

TCDSB Celebrates International Women's Day 2019



Land Acknowledgement

Out of our deep respect for Indigenous peoples in Canada, we acknowledge that all Toronto Catholic District School Board properties are situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, the Anishinabek (a-ni-shna-bek) Nation, the Haudenosaunee (hoh-Dee-noh-Shoh-nee) Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. We also recognize the contributions and enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

A Celebration of Women

The theme for International Women's Day 2019 is: ***Think equal, build smart, innovate for change.***

The theme will focus on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Bible is rich with the stories of strong women:

from Eve, mother of all living,
to Sarah, woman of faith,
to Miriam, young, anxious and compassionate,
to Naomi, widowed but gracious,

to Ruth, faithful and strong,
to Esther, brave in leadership,
to Elizabeth, humble and hopeful,
and of course, Mary, Mother of Jesus, Queen of peace, mother of us all.

These are our spiritual ancestors who played significant roles in the story of our salvation. Each and every one of us is invited to reflect and listen to the voices of these women and other women who have influenced us.

The Gospel reading today is the Magnificat. The Magnificat is Mary's public proclamation of her own intimate and personal experience of God's action in her own life. It is both a Song of joy and a manifesto of hope for every woman – filled (to the brim) with sentiments of thanksgiving and sharp insights into God's own policy toward humanity.

With hearts full of love and gratitude, we celebrate them and ourselves, and join Mary in her song of joy and praise as we offer our prayer today.

Let us begin with the sign of our faith:

+In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...Amen

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:46-55)

All: *Glory to You, O Lord.*

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: *Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ*

Litany of Mary

The Response is: *Be with us, Mother of Jesus*

Woman of confidence, woman of hope, woman of strength. ®

Woman of integrity, woman of truth, woman of prayer. ®

Woman of justice, woman of faith, refugee woman. ®

Mother listener, mother minister, mother teacher ®

Mother provider, mother trainer, mother reconciler ®

Servant of God, disciple of Christ, surprise of the Holy Spirit. ®

Please Join in Praying the “**Hail Mary**”

Let us pray:

Loving God, we celebrate your faithfulness and love. On this day we commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women. Bless every woman who has built up our families and our world through their love and

devotion. Inspire us to follow their great examples that we may with them share in the vision of your glory; through Christ your Son our Lord.

+In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...Amen