



OVERVIEW

NOVEMBER

Virtue: PEACE



Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation: An Effective Communicator

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: Promotion of Peace

Overview of the Virtue of Peace

- Peace is a goal of all spiritual people
- Peace begins within ourselves and is an inner state of well-being and calm.
- People of peace promote non-violence, practice conflict resolution, and believe in cooperating to solve problems.
- The root of the Hebrew word for peace, "shalom," means "whole" and points to this twofold meaning: peace within oneself and peace between people.

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation -- I HAVE A VOICE

An Effective Communicator who:

- Listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values. OCSGE 2(a)
- Reads, understands and uses written materials effectively. OCSGE 2(b)
- Presents information and ideas clearly and honestly and with sensitivity to others. OCSGE 2(c)
- Writes and speaks fluently one or both of Canada's official languages. OCSGE 2(d)
- Uses and integrates the Catholic faith tradition, in the critical analysis of the arts, media, technology and information systems to enhance the quality of life. OCSGE 2(e)

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching - PROMOTION OF PEACE:

Catholic teaching promotes peace as a positive, action-oriented concept. "Peace is not just the absence of war," said Pope John Paul II, "it involves mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. It involves collaboration and binding agreements." Peace and justice are linked: Peace is the fruit of justice.

PEACE

I HAVE A VOICE

“Listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values.” OCSGE 2(a)

PROMOTION OF PEACE

Faith – Scripture Passages:

- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (**Matthew 5:9**)
- Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (**John 14:27**)
- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Romans 5:1**)
- But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... (**Luke 6:27**)

Additional References:

- “In a culture where communication is increasingly commercialized, we are invited to prayer and to worship.” (**This Moment of Promise**)

Discussion Starters:

- What are the qualities of an effective communicator seeking peace?
- ***Jesus as a communicator of peace at the synagogue in Nazareth***

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went back to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written.

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ (**Luke 4: 16-21**)

- *From your own experience, how has this passage been brought to life in your Catholic School Community?*

FAITH IN ACTION – ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS

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PROMOTION OF PEACE

The following Catholic Schools are among some which have received Speak Up Grants from the Ministry of Education. These Catholic Schools from around the province illustrated “Faith in Action” in their schools through various clubs and activities. May they serve to spark inspiration and innovation in your school, as your Catholic Community lives out the call “to pray and to worship in a culture where communication is increasingly commercialized.” (This Moment of Promise)

- **Title: Grandfriends**

REFLECTION ON ACTIVITY: *In scripture, age is not a barrier to proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Jesus began using his voice at a young age speaking out at the Temple with the elders. How are you using your voice and what is your school community doing to promote peace?*

Description: A small group of intermediate students created a committee to promote the acceptance of all students in the school community. For their own education, the committee attended a hate-crime awareness workshop presented by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Toronto. After the workshop, they sought a way to present the lessons they had learned to a wider student audience. Working over many months, they created poetry, digital photographs depicting the school’s monthly virtues, a media presentation and a play to illustrate their message. Finally, they presented this material at an awareness assembly. Every student who attended the assembly received a wristband with a unifying message stating “We’re all in this together”. In this way, students were empowered to use their own voice to speak up against isolation and discrimination, and to create an environment where all can feel safe and welcomed.

Project Type: Student-Led Teacher-Facilitated

Grade(s) Impacted: Students, Teachers, Community

School Name: Pope John Paul II Sep S

School Board: Dufferin-Peel CDSB

- **Title: TNC: That's Not Cool**

REFLECTION ON ACTIVITY: *What scripture could you highlight to make a banner for this activity? (For example, [Sermon on the Mount](#) (Matthew 5:1-16))*

Description: Spearheaded by four student leaders and a teacher-facilitator, “That’s Not Cool” involved the making of a video to raise awareness of bullying in the school. The student leaders created an interesting logo that depicts bullying in a non-traditional way and that was used on t-shirts, posters for classrooms and a promotional banner. Thirty students in Grades 9 – 12 were then invited to participate in producing the video. A script was written, including scenarios focusing on new concerns such as cyber-bullying. The student actors practiced their parts and the video was filmed in the Grade 7/8 hallways. Everyone was excited to be part of the initiative because they had all been affected by bullying and wanted to help create positive change at the school. The completed video was presented to all the students involved at a pizza celebration towards the end of the school year. It was also shown at an all-school assembly in September, 2009, when a new “That’s Not Cool” Committee was created.

Project Type: Student-Led Teacher-Facilitated

Grade(s) Impacted: 7-12, Teachers, Community

School Name: All Saints Catholic HS

School Board: Ottawa CDSB

Other Ideas you can try!

- Collect pictures that have a calming, peaceful effect on you. Paste a few of them at the back of your journal to contemplate during those times when you feel ill at ease with yourself and the world.
- Be an instrument of God's peace in your school community, home, and work place. Refrain from the use of sarcasm, ridicule, or teasing as weapons against each other.
- Go on violence fast. Give up entertainments which contain any kind of violence.

FAITH BASED MEDIA LINKS

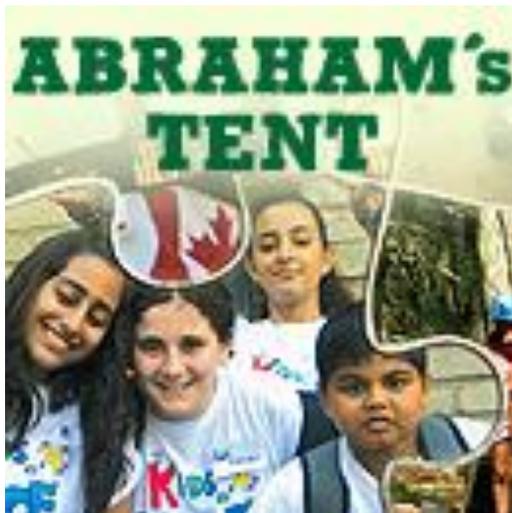
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PROMOTION OF PEACE

Salt and Light Link: <http://saltandlighttv.org/abrahamstent/>



A group of Israeli youth with Muslims, Jews and Christians spend two weeks with a multi-faith group of young Canadians. By sharing their beliefs, stories and struggles through play and prayer, they come to a deeper appreciation of the beauty and meaning of each others' faiths and cultures. In a world plagued by religious conflict, this inspiring short documentary shows us how simple it is for people who are different to live in peace.

FAITH PRAYERS AND AFFIRMATIONS

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PROMOTION OF PEACE

Prayers:

- **Faith, Hope and Charity Prayer**

Loving God, we pray that the Toronto Catholic District School Board community continues to witness to the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

May we be people of FAITH, always willing to follow the example of Jesus in all that we do.

May we be people of HOPE, always trusting in your loving presence in our lives.

May we be people of CHARITY, always willing to give of ourselves to better the lives of others.

- **Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

- We know that peace can be uneasy. We know that peace can be fragile. We know that peace can hide oppression. We know we can experience peace in the midst of conflict. We know that in the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus praised peace-makers as children of God. When we launch peace initiatives we mirror God’s mind and will. We pray for peace. That our approach to conflict will be governed by Jesus’ attitude to peacemaking. We pray to You, Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.
- For those places in the world which are currently experiencing war at first hand. We pray to You, Lord. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

- **Prayer for Peace in Our Communities and the World** (By: Education for Justice)

We pray to you, Creator:

Hear our voices, for they are the voices of the victims of all wars and violence.

Hear our voices, for they are the voices of all children who suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear our voices, when we beg you, Lord, to instill in all human hearts the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of solidarity.

Hear our voices, for we speak for the multitudes in every country who do not want violence and war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear our voices, and grant us insight and courage so we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to social justice, to need with sharing, and to war with peace.

Adapted from a prayer for peace by Pope John Paul II

- **Justice and Peace Prayer**

God of Justice and Peace,

Mold our consciences

according to justice,

And shape our hearts

according to peace,

That we may recognize the talents

that you have given us

To secure the rights of the poor,

the oppressed, the sick

and the marginalized.

God, we are Your children.

Grant us the courage and strength

To work for justice,

And in this way,

Live out our call

to be peacemakers.

Affirmations:

- I speak, write and listen as Jesus would want me to
- I care about others and speak up for them
- I am honest
- I think carefully before I react or speak
- I respect all people and their languages
- I listen to the Word of God
- I will practice peace by refusing to participate in violence either directly or indirectly.
- I will try to stay composed no matter how agitated the people around me become

REFERENCES

- Salt and Light <http://saltandlighttv.org/>
- ICE- Institute for Catholic Education www.iceont.ca
- CCC- Catholic Curriculum Corporation www.catholiccurriculumcorp.org
- CARFLEO www.carfleo.org
- TCDSB- Nurturing Our Catholic Community website www.tcdsb.org
- Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board www.dpcdsb.org
- Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board www.hwcdsb.ca
- Niagara Catholic District School Board www.niagaracatholic.ca
- York Catholic District School Board www.ycdsb.ca
- Spirituality and Practice Website <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/>
- Actions
Speak Up Student Engagement –Ontario Ministry of Education
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/speakup/index.html>
- Prayers <http://www.rc.net/arlington/stann/Teen%20and%20Parent%20Prayer%20Booklet.pdf>
- Passionist Community Prayer Resources www.cptryon.org/prayer/index.html
- Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
<http://catholicactionnetwork.org/dec05/documents/CSTprinciples.pdf>
- <http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/schoolcouncil/Shared%20Documents/renewingthevision.pdf>
- <http://www.educationforjustice.org/>