

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:  
**WALKING**  
forward  
together

L'ÉDUCATION CATHOLIQUE:  
**ALLER**  
DE L'AVANT  
ensemble

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES & SAMPLE TEMPLATES

*Resources for parishes, administrators, teachers and other adult members of school communities.*

*“Do justice, love, kindness and  
walk humbly with your God.” -Micah 6:8*

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

**APRIL 30 – MAY 5, 2017**

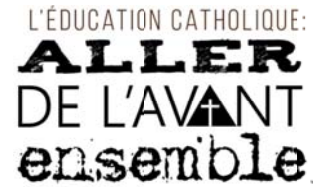
[WWW.GOODNEWSFORALL.CA](http://WWW.GOODNEWSFORALL.CA)



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association



*Adapted for use in Renfrew County  
Catholic schools*



**Draft Letter to Media**  
**(from school board/school principal)**

Dear Editor:

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board is preparing to celebrate Catholic Education Week! Sunday April 30 to Friday May 5, 2017 the RCCDSB will highlight this year's theme: *Catholic Education: Walking Forward Together – L'éducation catholique: Aller de l'avant ensemble*. Parish celebrations, special prayers, activities and artistic displays will showcase Catholic education's distinctive identity and important contributions to our local, provincial, national and global communities.

The scriptural quote for the week is taken from the prophet Micah: *"Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6:8). The five daily sub-themes aim at helping staff and students to reflect more fully on what *Walking Forward Together* asks of them:

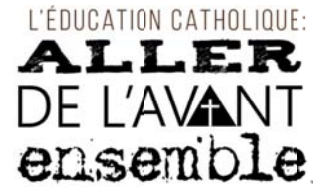
- Day 1: Walking Forward Together with God / Aller de l'avant avec Dieu
- Day 2: Walking Forward Together with Our Families / Aller de l'avant avec nos familles
- Day 3: Walking Forward Together with Others / Aller de l'avant avec les autres
- Day 4: Walking Forward Together with Creation / Aller de l'avant avec la Création
- Day 5: Walking Forward Together in Hope / Aller de l'avant dans l'espérance

The 2017 theme and daily sub-themes are centered around reconciliation and renewal – within our families, in relationships with others and with the environment in light of our common global future. They draw heavily on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' response to Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission, Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and his 2016 apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*. Together, these call for solidarity with our Aboriginal Peoples and environmental stewardship; for greater care of children and families; for mercy and welcome toward the poor, migrants, elderly and persons with special needs.

Families, neighbours and friends are warmly invited to call their local RCCDSB school for events and times, and to drop in as we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2017.

Sincerely,

(Director of Education or School Principal)



## April School Newsletter Article

### ***Catholic Education: Walking Forward Together***

Renfrew County's Catholic Schools are preparing to celebrate Catholic Education Week! This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "*Walking Forward Together.*" Each day of the week has its own sub-theme:

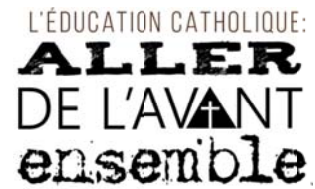
- Day 1: *Walking Forward Together with God / Aller de l'avant avec Dieu*
- Day 2: *Walking Forward Together with Our Families / Aller de l'avant avec nos familles*
- Day 3: *Walking Forward Together with Others / Aller de l'avant avec les autres*
- Day 4: *Walking Forward Together with Creation / Aller de l'avant avec la création*
- Day 5: *Walking Forward Together in Hope / Aller de l'avant dans l'espérance*

The 2017 theme and daily sub-themes call for reconciliation and renewal in our lives: within families, in our relationships, and with the environment in light of our common global future. They are drawn from the work of the Canada's Catholic Bishops and from the writings of Pope Francis. The Bishops' response to Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission reminds us that we need to heal past injustices by "*Walking Forward Together.*" Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* urgently calls for the world's peoples to work together in care of our common global home. Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love* affirms the importance of serving Christ in our children and families, in migrants, the poor, the elderly, and persons with special needs. It sees our readiness to welcome others and to help the vulnerable to be fully a part of our communities as a test of our commitment to showing mercy.

Our Scriptural quote for Catholic Education Week 2017 is, "*Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God*", taken from the Prophet Micah (Mic 6:8). It summarizes the attitude required as we seek to live out the week's theme in justice and solidarity with our Indigenous peoples, our environment, the poor and marginalized, and all those who work to protect our common global future.

We will be using the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association's (OCSTA) yearly resource kit to help plan our Catholic Education Week activities. You are warmly invited to come out and join with us as we celebrate the gift of our Catholic schools under the theme, "*Walking Forward Together.*"

We look forward to seeing you then.



## Parish Bulletin Announcement

### **Suggested Short Announcement**

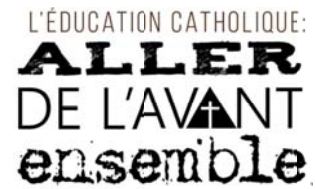
Catholic Education Week 2017 runs from Sunday, April 30 to Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme, "*Walking Forward Together*," highlights the need for reconciliation and renewal, drawing on the work of the Canada's Catholic Bishops and the writings of Pope Francis. Daily sub-themes will focus on walking together with God, with family, with neighbour, with creation and in hope. You are invited to contact our parish school(s) to find out about attending the special prayers and activities celebrating the gift of Catholic education in our community. All are welcome.

### **Suggested Longer Announcement**

Catholic Education Week 2017 runs from Sunday, April 30 to Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme, "*Walking Forward Together*," highlights the need for reconciliation and renewal, drawing on the work of Canada's Catholic Bishops and the writings of Pope Francis. Daily sub-themes will focus on walking together with God, with family, with neighbour, with creation and in hope.

Our Scriptural quote for the week is taken from the Prophet Micah: "Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). It summarizes the attitude required as we seek to live in justice and solidarity with our Indigenous peoples, our environment, the poor and marginalized, and all who work to protect our shared future.

The Catholic schools in our parish will be holding special prayers and activities to highlight the ongoing gift of publicly-funded Catholic education. You are invited to call your Catholic school to find out about their Catholic Education Week celebrations and to join in their celebrations. All are welcome.



## Sample Church Presentation (RCCDSB Adapted)

Good Morning/Evening,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a Principal/Vice  
Principal/Teacher/Student/Parent/Trustee at \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic  
school/with the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board.

As Father has already indicated, we are at the beginning of Catholic Education Week, 2017. This is a week specially set aside to celebrate the gift of our publicly funded Catholic schools in Ontario. It is also an important time for us to emphasize the connection between home, parish and school as an integral part of Catholic education. Highlighting this home-parish-school relationship reminds our children that they belong to a wider Catholic community that goes beyond school walls - a community that is united in its concern for their growth in faith and knowledge as followers of Jesus.

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, *"Walking Forward Together."* The week's daily sub-themes focus on walking together with God, with family, with neighbour, with creation and in hope. They are drawn from the work of the Canada's Catholic Bishops and from the writings of Pope Francis. The Bishops' response to Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission reminds us that we

need to heal past injustices by *“Walking Forward Together.”* Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home* urgently calls for the world’s peoples to work together in care of our common global home. Pope Francis’ 2016 apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love* affirms the importance of serving Christ in our children and families, in migrants, the poor, the elderly, and persons with special needs. It sees our readiness to welcome others and to help the vulnerable to be fully part of our communities – as a test of our commitment to showing mercy.

Our Catholic Education Week biblical quote, *“Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God”* is taken from Chapter six of the book of the Prophet Micah. (Micah 6:8) It summarizes the attitude required to live out our faith as expressed in this week’s theme – in justice and solidarity with our Indigenous peoples, our environment, the poor and marginalized, and all those who work to protect our common global future.

Our Catholic schools are, by definition, faith-based schools, firmly birthed in a desire to see our young people learn and grow in light of Gospel values and teachings of the Catholic Church. It was this desire among Catholic clergy, religious and faithful that gave rise to a call for publicly-funded Catholic education in Ontario over 170 years ago. What we enjoy today has emerged through a history of sacrifice, determination and extraordinary work on the part of Bishops, Sisters, Brothers, priests and lay men and women to build and preserve Catholic education in the face of much political and legal opposition.

The gains these pioneers made in securing our publicly funded Catholic education system are under threat today. Voices challenging the existence of publicly-funded Catholic education continue to make themselves heard. In an increasingly secularized Ontario, there are those who see publicly-funded Catholic schools as something outdated and discriminatory. However, the results of our system beg to differ. Graduates of publicly funded Catholic education continue to make significant contributions to the moral and social fabric of our communities at every level – locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

This week, Ontario's Catholic community celebrates the gift of publicly funded Catholic schools. You are invited to call your local Catholic school for dates and times for the special Masses, prayer services, and activities, and to join with them as members of the home-parish-school community. Come out and help us celebrate the gift of publicly funded Catholic education with the theme, *Walking forward together*. All are welcome.

– Thank you.