



## **Year-End Message from the Director of Education and Chair of the Board**

The 2012-2013 school year has been extraordinary for the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Our students received recognition at the local, provincial, national and even international level in a variety of endeavours and the continued improvement reflected in EQAO test results and high school graduation rates speak volumes to our focus on student achievement and well-being. All of us – teachers, parents, support staff and spiritual leaders – share a collective responsibility for making our schools places of excellence where students are encouraged and inspired to realize their full potential. Thank you for making this possible.

In September the Board embarked on a new three-year pastoral plan focusing on the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. For the past 10 months, we have put our Faith into action at our schools and in our offices. The highlights are many: our students participated in Skype sessions with his Eminence Cardinal Collins during his visit to Rome; a legion of our young artists painted “Doors of Hope” for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Catholic Charities; our namesake school celebrated the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha; loving hands joined beads during the Board’s first annual Rosary Day; our Choir School students sang for Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome; and we ‘welcomed home’ the Witness to Faith Cross after its two-year journey to every school in the TCDSB.

This journey symbolized the incredible period of transformation and growth this Board has experienced. It is fitting that the Witness Cross has blossomed into a powerful, Board-wide symbol of hope for a diverse community united in faith. During its journey the cross was touched by over 100,000 hands – and touched just as many hearts. As one student said with great pride, “it is our Olympic torch!”

The Board continued to align its goals and objectives with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and approved a fourth consecutive balanced budget, which reaffirmed our investment in 21st century learning, special education, transportation services, school maintenance, parental and student engagement, and specialized literacy programs. St. Conrad, St. Nicholas and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Catholic Schools were new schools completed this year. Construction has begun or is imminent on several other new schools and additions – part of an aggressive and unprecedented \$403 million capital program.

We can not state enough how grateful we are for the ongoing support of our parents, staff, parishes and Catholic stakeholders for their positive impact on Catholic education. These combined forces continue to help guide and inspire our students to become discerning believers, reflective, creative and holistic thinkers, collaborative contributors, and caring and responsible members of society.

To our graduating students, we congratulate them and wish them much success in the years ahead.

The new school year will bring with it a change in administrative leadership. The Board of Trustees has initiated the transition process and search for a new Director of Education. We are confident that a knowledgeable, capable and dedicated leader will be selected to continue to move the Board forward.

On behalf of the senior team and the Trustees of the Board, we thank you for all that you do to fulfill our mission of transforming the world through witness, faith, innovation and action. We wish you all a safe and restful summer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Rodrigues".

Bruce Rodrigues  
*Director of Education*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Andrachuk".

Ann Andrachuk  
*Chair of the Board*