



Renfrew County Catholic District School Board

Orange Shirt Week

School Morning Announcements & Prayers

Monday September 25 - Friday September 29, 2017

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS RESOURCE

This resource was prepared as a follow-up to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The TRC highlighted the often painful and traumatic legacy of Canada's Indian Residential Schools that continues to live on in many Indigenous families and communities. The writers of this resource have chosen to highlight the September 30, 2017 Orange Shirt Day campaign (<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>) to promote healing, understanding and reconciliation in Renfrew County's Catholic school communities, where Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and staff study, work and pray together each day.

This resource has three main sections:

MORNING PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS
ADDITIONAL PRAYERS
LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES

As a preparation for Orange Shirt Day, the **Morning Prayers and Reflections** can be used each morning as students begin their day, or at the end of the day. They have been put together in a way that is suitable for elementary and secondary school use.

The **Additional Prayers** section contains individual prayers which can also be used at the end of the day, culminating with the Prayer for Truth and Reconciliation on Friday.

The **Links to Further Resources** section provides links for those would like to explore themes related to the TRC, Indigenous learning, spirituality and culture with their classes.

I. MORNING PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

Monday September 25

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning. Today is the first day of Orange Shirt Week. This is a week for us to stand in unity with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. It is a week for remembering – to recall Canada’s Indian Residential Schools and their sad effects on Indigenous families and cultures. It is a week for healing – to celebrate the beautiful gifts of Canada’s Indigenous cultures. It is a week for hope – for us to walk forward together with our Indigenous brothers and sisters: as children of the one Creator, and loving members of God’s family.

The theme for today is **healing**. Every time we welcome someone as they are, we are helping to heal. Every time we show friendship, inclusion and kindness, we are helping to heal. Every time we stand up for the dignity of someone’s culture and identity, we are helping to heal.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray. God, our Creator, you heal broken hearts with your love, and call us to share this love with one another. Open our hearts to your word now, that we might learn to walk with one another - as Indigenous peoples, peoples of settler origin and newcomers - along your healing path. We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 41:10)

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

God is always with us. He is our strength along the healing path. How can I help others to heal today?

- What kind word can I say to make someone feel welcome and remind them that they belong?
- Can I reach out in friendship to someone who needs help?
- Can I include someone in a game or a conversation?
- Can I hold the door for someone?
- Can I stand up for someone who is being teased?

All of these things bring healing to our hearts and school communities. Let us say, “yes” to God’s call to help others heal.

OUR FATHER AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Let us bring to God all the needs for healing in our hearts, in our school, and those of our Indigenous communities, using the words Jesus taught us: **Our Father...**

O God, help us to be living signs of your healing love. Open our hearts to welcome, to include, and stand up for one another's dignity, as we walk forward together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers along your healing path. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday September 26

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning. Today is Tuesday of Orange Shirt Week - a special week for us to stand in unity with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. The theme for today is **Compassion**. Compassion is about opening our hearts to others - to feel for them in their suffering, and to support them in love.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God our Creator, open our hearts to hear your word, that we might learn to walk with one another - as Indigenous peoples, peoples of settler origin and newcomers - along your path of compassion. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

READING: A reading from the First letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1Cor 1:3-4)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Have you ever needed someone to show you compassion - to be kind to you when you were hurting? Maybe it was a kiss on an injured knee or a hug when someone died.

How can I bring comfort to someone who is hurting today?

OUR FATHER AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Let us turn to God, asking Him to help us grow in compassion for one another, using the words Jesus taught us: ***Our Father....***

O God, open our hearts to show kindness and comfort to our neighbour who is in pain. Strengthen us to walk lovingly together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers along your compassionate path. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Wednesday September 27

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning. Today is Wednesday of Orange Shirt Week, in which we express our resolve to stand in unity with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. The theme for today is ***Solidarity***. Solidarity is about commitment to the good of my neighbour. It is about saying “yes” to helping my neighbour live in dignity and peace.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God our Creator, open our hearts to hear your word, that we might learn to be more committed to the good of our neighbour - as Indigenous peoples, peoples of settler origin and newcomers - along your path of solidarity. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

READING: A reading from First letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1Cor 12:12-14, 26)

For just as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ. For in the one Spirit are we all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of the one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member, but of many. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

We are all God’s children, and we are called to look out for one another’s needs. This is what we call *solidarity*.

Have you ever had to stand up for someone because you knew it was the right thing to do?

Were you ever part of a group that tried to make someone else’s life better?

- Perhaps you helped collect food for the food bank, or helped raise money for the missions.

How can standing up for our brothers and sisters in Christ help to change a situation?

- When they don’t have enough food?

- When they don’t have water, proper medicine or shelter?

- When they don’t have a school?

- When they are treated poorly or made fun of?

What small thing can I do today to support someone else?

OUR FATHER AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Let us turn to God, asking him to help us grow in solidarity - in looking out for one another’s needs - using the words Jesus taught us: ***Our Father....***

O God, open our hearts to our neighbour in their needs. Strengthen us to walk lovingly along the path of solidarity as followers of Jesus, your Son. We ask you this through the same Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thursday September 28

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning. Today is Thursday of Orange Shirt Week a special week for us to stand in unity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. The theme for today is **Fortitude**. Fortitude is about having the courage to say or do what is right, even when it is difficult, when we are tired, or when people oppose us.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God our Creator, open our hearts to hear your word, to say and do what is right, in defense of our neighbour - as Indigenous peoples, peoples of settler origin and newcomers - along your path of fortitude. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

READING: A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (Is 54: 4, 7-8)

Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you, says the LORD your Redeemer.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Have you ever had to be strong when something difficult was happening to you? Have you ever thought that God was not listening to you only to find that He was right there standing beside you giving you strength all along?

Can I encourage someone going through a difficult time today even if it's not the popular thing to do?

OUR FATHER AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Let us turn to God, asking him to help us grow in fortitude - to be strong in saying and doing what is right, using the words Jesus taught us: **Our Father....**

O God, make us strong in standing up for one another as brothers and sisters. For we are all your beloved children Indigenous, settler origin and newcomers. Give us your Spirit's courage to walk together along the path of fortitude as followers of Jesus, your Son. We ask you this through the same Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday September 29

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning. Today is Friday of Orange Shirt Week, a special week for us to stand in unity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. The theme for today is **Hope**. Hope is about trusting in God's promises. Hope gives us the confidence to pray as God's children for one another's needs, and to work together for justice.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us begin our prayer today with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God our Creator, open our hearts to hear your word, to pray and work for justice - as Indigenous peoples, peoples of settler origin and newcomers - along your path of hope. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

READING: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Is 9: 3-4)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Have you ever felt that a situation was hopeless and there was no way out of it?

Have you ever felt gloomy about something that you couldn't change or figure out?

Maybe someone offered you hope and you began to see things clearly again. Maybe the sunshine came out and it drove your gloomy mood away.

How can you bring hope to someone today?

- Maybe a kind word, a "hello" in the hallway, making a classmate feel welcome, saying a prayer for someone, or taking part in a school justice activity to help the poor.

OUR FATHER AND CLOSING PRAYER:

O God, awaken the gift of hope in our hearts. Strengthen our trust in your promises; give us the confidence to pray for one another; move us to reach out in friendship as your Indigenous, settler origin and newcomer children. Steady our commitment to walk the along the path of hope as followers of Jesus, your Son. We ask you this through the same Jesus, the Lord. Amen. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

II. Additional Prayers

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me.

I come before you as one of your children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy: myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so that when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Amen. +

~*Chief Yellow Hawk of the Sioux Nation*

(From: Catholic Education Week Secondary Kit, OCSTA, 2017)

O Great Creator, we give praise and thanks to you for our lives and for our families. Your gift to us of human community is one of your greatest blessings.

We thank you for our Elders – our grandfathers and grandmothers – whose patience and wisdom guide our lives.

We thank you for our fathers and mothers, who by giving their love to each other bring us into the world, nurturing and leading us.

We thank you for our brothers and sisters, with whom we come to know what sharing and caring really means.

We thank you for young people, whose hope for a better world, energizes and inspires us.

We thank you for the little ones – the children – whose innocence and promise bring gladness and joy.

O Creator, may our families always be that blessed and first community that we honour and cherish.

As you continue to make all things new, may we hear your invitation – in all creation – to receive and share all that is good and true with each other.

O God, we also face many challenges and crises in our lives and world. May our families continue to be the first and constant community that shows us how to live intimately and respectfully with all people, and all creation.

May all Glory, Praise, Honour and Thanksgiving be shown to you, Father of all mercies and compassion, Jesus Saviour and Guardian of our souls, and Spirit of peace and communion.

Amen. +

~Prayer for Families, 2016 National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council and Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

(From: Catholic Education Week Secondary Kit, OCSTA, 2017)

O Great Creator, we give praise and thanks to You for our lives and world. You make all things new and good, and you invite your peoples throughout creation to receive and share all that is good with each other. Thank you for how wonderfully and intimately You share Your life with us all. Likewise, we seek deepening relationships with each other and all Creation.

We commit to live and work with one another – our families; our communities; all cultures, nations, and peoples – in union with Mary, all the Saints, and our Grandfathers and Grandmothers who have gone before us and inspire us. We thank Your Great Holy Spirit for the great variety of gifts and talents You give Your people, and we commit to always using Your blessings to help one another and all Creation.

O God, there are many challenges in the world. We thank You for the gift of Your Son – Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We rely on our friendship in Jesus and the power of Your Great Spirit to help us live good and moral lives. May our journey towards deepening virtue help us to battle evil and to bring blessing to the most difficult challenges. We commit, O Creator, to share with and care for each other as You continue to do with us: with great reverence, generosity, and respect.

All praise and thanks to you, O Creator, for the privilege and call to share in Your wonderful life!
Amen. +

~“Catholicism and Traditional Indigenous Spirituality – A Reflection on Commonalities,” National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, 2015

(From: Catholic Education Week Secondary Kit, OCSTA, 2017)

Oh Great Spirit, Creator of all things: human beings, trees, grass, berries,
Help us, be kind to us.

Let us be happy on earth.

Let us lead our children to a good life and old age.

These are our people; give them good minds to love one another.

Oh Great Spirit, be kind to us.

Give these people the favour to see green trees, green grass, flowers and berries this next spring.

So we all meet again, Oh Great Spirit, we ask of you.

Amen. +

~*Mohawk Prayer*

(From: Catholic Education Week Secondary Kit, OCSTA, 2017)

Prayer for Truth and Reconciliation

(Prayer of repentance and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples following Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission)

O God,

Great Spirit and Creator,

We praise you for your gifts that surround us –

For the gift of the land that gives us food, shelter and water;

For the gift of the sun that gives warmth and light to all that grows;

For the gifts of the moon and stars which you have arranged for your glory;

For the gifts of language and culture, through which your peoples praise you, and share the most deeply held values you have engraved on their hearts.

Come upon us, O Divine Healer and open our eyes –

To the injustices brought against our Indigenous Peoples, their languages and cultures in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

Give us repentant hearts –

That ache with sorrow for their violence against First Nations, Métis, Inuit families and their children.

Give us determined hearts –

That refuse to stand by when the dignity of our Indigenous brothers and sisters is trampled.

Give us healing hearts –

That beat with the drum of Jesus' Gospel, to defend and honour our Indigenous neighbour, their language and way of life.

Give us flaming hearts –

That burn with love for you, who come to us

... in every human face

... in every language and culture

... in every gift of creation.

Make us stewards –
 Of one another's dignity,
 Of one another's safety,
 Of one another's lands,
 Of one another's right to a cultural identity:
 ... as unique peoples,
 ... as gifts to the human family,
 ... as your beloved children.
 Pour out your healing love on all who suffered in Canada's Indian Residential Schools;
 - on bodies, minds and spirits wounded through abuse,
 - on hearts wounded through separation and disdain,
 - on families wounded through trauma and anguish that still torment over the course of
 generations.
 Jesus – gentle Saviour, forgiving and humble of heart,
 Good Shepherd, Divine Healer,
 Great Lover of all peoples:
 We offer you our sorrow
 For the wrongs committed
 Against our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.
 We offer you our desire
 To walk with our Indigenous brothers and sisters;
 To journey with them
 On the path of truth, healing and reconciliation,
 As we share this earthly pilgrimage to our heavenly homeland,
 Where every tear will be wiped away
 And every sorrow will be turned to joy.
 Give us one heart and one mind
 To walk forward together along this path
 In the love and strength of your Spirit,
 In truth, reconciliation and peace.
 We make this prayer
 In the power of your Most Holy Name.
 Amen

(T. Cosentino, Renfrew County CDSB, 2017)

III Links to Further Resources

Orange Shirt Day Website

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

(Check out their educational resources, handouts and videos)

[Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Official Website](http://algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com/index.php)

<http://algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com/index.php>

Truth & Reconciliation Commission

[Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3)

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3>

[Sr. Priscilla Solomon TRC Resource Page](https://carfleo.com/2017/03/24/sr-priscilla-solomon/)

<https://carfleo.com/2017/03/24/sr-priscilla-solomon/>

(CARFLEO resource page on TRC with links to print and video resources on the TRC gathered by and featuring Ojibway Sister Priscilla Solomon)

[Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Response to Truth & Reconciliation Commission](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3)

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3>

Educational Resources

[CARFLEO Indigenous Peoples Resources Page](https://carfleo.com/2017/03/20/first-nations-metis-and-inuit-resources/)

<https://carfleo.com/2017/03/20/first-nations-metis-and-inuit-resources/>

(Excellent collection of links to many helpful resources)

[Achieving Aboriginal Student Success. A Guide for K to 8 Classrooms](http://www.portageandmainpress.com/book_detail.cfm?biD=303)

http://www.portageandmainpress.com/book_detail.cfm?biD=303

(Excellent practical resource with culturally relevant and meaningful education strategies for classroom teachers working with Aboriginal students by Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse, Portage & Main Press, 2012)

[Indigenous Learning Resources – Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative](http://www.eoccc.org/indigenous-learning.html)

<http://www.eoccc.org/indigenous-learning.html>

Faith and Spirituality

[Native American Poems and Prayers](http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Wisdom/poemsidx.html)

<http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Wisdom/poemsidx.html>

(A collection of old and new poems and prayers by Indigenous North Americans)

[Nun Finds Catholic Spirit in Ojibway Roots](https://www.catholicregister.org/item/26008-nun-finds-catholic-spirit-in-ojibway-roots)

<https://www.catholicregister.org/item/26008-nun-finds-catholic-spirit-in-ojibway-roots>

(Catholic Register, Sept 10, 2017. “The deepest values of my own people, as Ojibway people, are values that are totally compatible with the Catholic values” – Sr. Priscilla Solomon)

[Kateri TV Stories and Journeys from the Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Church!](http://www.villagersmedia.com/romancatholicv/katerityv.html)

<http://www.villagersmedia.com/romancatholicv/katerityv.html>

(Excellent Villagers Media Productions resources on Catholic Aboriginal Spirituality)

[Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa](http://katerinativeministry.ca/)

<http://katerinativeministry.ca/>

[Address of His Holiness John Paul II to the Native Peoples of Canada](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1987/september/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19870920_indigeni-fort-simpson_en.html)

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1987/september/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19870920_indigeni-fort-simpson_en.html

(Fort Simpson, Canada. Sunday, 20 September 1987)