



Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board

Respect for Life Week: May 12-17, 2019

“Caring for life from the beginning to the end. What a simple thing, what a beautiful thing...So, go forth and don't be discouraged. Care for life. It's worth it.”

- Pope Francis

Respect for Life Week is a time for Catholics to truly focus on their moral Christian values. Though each of us is unique, we are all made in God's image and likeness and we must treasure the gift of that we have been given.

As Catholics, we believe that all human life is sacred and must be cherished above all else. From conception through to death, every life has value and meaning, and must be protected and respected.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board endeavours to create a caring, nurturing, and welcoming environment. We strive to make our students and teachers feel at home by demonstrating equity, inclusion, friendship and belonging. Through the Board's policies, our Catholic curriculum, professional development opportunities for teachers, school climates, and special events, our commitment to social justice and respect for life issues are revealed daily.

As a Catholic Community, we commend all acts of kindness and compassion as we work to protect and nurture all children of God. Our faith can be put into action by continuing to act as joyful disciples of Christ engaged in social justice issues, promoting world peace, and supporting the less fortunate.

This week is set aside as an opportunity for us to take some time to reflect on the worth of all human life, and to consider how we can support others.

During this Respect for Life Week, please take a moment to reflect upon, and say a prayer of thanks, both for those who do not enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities that we do, and those who uphold, and continue to advocate for, the value of all human life.

For resources and information, we encourage you to visit our website:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/board/nurturingourcatholiccommunity/pages/respect-for-life-week.aspx>

Sincerely,

Rory McGuckin

Director of Education

Maria Rizzo

Chair of the Board