



**Respect for Life Week
May 11-16, 2014
A Message from the Director of Education
And Chair of the Board**

“Let us say ‘Yes’ to life and not death. 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.” – Pope Francis

As a Catholic community we are called to make connections between the tenets of our faith and our day to day experiences, and at the core of our Catholic Social Teachings is the recognition of the sacredness and dignity of life.

As a Catholic education community we are also called to guide, nurture and challenge our young people to respect and protect human life, at every stage and state.

It is not a coincidence that the celebration of Respect for Life Week begins with Mother’s Day—a day set aside to acknowledge the vocation of motherhood and demonstrate our respect and appreciation for the role they play in the lives of their children.

Our Virtue of the Month focus for May is compassion. Each year our students and staff demonstrate compassion through their leadership and involvement in initiatives that focus on Catholic social justice issues which recognize the inalienable worth of the human person promoting justice, peace and the protection to those who are the most vulnerable in our society. We applaud the many efforts of those in our Board to feed, clothe and provide shelter for those in need, to extend friendship to those who are isolated, to care for those who have been neglected, and to question that which threatens the life and dignity of the human person.

Prayers, reflections and other resources for Respect for Life Week are available online through the board’s website www.tcdsb.org (click on Nurturing our Catholic Community). We encourage you to explore the materials that are provided, and to use them to inspire classroom and community discussions.

Take a moment to say a prayer of thanks for all who uphold the dignity and worth of every human being, as well as those who are in need of enlightenment.

God bless!

*Angela Gauthier
Director of Education*

*Jo-Ann Davis
Chair of the Board*