

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Sample Church Presentation (RCCDSB Adapted)

“Catholic Education: Serving in the Love of Christ”

I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:27e)

Good Morning/Evening,

My name is _____ and I am a Principal / Vice Principal / Teacher / Student / Parent / Trustee at _____ (name of school).

As Father has already indicated and as you may have noticed by the poster at the entrance of the Church, we are at the beginning of Catholic Education Week 2014. This is a week specially set aside to celebrate our Catholic schools. In so doing, we celebrate the triple connection of home, parish and school that is integral to Catholic education's identity: Catholic schools share in the Church's evangelizing mission and assist parents and parish in their role of handing on the faith. We do this through a distinctive Catholic curriculum and worldview that educates our young people for citizenship, and helps form them for Christian discipleship.

The theme for this year's celebration is *Catholic Education: Serving in the Love of Christ*. Our Catholic schools are, by definition, faith-based schools, firmly birthed in the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ. The first proponents of Catholic education in Ontario were firmly convicted in their belief in its importance for the life of the province's Catholic community. At the very beginning of publicly-funded education in the province, under the leadership of the Archbishop of Toronto and some very dedicated Catholic trustees, they doggedly fought for the right of Catholics to their own publicly-funded Catholic schools. What we enjoy today is due to a history of sacrifice and determination and the extraordinary work of Bishops, Sisters, Brothers, priests and lay men and women to build and preserve Catholic education in the face of all forms of opposition, both political and legal.

Challenges to the existence of publicly-funded Catholic education are still alive today. In an increasingly secular and materialistic Ontario, there are those who see publicly-funded Catholic education as anachronistic and discriminatory. Despite these challenges, the wonderful graduates of Ontario's Catholic schools continue to contribute to the life of our local communities, our province and globalized society, drawing on their knowledge, skills and vision shaped by the Catholic faith, to make the world a better place.

This week, we continue to celebrate our Catholic school system and its role in the Church's mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus through an education that is permeated by the light of our Catholic Faith. And this is what continues to make Renfrew County Catholic schools, *Schools to believe in!*

Thank you.