

**Respect for Life Week**  
**May 10-16, 2015**  
*A Message from the Director of Education  
And Chair of the Board*

*“All too often, people do not choose life, they do not accept the ‘Gospel of Life’ but let themselves be led by ideologies and ways of thinking that block life, that do not respect life, because they are dictated by selfishness, self-interest, profit, power and pleasure, and not by love, by concern for the good of others...Let us say ‘yes’ to love and not selfishness. Let us say ‘yes’ to life and not death. Let us say ‘yes’ to freedom and not enslavement.”– Pope Francis*

Respect for Life Week is truly an extension of Catholic Education Week as we all recognize the value we place on all human life from conception to the grave. We believe that all life is sacred, and something to be valued and treasured. We embrace equity and inclusiveness and strive to create caring and welcoming learning environments for all our students.

Respect for Life Week reminds us to focus not only on those issues which take human life, but also those which attack human dignity. These values are woven into the fabric of our Catholic schools, and are reflected in our curriculum and day to day interactions.

Our school communities demonstrate their compassion and concern for the good of others in so many ways each and every day. During this, our Year of Charity, our schools were asked to be more forthcoming with how they put faith into action by sharing with us their stories and images of love, compassion and service. We have seen how they reach out to the lonely, the sick, the marginalized, the impoverished and the oppressed and their kindness and generosity has been a great source of pride.

You are reminded that prayers, reflections and other resources for Respect for Life Week (prepared by the Religion and Family Life Department and Catholic Teachers’ Centre) are available online through the board’s website [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org). We hope that these materials will assist you to inspire meaningful classroom and community discussions.

We ask you to join us in prayer for guidance and assistance so that we may further promote the dignity and value of all human life--born and unborn. God bless!

*Angela Gauthier*  
Director of Education

*Michael Del Grande*  
Chair of the Board