

*Rich and poor have this in common:  
The Lord is the Maker of them all.—Proverbs 22:2  
He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind  
to the needy honors God.—Proverbs 14:31*

**December 10<sup>th</sup> is  
International Human Rights Day  
A Message from the Catholic Director of Education  
And Chair of the Board**

The United Nations has declared December 10<sup>th</sup> as International Human Rights Day. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action state that *“All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status, and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”*

For us as a Catholic community, each and every day should be Human Rights Day, as our faith calls us to serve others, and to respect the dignity and worth of each and every person.

Our Catholic Graduate Expectations remind us of our responsibility to help our students to become caring and responsible members of society, and to put their faith into action through service to others. We need to lead by example, modelling Christian leadership at every opportunity.

As a Board we continue to focus on issues of social justice. Our students, staff and their families always give generously of their time and their resources to support a wide variety of causes locally and around the world. We take great pride in their generosity and compassion.

We are also proud of TCDSB’s leadership in the development of policies that support social justice issues. Our sweatshop free policy, bottled water free initiative, environmental practices and the establishment of a committee for social justice all speak to our commitment to human rights, living our Catholic values and caring for our world.

Today, and every day, let us remember to pray for those who are victims of injustice and indignity, and to also pray for our world leaders that they will be inspired to enact policies that foster the development of more equitable and fair distribution of resources, and put an end to injustice and abuse.

Sincerely,

**Angela Gauthier**  
Director of Education

**Michael Del Grande**  
Chair of the Board