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

FROM: Brian O'Sullivan, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week – May 5 – May 10, 2019**
“Catholic Education: *Living as Joyful Disciples*”

“Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.” 1 Peter 1:8

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 reality elevates our duties and responsibilities to another plane. Left to our own strengths and abilities, the task seems and is very challenging, but we are not alone in this task. Jesus promised us the abiding strength of the Holy Spirit to be with us always – not just for a century or two at the church's beginning, but always. But the promise is predicated on our faithful and faith-filled response to that call to service following the example of Jesus who said, “I am in the midst of you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27)

Catholic Education Week begins on Sunday, May 5, 2019. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is “*Living as Joyful Disciples*.” The theme for CEW 2019 was inspired by three sources:

- *Renewing the Promise*, The Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario
- *Gaudete et exsultate*, The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness¹
- *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, The Synod of Bishops in October 2018²

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 2019.***

Attachment

¹ http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

² <http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>; <http://www.ocytoronto.org/synod/>