

# International Day of Charity

## September 5, 2014

How wonderful that *International Day of Charity* is being celebrated at the start of the school year. It is truly fitting as we at the Toronto Catholic District School Board also begin our celebration of the Year of Charity.

As a Catholic community, we know that charity should not be limited to one day, or even to a single year. We also recognize that our school communities, our students, our staff, and our families always open their hearts to those in need. Each year we marvel at the generosity of our school communities as they raise money, collect food and clothing, and donate their time and talent to community service here in our own city, and around the world. Across the Board our students and staff open their hearts to initiatives that support the mental and spiritual well-being of some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Stop the Stigma, Circling our Angels with Hope, the Vow of Silence and ThinkFast are just a few such programs that inspire our students to develop empathy and compassion. We see our Catholic beliefs and values come to life through the words and actions of everyone in our system.

On this World Day of Charity, we ask you to pray for those who are in need, and for those who support them. We ask for God's blessing on all who serve. We ask Him to touch all of our hearts so that we will continue to see the need in our communities and around the world, and be willing to respond to the call for help.

We remind you that resources for the Year of Charity are available on the Board's website <http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearOfCharity/Pages/default.aspx> We look forward to seeing how our school communities will demonstrate charity throughout the year as we watch the *Wave of Charity* sweep across the city (<http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearOfCharity/Pages/Heart-of-Charity.aspx>).

To quote from our Faith, Hope and Charity Prayer, "May we be people of CHARITY, always willing to give of ourselves to better the lives of others."

Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education

Jo-Ann Davis  
Chair of the Board

*"You tell us that to love God and neighbour is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus. (5/21/13)"—Pope Francis*