



## **International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27, 2017**

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies have asked for all school boards in Ontario to acknowledge January 27<sup>th</sup> as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is proud of its long-standing relationship with the Simon Wiesenthal Center on a number of educational programs/initiatives that serve to educate students about the tragedy of the Holocaust. This human catastrophe brought on by hatred and apathy, is one that remains relevant to all of us.

It serves as a reminder of what can happen when we see injustice and intolerance and we do nothing. It also provides us with an opportunity to focus on the heroic actions of those who were brave enough to stand up against the violence and hatred and help those who are being victimized. As we continue to welcome newcomers to Canada, and to our school communities, we are called to reflect on how we can play a part in ensuring that everyone feels welcome, accepted and valued.

Consistent with our Catholic values, and Catholic social justice teachings, it is our hope that by supporting the commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, our staff and students will continue to be inspired to nurture communities that are caring, respectful and inclusive, and that we will continue to stand up against anyone or anything that threatens the freedom, safety and well-being of others.

Some valuable teaching resources about the Holocaust can be found on their website here:  
<https://www.friendsofsimonwiesenthalcenter.com/education/education-and-diversity-programs>

**Angela Gauthier**  
*Director of Education*

**Angela Kennedy**  
*Chair of the Board*

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*"May we respect and love one another as brothers and sisters!  
May we learn to understand the suffering of others!  
May no one abuse the name of God through violence!"—Pope Francis*