



Diocese of Thunder Bay

Newsletter

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 1222 Reaume Street, Postal Box 10400, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8 | dotb.ca

Summer/Fall 2023

A Message of Hope to the Class of 2024. *By Katelin Legros, Diocese of Thunder Bay*

Graduating high school is a big milestone in a young person's life, signifying the completion of one chapter and the exciting commencement of another. As the previous grade 12 class walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, a fresh wave of students eagerly steps into their shoes, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This transition is a blend of nostalgia and anticipation, and it's a time to reflect on the journey so far while looking forward to the future with hope and determination. Navigating your Catholic faith while in school is a journey that involves embracing challenges, engaging with diverse perspectives, and fostering a strong sense of spirituality. By prioritizing prayer, connecting with like-minded peers, integrating faith with academics, staying informed,

and approaching interactions with humility, you can not only keep your Catholic faith alive but also strengthen it. Remember that your faith is a source of guidance, strength, and inspiration that can guide you through the ups and downs of your academic journey and beyond. Graduating high school is a significant accomplishment that marks the end of a cherished era and the beginning of an exciting new adventure leaving behind a legacy of growth, camaraderie, and perseverance. To the incoming grade 12 class, remember that you are stepping into a world of infinite possibilities. Embrace the journey, keep your spirits high, and march forward with confidence and faith in our Lord as your future holds boundless potential waiting to be explored. †



Hopes & Dreams

Hopes and Dreams. By Fred J. Colli, Bishop of Thunder Bay



During the month of June each year, I am given the privilege of sharing in the graduation celebrations of our Catholic high school students. It is always a moving celebration at graduation where you hear about the many awards

and scholarships that the students receive and also the expression of their desires for future education. Many students share their hopes and dreams of attending a special university or college and indicating, as they receive their high school diploma, their vocation aspirations. We hear hopes of medical school doctors and nurses, engineers and teachers, social workers and professional sports vocations. These hopes and dreams are a very important part of this celebration, since having a goal or a vocation direction in life is an important target for future successes. I see the many proud parents who attend these graduations, and the joy in them for their children's successes.

Along with high school graduations, we know that there are hopes and dreams shared in many aspects of our daily lives. Anniversary celebrations not only look back at achievements and success, struggles and challenges, but there is always a wish for future goodness and contentment. Birthday celebrations also express wishes for future health and success. We share hopes and dreams in our daily lives with families and the raising of children. Parents hope and dream that they will be good parents, to guide their children on a right path to success and happiness in their future lives. We hear of hopes when we are challenged with life's struggles like an illness, we hope for a speedy recovery; issues of unemployment call forth hopes for a future well paying job; and personal and relationship struggles, bring hopes and dreams for reconciliations, renewal of friendships, restitution for any wrongdoings, and also hopes for a safe and healthy future for all communities. We realize this even more today, after having just spend

over two years in a world pandemic with Covid.

Hope and dreams also play a part in our spiritual lives. Jesus has promised us, that if we follow his commandments and live lives that reflect his example of compassion, caring and loving one another, we will inherit eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. Our busy lives do not give us much time to reflect on our future life in heaven. Yet, with the death of a loved one or a friend, we are presented with the reality that our live here on earth is very short, and that as Christians we believe in the promise Jesus gave us. Jesus said: *"For it is My Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* (Jn. 6:40)

As we settle into the summer months and take some time to relax and rejuvenate ourselves, we ask the Lord to always be with us and our families. We ask that our hopes and dreams for our children, for good health, success and happiness, will be fulfilled in our lives. We pray for those who are struggling in this world with issues of war and unrest in their countries. We pray for the many refugees around the world, whose hopes and dreams are hindered by global unrest. We pray for struggling families, and for those seeking employment to support their families. We know that not all hopes and dreams are always fulfilled. However, it is hope that sustains us in life. In our hope we share our dreams for a better and more prosperous time for the future. It is that hope and those dreams that prompt us to work together for the good of all and it sustains us in our relationship with God and with one another. May we always have and share hopes and dreams! †



Catholic Education 2023. By Sam Cullen

Spiritual Theme

Every two years, our Board chooses a spiritual theme. For the last two years, we have been exploring our faith as an essential part of our Catholic identity and a source of strength in difficult times. This year, we moved into a new theme where we acknowledge that we continue to face challenges as we emerge from the pandemic. We purposefully explore the virtues of hope and compassion as we find our way forward together at Thunder Bay Catholic.

In our world today, it is not enough to just hear about Jesus; we must live his story every day in the choices we make. We can talk about hope and compassion, and we will draw on teachings from scripture to help us understand these virtues on a deeper level, but we need to take the stories further and make the teachings a way of life. We must connect stories to our own lives, create meaning for the present and ignite hope for the future.



Student trustees: Gabriella Pelletier and Joseph Foresta were MCs for our Catholic Youth Conference on May 2. Nearly 300 students in grades 7 to 12 attended. The theme was: **Ignite: Lighting the Hope Within.** Bishop Colli welcomed participants and shared teachings about the theme for Catholic Education Week: We are Many, We are One. Ontario's first Poet Laureate, Randell Adjei shared his story and told the participants how important it is to find your gifts and use them. Andy Thibodeau talked about the importance of getting

involved, being the light of Christ for others, the power of invitation and sharing care.



Andy visited grade 6 students on May 4 and talked about the importance of 'getting your hand up' and how to be the light of Christ for others in having the courage to get involved and help others to do so as well.

We asked students what they learned at the Ignite Conference, and here are some of the things they said:

We are responsible for keeping the spark alive in our community and ourselves.

I learned to never lower myself or my care for someone else. I learned about the importance of caring for others and never making assumptions. I learned that each person is unique and has something to share with the world.

Thank you to St. Bernard and St. Martin for hosting! †





As we begin our annual Bishop's Diocesan Ministry Campaign for 2023, you will see that our theme this year is "Serving the Lord". Service is such an important component in our lives as Christians. Jesus himself said: "I have come not to be served, but to serve." Matt.20:28. Following the example of Jesus, we take seriously his command and his instruction to us. Serving the Lord means, serving one another in the name of the Lord. We see this demonstrated in the many actions of charity and good will that are performed each day all around us.

We see this service in our parish churches, with priests, deacons, ministers of service, laity, and everyone working together, on weekends, so our Sunday celebrations are fitting times of pray and praise to God. We see this service in our outreach to others through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, through the Catholic Action Centre, through the many food banks, the Dew Drop Inn and other service agencies in our communities. We know that service is also a very important part of our community living in society.

As Christians, our service carries an additional component in that it is done, not just in a humanitarian spirit but also as a response to Jesus and His call to service for all who follow Him. It is a part of our vocation as a Christian. Jesus taught us to love and serve one another with generous hearts and He reminded us that our good deeds and acts of charity will not go unrewarded. There are many quotes in the scriptures where Jesus reminds His disciples that charity or love is at the heart of all believers and His life and sacrifice is the greatest act of love which rewards us with salvation and eternal life.

Our campaign this year highlights the many forms of outreach and charity that our diocesan family shares. Our case statement for our 2023 campaign is similar to last year, since these needs do not change that much each

year. We note especially our outreach to people needing clothing and food, youth and their ministries, diocesan needs to serve the entire faith family of northwestern Ontario, parishes struggling and needing support and encouragement, along with the ongoing education of our priests and deacons and the training of deacon candidates and our support to our retired priests.

We are praying this year for an increase in vocations to priesthood for our diocese. We need local priests to serve in our parishes and we know that vocations come from the families in our diocesan church. Our prayer is that the Lord will touch the hearts of young men to seriously consider being a priest and to serve after the example of Jesus.

The priest is essential for the proper growth of a parish community. The priest brings his gifts and talents to the community he is called to serve, but also he brings us Christ in his example and in the Eucharist he celebrates for us. Our spiritual life is nourished by the Eucharist and the other sacraments, and our parish communities are strengthened in our united prayer on Sunday. Please pray for vocations, so there will always be priests to serve the parishes in our diocese.

As the bishop, I want to thank you for your continued generosity to my annual Diocesan Ministry Campaign. Your gift allows me to continue the work of evangelization and making the Gospel real and vibrant through our parishes in northwestern Ontario. I realize that the financial situation for many is very challenging today, and I appreciate your concern for my needs. May your generosity keep our faith and our church communities strong and thriving, as together we seek to "Serve the Lord." I ask God's blessings upon you and your families.

Bishop Fred Colli, Bishop of Thunder Bay



Diocesan Ministries in Our Parish

Education

Adult Faith Office: \$50,000

Provides support for liturgical ministries and the resource library at the Pastoral Centre that offers a wide variety of religious materials for workshops, conferences, study programs and sacramental preparation programs for children and adults. The office also offers a variety of books, videos, and articles on religious issues for personal study and gifts.

Office of Worship: \$10,000

Encourages liturgical understanding through programs designed to enhance the quality of religious celebrations in the diocese and supports the Office of Worship committee meetings.

Indigenous Ministries Office and

Anemki-Wadj Anameogamik Retreat Centre: \$20,000

Supports and encourages a close relationship between the Diocese and our First Nation parishes, the Anemki-Wadj Anameogamik Retreat Centre, Indigenous activities, and to help foster responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

Youth

Youth Ministry: \$15,000

Provides training for youth leaders, retreats for youth and resources for such programs as NET, Salt and Light retreats, and parish youth programs, the Catholic Club at Lakehead University and Catholic Christian Outreach programs.

Social Services

Diocesan Marriage Tribunal: \$20,000

Provides help to those who need to reconcile their marriage with the Church through the annulment process.

Refugee Settlement: \$20,000

Through the operation of the D.O.O.R.S. office the Diocese assists needy immigrants with clothing, housing, medical needs and their relations with the Government of Canada.

Catholic Support Programs: \$45,000

Financial support is given to organizations such as the Dew Drop Inn, Catholic Action Centre, Birthright, and Mission to Seafarers, Serena, Women's Cursillio etc.

Diocesan Aid: \$60,000

Supports financially missions and smaller churches and their clergy operating in remote areas of the Diocese where unemployment is high and parish numbers and collections are low.

Social Services ...continued

Social Communications: \$20,000

Provides support for the Thunder Bay Street Gospel program, internet needs, the Diocesan Newsletter, the Catholic Update and Mass by Bishop Colli on Youtube.

Truth and Healing Ministries

Truth and Healing Ministries:

(Noojimo'iwewin ne'en da'ing - Healing of the Hearts) \$50,000

In union with all of the Catholic Churches in Canada, these funds will be used for special projects of healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous peoples in the Diocese of Thunder Bay. These funds will be used in the Diocese of Thunder Bay and in consultation and with the approval of the bishop and our Elders Committee.

Clergy

Vocations: \$2,000

Promotes vocations to the priesthood and the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Thunder Bay.

Permanent Diaconate Program: \$15,000

Supports the training both in person and virtually of those seeking to become permanent deacons and ministers of service within the Diocese.

Ongoing Education for Permanent Deacons: \$10,000

Provides formation programs that continue to educate our deacons and ministers of service in their ministry.

Ongoing Education of Priests: \$25,000

Provides workshops, retreats and training programs for priests in the Diocese along with the Chrism Mass meeting.

Priests' Infirm Fund: \$18,000

Assists retired priests and those in special care facilities

Priests' Pension Fund: \$20,000

Supplements the pension fund of our priests for their future retirement needs.

\$400,000 Total Goal



Why Catholic Education Matters. *By Reverend Ronald J. Nuzzi*

1. An Incarnational View of the World

Catholic School students learn that God is present and active in their lives and in the world. They learn to recognize the “footprints of God” in their daily experiences, especially in the midst of life’s challenges. They develop a sense of “sacramental awareness”. They see the signs of God’s love around them, and become instruments of God’s grace in their own neighborhoods, communities and the world. In an incarnational view of the world, there is no such thing as a secular subject as all learning helps to develop and bring to full bloom that image of God that is in each person.

2. Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dying’s and risings. In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize that there is redemptive power in suffering, and in the power of the cross. In it lies the answer to the mystery of all of life’s successes and failures. In the experience of the Paschal Mystery, we also realize the need for community. Like Jesus, we encounter our own Simon of Cyrenes to help us along the way. Wins and losses on the athletic field, As and Fs in class, and laughter and tears in our lives are the way we participate in Jesus’ dying and rising.

3. The Value of Relationships as a Reflection of the Divine

Catholic school students learn to experience God’s grace and presence in their lives through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. The loving and supportive relationships they experience

are reflections of the love and life-giving dynamic of the Trinity. As a community we celebrate our successes and achievements. We share grief and downfalls. We unite together in solidarity, and even challenge each other to become better reflections of the divine. We are made for community.

4. A Nuanced View of Scripture

Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice. They experience the ongoing revelation of God in Scripture as the One who leads the Israelites through the promised land, and who redeems them through His cross and resurrection. They also come to view the human person as created in God’s image and likeness, and destined for eternal life. They learn to apply Scripture to their own lives as a tool for prayer and the true guide for virtuous living.

5. Civic Engagement

In recent research, it has been reported that private school graduates are significantly more likely to actively participate in civic activities than their public school counterparts. Catholic Schools were ranked #1 in the percentage of graduates who actively participate in civic and community activities such as voting, volunteering, letter-writing to legislators, Catholic Concerns Day, and donations to charity, not just for a tax write-off, but out of a sense of the requirements of justice.



6. Service for the Common Good

Catholic schools promote service as an essential component of their curriculum. Many Catholic schools have service programs from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Higher education programs such as the Jesuit or Dominican Volunteer Corps promote service at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Diocesan organizations such as Catholic Family Services provide resources and help to people from all walks of life. Catholic school students learn that since community is at the heart of who we are, there are no strangers, only brothers and sisters in the Lord. We have a responsibility to respond to the needs of others because we are all part of God's family.

7. Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel. Students are challenged to be Christ-like in word and action. They are asked to examine their choices and action in light of the Ten Commandments and the Gospel law of love. They are given a theological foundation for ethical behavior. Students are not good because they act in accord with rules and expectations. Rather, because students are good, i.e. sons and daughters of God, they are expected to act and make choices that are in keeping with this dignity.

8. The Centrality of Arts, Ritual, Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church, and find their truest glory as an expression of divine praise.

9. The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the product of it, have been called the "greatest work of the Church". They have been entrusted with the fullness of faith and have been charged with the mission of evangelization. They are to go out into the world and share the gifts



they have received, as doctors, lawyers, policemen, firemen, businessmen and women, teachers, priests and religious, all as Catholic school graduates. Catholic school graduates are a leaven in society, helping the broader community to be the best that it can be.

10. Personal Excellence as a Spiritual Goal

Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. Academic excellence is not a gospel value in and of itself. The Sermon on the Mount doesn't say "Blessed are you who get all A's." Education must have an altruistic orientation. Students learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them. †



Representatives from Catholic schools' boards in Ontario, both English and French boards, participated in a symposium on Catholic Education in Toronto from May 9-11, 2023. The theme was "On the Way" and the guest speaker, Dr. Jill Gowdie guided participants in their role in Catholic education and how we are to be formed for the journey ahead in fulfilling these roles. It was the first symposium held since Covid, and over 450 people participated. The symposium was sponsored by the Institute for Catholic Education and its partners. The sessions ended with a Mass and homily by Archbishop Frank Leo, the new archbishop of Toronto.



Annual Summer Mass Mike Meady, Chair of Parish Council and Property and Finance

Great big Thank You to all that helped with our Annual Summer Mass and picnic today at St. Peter's! A great time was had by all! Viola and Angela and the CWL did wonderful job with the basket penny auction, and our Knights of Columbus Yard and Garden raffle was a huge success. Parishioners were able to enjoy over 80 hamburgers, 100 hot dogs, no less than 7 delicious salads, 2 full tables of decadent desserts, and the culinary talents of some of our newest parishioners were put on display with massive pans of incredible cabbage rolls! Yum! So nice to see one of our new "first communicates" win

the basket of food goodies! She was so happy! Big Thanks to go out to Pauline from the CWL for set-up and for organizing the donation of toilet paper for the homeless at The Dew Drop Inn as entry for the picnic. Hundreds of rolls will be making their way there on Monday for distribution! Shout out to my Grilling partner Corey as we didn't have to call the fire department for the second year in a row! Marie came up big with desserts again! Thank you to all those that I forgot...Together we make it happen!

Wonderful Mass, wonderful picnic and fellowship, St. Peter's rocks! ✚



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