

Respect for Life Week
May 8-14, 2016
*A Message from the Director of Education
And Chair of the Board*

“The victims of this [throwaway] culture are precisely the weakest and most fragile human beings — the unborn, the poorest, the sick and elderly, the seriously handicapped, etc. — who are in danger of being ‘thrown away,’ expelled from a system that must be efficient at all costs...It is necessary to raise awareness and form the lay faithful, in whatever state, especially those engaged in the field of politics, so that they may think in accord with the Gospel and the social doctrine of the church and act consistently by dialoguing and collaborating with those who, in sincerity and intellectual honesty, share — if not the faith — at least a similar vision of mankind and society and its ethical consequences. — Speech to a delegation from the Dignitatis Humanae Institute Dec. 7, 2013 – Pope Francis

As the celebration of Catholic Education Week approaches an end, we continue the focus on our Catholic faith and Catholic values as we mark Respect for Life Week. As a Catholic family, we recognize the sanctity of all human life from conception to the grave, and we celebrate the precious gift of life that is ours to treasure.

Respect for Life Week invites us to consider issues which take human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, while also focusing on those which attack human dignity such as poverty, inequality, bullying and persecution. We are called to build inclusive communities where all are valued, accepted, included and loved.

In this the Year of the Family, it is heartwarming to see our schools reaching out to our global family--responding to needs not just in our schools and parishes, but also those around the world. Their efforts to reach out to the lonely, the sick, the marginalized, the impoverished and the oppressed and their kindness and generosity remains a constant source of pride.

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 to assist you in your classroom discussions and prayer services.

We wish you all a prayerful week of reflection.

Angela Gauthier
Director of Education

Angela Kennedy
Chair of the Board