



Respect for Life Week Message From the Director of Education and Chair of the Board

The Toronto Catholic District School Board celebrates Respect for Life Week from May 12th to 18th. This is a time for us to reflect on the sanctity and dignity of all human life, and to focus on one of the core pillars of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan—Living Our Catholic Values, and to remind ourselves of our commitment to equity and inclusion in our classrooms, in our schools and offices, and in our communities.

As an education community, we are called upon to inspire, guide and challenge our young people to take a stand for the protection of human life, to speak out again injustice and to help those who are less fortunate.

You should have already received a resource document through our Religion and Family Life Department, and this document is also posted on the Board's website at <http://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/Documents/Board%20Respect%20for%20Life%20Resource%202013.pdf>. We encourage you to explore the materials that are provided, and to use them to inspire your classroom discussions.

To quote from that document: "*Respect for life includes many issues. All human beings have equal value and dignity - from the oldest to the youngest, from those who are strong and healthy to those who are vulnerable because of illness or disabilities, from those who can speak for themselves, to those who cannot.*" Every day throughout the Board, we see our students, staff and their families reaching out in a variety of ways to support those who are impoverished or marginalized in some way, and that leaves us both humbled and proud.

It is our hope that this year's Respect for Life Week will provide you with an opportunity for prayer and reflection, as well as inspire you to put your faith into action. God bless.

Bruce Rodrigues
Director of Education

Ann Andrachuk
Chair of the Board

Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life

Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by You. In Your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.