



March 26, 2013

Dear Catholic Friends

During this season for renewal, I'd like to bring to your attention the contribution of Catholic education in the many communities in which we have Catholic schools. The Northeastern Catholic District School Board serves one of the province's largest areas geographically, but we take pride in our small community-parish-school partnerships.

Our communities are enhanced by the students who graduate from your local Catholic schools demonstrating the Gospel values that are integrated into every aspect of the curriculum. Ontario's Catholic schools promote caring communities, the dignity of all persons and social justice. These schools are as well known for their tradition of academic excellence as they are for their primary focus on the care and support of the most vulnerable in our society.

These are the reasons that more than 1 million parents in Ontario choose Catholic schools. This kind of "choice" in our education system is something that parents greatly appreciate. In fact, parents of various faiths and beliefs choose Catholic secondary schools specifically because of the inclusive, faith-based learning environment these schools offer. Together, Catholic elementary schools and Catholic secondary schools represent two-thirds of the top performing schools in Ontario, according to a 2012 C.D. Howe Study.

Your local Catholic schools look forward to sharing with you the distinctive ways students are educated, supported and nurtured to become caring, compassionate and responsible citizens. For examples of how our schools are making differences in our communities, please visit our website, www.ncdsb.on.ca. As well, plan to attend the many activities occurring in our Catholic schools during Catholic Education Week from May 5th to 10th. The theme for the week this year is "Growing Together in Faith".

During this Easter Season, I want to take this opportunity to wish each of our students, our parents, our Parish partners, our community supporters and all NCDSB staff members a truly blessed Easter holiday.

Glenn Sheculski

Director of Education