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**TO:** Directors of Education

**CC:** Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario  
Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario  
Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education  
Ontario Catholic School Business Officials' Association  
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association  
Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association  
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

**FROM:** Michael Pautler, Executive Director

**DATE:** November 15, 2018

**RE:** **Changes to the "Our Father" in French**

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The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced a change in the prayer of the Our Father in French, effective the first Sunday of Advent, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

This change in the French translation comes after years of deliberation by the Liturgy Committee of the French Language Bishops Association (AELF). Below, both versions of the prayer and the explanation behind the change:

New version (2018)

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,  
que ton nom soit sanctifié,  
que ton règne vienne,  
que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre  
comme au ciel.

Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce  
Jour.  
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,  
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui  
nous ont offensés,  
**Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,**  
mais délivre-nous du mal. Amen

Previous version (1966)

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,  
que ton nom soit sanctifié,  
que ton règne vienne,  
que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre  
comme au ciel.

Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce  
Jour.  
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,  
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui  
nous ont offensés,  
**et ne nous soumetts pas à la tentation,**  
mais délivre-nous du mal. Amen

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The change in the text of the “Our Father” concerns one line near the end. In English, it is the line that says “lead us not into temptation”. In French, there have long been concerns that this sentence was leading the faithful to believe that God deliberately subjects us to temptation in order to test us or to make us suffer; in fact, the intention of the prayer is to ask God to protect us when we encounter temptation so as to not succumb. God is not the author of temptation; He journeys with us and calls us to overcome the temptations that we encounter daily.

This revised version of the “Our Father” should be adapted for use beginning in December, 2018 whenever the French language version of the prayer is used. An explanation in French as well as classroom posters are available on [www.opeco.ca/prieres/0202/](http://www.opeco.ca/prieres/0202/).

Your assistance in ensuring that this information is passed along to appropriate staff, most especially in schools providing French Immersion programs, is appreciated.

