



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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November 25, 2016

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Brian O'Sullivan, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – April 30 – May 5, 2017**
“Catholic Education: Walking Forward Together”

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

As we approach the Advent season, we are reminded that publicly-funded Catholic education is a call to service. Regardless of our position or our responsibilities within Catholic education, our role is a call, birthed in our Baptism to bring the saving message of Jesus Christ into the lives of those students whom it is our privilege to serve. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is *“Walking Forward Together”*.

The 2017 CEW theme and its five sub-themes are drawn from three contemporary Catholic documents that address the need for reconciliation and renewal – in our lives, with our families, in our relationships with others and in our relationship with our environment and our common global future.

The first is the 2016 response of the Canadian Catholic Bishops to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission that we need to heal past injustices by *“Walking Forward Together”*. The second is the 2015 encyclical *“Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home”* by Pope Francis that emphasizes the cultural roots of our ecological problems and advocates an urgent world collaboration for the care of our global common home. The third document, *“Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love”* is a 2016 Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis which applauds our dedication and concern shown to children, families, migrants, the poor, the elderly and to persons with special needs as a sign of the Spirit. These supportive relationships are a test of our commitment to show mercy in welcoming others and to help the vulnerable to be fully a part of our communities.

Our CEW biblical quote, *“Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God”*, Micah 6:8 acknowledges the important role of justice and solidarity with our Indigenous peoples, our environment, the poor and marginalized and all those who work to protect our common global future.

Attached, please find the Advance Kit for Catholic Education Week. I would like to thank our team of educators from our English and French Catholic boards for their work involved in preparing this resource.

We ask that you please forward this resource to your school and board staff, responsible for overseeing materials related to CEW 2017.

Attachment