NET provides the opportunity for schools and parishes across Canada to have a fully packaged retreat run by one of NET's retreat teams. Each team is fully trained and equipped to put on retreats for students, Grades 6 and up.

Since 1995, NET Canada has facilitated over 5000 retreats in more than 40 different dioceses. Through this extensive experience, NET has been able to address the most pressing needs of youth today. Because of the various issues in our current youth culture, NET has created different retreat themes. These themes, though varied, all have at the heart the message of God's unending love, and how He has come to fulfill their needs through the Church.

Over the course of 10 months, one Retreat Team will:

- † Serve in roughly 17 different dioceses
- † Travel over 20,000 KM
- † Facilitate approximately 125 retreats
- † Share the Gospel with over 8,700 youth

Youth Ministry 101 Podcast

NET has launched a new podcast called Youth Ministry 101, a space where you can learn tips, tricks and hear stories to help reach youth in your life, parish, and youth group to share in the love and joy of Jesus Christ and His Church! Now streaming on YouTube, Spotify, Apple, and Google Podcasts: [click here](#).



What it would look like:

- 6-8 Dynamic young adults
- 2 ministry years in your community
- Reaching out to local Catholic schools
- Creating or renewing your youth groups
- Life-changing retreats for your youth

"Over the years NET has played a significant role in the evangelization of youth within Christ the Redeemer Catholic school district. Yearly visits to each community brought NET into contact with our young people in a powerful way. Just as impactful was the time NET missionaries spent in the host homes within our school community. Bonding with families over meals and conversation were a strong witness within our homes. As well, the opportunity to host a year-long NET team within the district provided new and unique opportunities for faith development and ministry in our Catholic schools. NET has played a significant role in the faith development of CTR's youth. I highly recommend them."

—Bonnie Annichiarico, Retired Associate Superintendent, CTR Catholic

OVER THE PAST 37 YEARS

NET MINISTRIES HAS CONDUCTED OVER 50,000 RETREATS AROUND THE WORLD AND PRAYER WITH MORE THAN 3,000,000 YOUTH!

SINCE 2001, NET CANADA HAS SERVED IN 49 COMMUNITIES IN A YEAR-LONG OR TWO-YEAR LONG PARTNERSHIP WITH PARISHES, SCHOOLS, AND DIOCESES.

Connect with NET on their website [NET Ministries of Canada \(netcanada.ca\)](https://www.netcanada.ca) and follow them on Instagram and other social media platforms.

Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for March

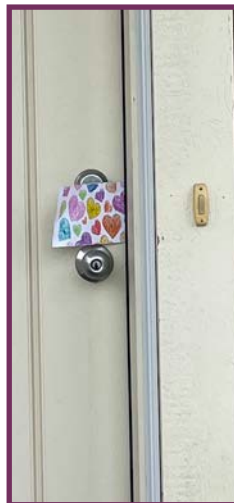
For Catholic Education:

- † That our Catholic schools may make known God's plan for all creation, we pray to the Lord.
- † That the leaders of our Catholic schools may be encouraged and comforted in the love of God, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may always receive their identity from the teachings of Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may be a place of healing and safety in a hurting world, we pray to the Lord.

Catholic Education Around the Province St. Gianna School, Calgary Catholic School District

For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever. —Psalm 9:18

As the pandemic continues, whether families are isolating or working from home, there is no question that it may get a bit lonely at times. This week, classes from St. Gianna School prepared postcards and delivered them to houses in the surrounding community. The postcards contained messages of encouragement and hope to those who may be housebound due to Covid 19. Students at St. Gianna know that we are all in this together and continue to pray for their families and members of the community who are being affected by Covid 19.



Mark Your Calendars

Catholic Education Week

May 23–27

World Catholic Education Day

May 26 – Wear Blue for Catholic Education

Save the Date – GrACE Summit 20.22

May 30 – Hosted by Calgary Catholic School District



Stories of Catholic Education Faithfully– Diocese of Calgary (catholicyc.ca)

- † [I couldn't resist the Smarties](#)
- † [Those schools in Brooks...](#)

Connect Online

- † GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
- † GrACE email is gracedirector7@gmail.com
- † GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)
- † [GrACE website](#)

Be a GrACE Advocate

TAG us and be an advocate on social media!

Please post Catholic education in action and tag GrACE on Facebook and Twitter. We want to share and celebrate with you.

National THINKfast

Every Lent we raise funds through our Share Lent campaign to support integral human development projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. These projects contribute to the resilience of communities facing the challenges of a global pandemic.

This year, Development and Peace is raising funds by organizing our 3rd annual National THINKfast. People across Canada will be going without food from Thursday March 10th at 4pm until Friday March 11th at 4pm.

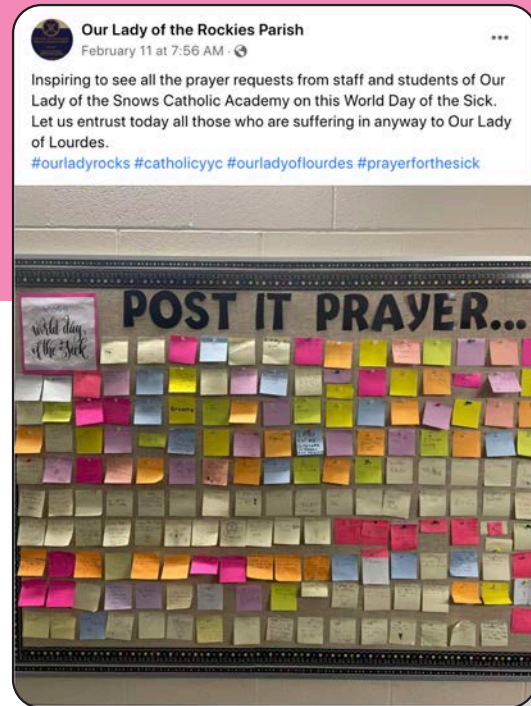
We will gather at different times online during the fast for prayer, song, social justice activities and games, Learn how to register for the online event and more by visiting the National Thinkfast Webpage when it is published in at the end of February 2022!

If you are a school or a parish, or an individual who would like to join our National THINKfast, please click 'join this team' below and register a page for your school, your parish, or yourself. Or, you may simply use share this national page directly to join us and raise funds - no set up necessary! For more questions, contact Emily Lukasik elukasik@devp.org.



Social Media across the province...

We ask you to help us celebrate Catholic education in Alberta. Post your Facebook pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too. Thanks for being a grateful advocate in support of Catholic education! [@GrACE4cathed](https://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed)



Medicine Hat Catholic Schools
@MHCatholic

Dr. Zarichny presenting to the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) on the topic of effective board governance.

Superintendent Zarichny recently completed his Doctorate of Education with a focus on School Board Governance and is eager to share his knowledge!

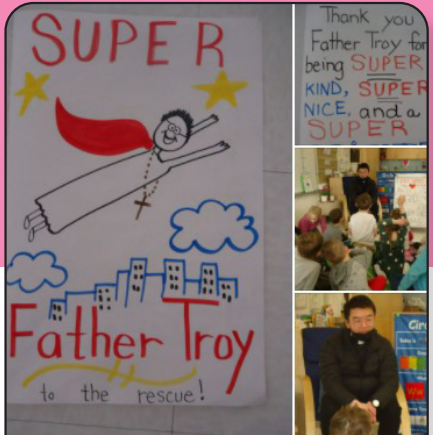


CASS

3:25 PM · Feb 2, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



STAR Catholic School Division
February 2 at 3:07 PM
Well done!



Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division
7h

A Kindergarten class at **St. Francis of Assisi Academy** were fortunate to enjoy a visit with Fr. Troy from St. James Parish today.

Their teacher shared that students asked such great questions/comments:

- "Who made God?"
- "Where does God live?"
- "Are angels invisible?"
- "Every angel always says DO NOT BE AFRAID and GOD IS OUR FATHER!"
- "God is our everlasting Father"
- "There was an angel that visited Mary."

Thanks for sharing with us! Makes our heart sing!
#IBelieveinCatholicEd

@mrsrafuse
@MrsRafuse4

Enjoying our visit with Father Mario today. We talked about tomorrow Feb 2nd is the Feast of Presentation of the Lord @stncatholic



Paul D'Angelo
@pauldangelo

Each month at @OLWChestermere we present "Christ in You Awards" for students who exemplify virtues. Today our students turned the tables and awarded our Principal @MrsTLMadden a CIY Award for Caring (The February Virtue of the Month). #pinkshirtday #caring



St. Marguerite Catholic School
@StMargueriteCat

February 14th - 17th. Bring your loose change and fill a mug to support Mary's Meals - thank you STM's Parent Council for supporting this great event and donating cookies for all our students! #ecssdHOPE



Dean Sarnecki
@sarneckid

Congratulations to @Mike_Hauptman for his Honorary Life Membership Award from the @ACSTANews for his past, present, and future contributions to Catholic education in the Province of Alberta! For your work and faith at every level @EICSCatholic



ACSTA
@ACSTANews

ACSTA's Catholic Trustee Orientation opened Saturday with a celebration of the Holy Mass, led by @calgarydiocese Bishop McGrattan. Director @marylmmartin served as lector, @CCSD_edu provided the chapel, music ministry & recording services. ❤️ † #IBelieveinCatholicEd @GrACE4cathed



Our school's submission for the @CCSD_edu Art Walk by grade 12 student Josie.



Our Gr8's consider the Mission of the Holy Spirit, collaborating in groups to deepen their understanding of how the Holy Spirit brings us closer to God and reveals Him to us. #ecsdfaithinspires @EdmCathSchools



Gr 8 students playing their 10 Commandment Board Games. #IBelieveInCatholicEd @CCSD_edu



Beautiful display for February!
#IBelieveInCatholicEd

@saintandrebeaumont #starcatholic

