



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Respect for Life Week: May 13-18, 2018

“We are called to reach out to those who find themselves in the existential peripheries of our societies and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, migrants and refugees, the elderly and the young who lack employment.” – Pope Francis

As we conclude the inspiring celebration of Catholic Education Week, we continue our focus on Catholic values. Respect for Life Week reminds us that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and of the importance of treasuring this holy gift. As Catholics, we believe that all life is sacred, and something to be cherished and revered.

At the Toronto Catholic District School Board, we strive to create caring and welcoming learning environments for all our staff and students, through equity and inclusiveness. The Board’s enduring support for respect for life issues is reflected in policy, curriculum, professional development opportunities for staff, school climates, and special events. This week reminds us to reflect on the sanctity and worthiness of all human life, and to focus on one of the core pillars of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan—Living Our Catholic Values.

Let us focus on the Virtue of the Month for May – Compassion. As a Catholic community, our staff and students put their faith into action by focusing on social justice issues, promoting world peace and supporting those who are less fortunate. We commend these acts of kindness and compassion as we strive to nurture and protect each and every child of God.

Prayers and other resources for Respect for Life Week are available on the board’s website [here](#). It is our hope that these materials will inspire classroom discussion and reflection.

During this Respect for Life Week, please take a moment to reflect and say a prayer of thanks for those who uphold the value of all human life.

God Bless!

Sincerely,

Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

Barbara Poplawski
Chair of the Board