

## **Catholic Education in Ontario**

- The history of Catholic schools in Ontario since 1841 is one of dedication and perseverance. A fully funded public Catholic school system is a gift handed to us by our forbearers.
- The courts of Ontario and Canada have reinforced the rights of the Catholic school system with a number of judgements over the years which have reaffirmed the rights of Catholic school boards.
- The Ontario Catholic education system is an equitable and inclusive system where all students, parents and members of other faith communities are welcomed and respected; where every student is supported and inspired to succeed in a culture of high expectations for learning; and where all staff and students value diversity and demonstrate respect for others and a commitment to establishing a just, caring society.
- In Catholic schools, religious education programs and courses are included in the curriculum, integrating religious truths and values with everyday life.
- Catholic schools aim to provide education for mind, body and spirit.
- Ontario's Catholic schools educate approximately 600,000 students in approximately 1500 Catholic schools, and are supported by more than 2 million Catholic school ratepayers.
- According to a 2012 C.D. Howe Institute Study, nearly two-thirds of the top 29 schools in Ontario are Catholic schools.

### **Be Vigilant --**

Efforts are continually afoot to convince the government to eliminate all public support for Catholic schools. At election time, be informed, and get to know the issues. Support candidates who support Catholic Education.... VOTE!

## **Catholic Schools Offer Parents a Choice**

- Parental choice is something parents treasure.
- In Ontario Catholic parents have fought for the right to have publicly funded Catholic schools, and to have a choice.
- Our system is rooted in Catholic teachings which promote caring communities, the dignity of all persons and social justice.
- Our Catholic schools provide for the unique needs of students, nurturing individual skills and abilities.
- If Catholic parents do not choose our Catholic schools, the future of Catholic education is at risk.

## **Registering Your Support Protects Catholic Schools**

- Ensuring you are registered as a Catholic school supporter is important for the protection and preservation of publicly funded Catholic schools in Ontario.
- As a registered Catholic school supporter, you have the opportunity to elect trustees who will represent you and address your concerns at the school board level and at various levels of government.
- Registering your support ensures that the Catholic school board's assessment roll is accurate, providing a public record of the breadth of support for Catholic schools, and determining the number of trustees to be elected to each board to represent the interests of parents and other ratepayers.
- Check that you are registered as a Catholic school supporter. If not, contact your local Catholic school board or municipal clerk's office to find out how to make the correction.

## Prayer For Catholic Education

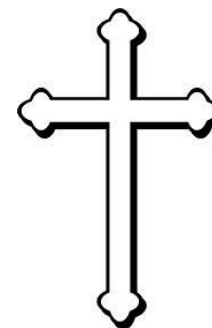
O, Holy Spirit,  
source of truth and grace for those entrusted  
with the Christian development of children,  
enlighten our minds, strengthen our will,  
fill our hearts with generosity  
so that our homes, our parishes and our schools  
may co-operate effectively with You,  
and with one another in the mission  
of Catholic Education.  
We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

### Information on Catholic Education is available at:

- Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario ([www.acbo.on.ca](http://www.acbo.on.ca))
- Institute for Catholic Education ([www.iceon.ca](http://www.iceon.ca))
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association ([www.ocsta.org](http://www.ocsta.org))
- Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education ([www.oapce.ca](http://www.oapce.ca))
- Your local School Board ---



### CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN ONTARIO NURTURING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT



### CHOOSE, EMBRACE AND STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLICLY FUNDED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

