



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

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August 9, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week Kit for the First Week of School**

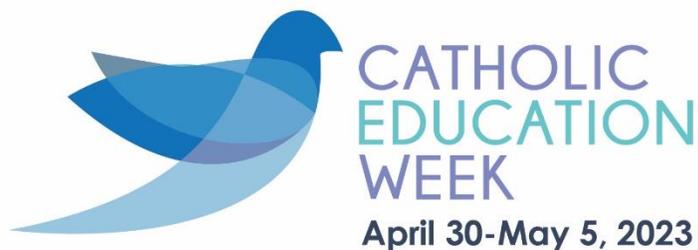
The 2023 Catholic Education Week Committee is pleased to make available to our Catholic schools, a **First Week of School Kit** which contains prayers for each day of the opening week of school and possible readings and songs for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Our theme for Catholic Education Week 2023 is:

Catholic Education: *We are Many, We are One*
L'éducation catholique: *À plusieurs, nous sommes un*

May I request your assistance in making a copy of the **First Week of School Kit** available to all schools in your board.

Thank you for your ongoing, generous cooperation and support for publicly-funded Catholic education.



FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL RESOURCE PACKAGE

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**



"We, who are many, are one body
in Christ, and individually we are
members, one of another."

(Romans 12:5)

SEPTEMBER 2022

INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 2022

The new school year offers us an opportunity to reflect upon our personal, professional and spiritual growth and to set some new goals.

The theme chosen for the upcoming 2023 Catholic Education Week is:

Catholic Education: *We are Many, We are One*
L'éducation catholique: *À plusieurs, nous sommes un*

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic school boards. It will run from April 30 – May 5, 2023.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2023, *We are Many, We are One*, was inspired by the following considerations:

- The Church worldwide has embarked on a synodal process, “a synod on synodality,” which centres on intentional listening: listening to each other and listening to the Holy Spirit. We have each been asked to actively reach out and listen to the voices and experiences of people where they are at and consider what steps the Holy Spirit is inviting us to take as we walk together. As the Catholic Bishops of Ontario highlighted in *Renewing the Promise*, “It is about taking the time to walk alongside one another, to listen and to teach, and in doing so, to transform.”
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the importance of Indigenous culture and spirituality as we move forward together.
- The Ministry of Education’s focus on Inclusion and Equity resonates with all educators and administrators as we desire to serve all of God’s children and Pope Francis’ encyclical entitled, *Fratelli Tutti*, will guide us in this good work.
- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.

A big thank you to the consultants from eight of our English and French Catholic boards who worked together to craft the 2023 Catholic Education Week theme and sub-themes. These writers will also be producing resources for our Catholic school boards for Advent and for Catholic Education Week in May 2023.

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2023 are as follows:

- Monday: **When we see / En voyant**
- Tuesday: **When we listen / En écoutant**
- Wednesday: **When we reflect / En réfléchissant**
- Thursday: **When we learn / En apprenant**
- Friday: **When we act / En agissant**

Overall Theme Prayer for Catholic Education Week 2023

Catholic Education Week Prayer

We are many, we are one; we all form one body in Christ.

Lord,

when we see the one before us, let us reverence your presence within;

when we listen to one another, let us hear with our hearts;

when we reflect on each encounter, may we discern to understand;

when we learn from those around us, let us respect our differences with joy;

and when we act, may we be kind and generous to all,

for each person is a member of your body, with all that they are.

We are many, we are one.

Amen.

Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique

À plusieurs, nous sommes un; dans le Christ, nous ne formons qu'un seul Corps.

Seigneur,

lorsque nous voyons l'autre devant nous,

puissions-nous reconnaître ta présence qui l'habite;

lorsque nous nous écoutons les uns les autres,

que nous entendions avec le cœur;

lorsque nous réfléchissons à chaque rencontre,

puissions-nous discerner pour comprendre;

lorsque nous apprenons des personnes qui nous entourent,

puissions-nous respecter nos différences avec joie;

et lorsque nous agissons,

que nous soyons bienveillants et généreux envers tous,

car chaque personne est membre de ton Corps avec tout ce qu'elle est.

À plusieurs, nous sommes un.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY – SEPTEMBER 2022

When we see – En voyant

Jesus,

You showed us how to see those who are blind, those who are small, those who are fearful and those who climb trees.

We can see with our eyes.

More importantly we can see with our hearts.

You invite us to see with our hearts, to see deeper than the surface.

Guide us this year.

When our attention is called to someone or something, remind us to be loving, compassionate and kind.

Then we will see like you see and we will be one.

Amen.

When we listen – En écoutant

Loving God,

You have created us with hearts for listening and caring for others.

Help us to remember that everyone needs to be heard and have their story honoured.

Give us a spirit of patience and compassion to listen to others.

Help us to understand that the path to peace and unity is through listening.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who listens to our every need.

Amen.

When we reflect – En réfléchissant

God of grace and goodness,

You gather us together as a community of faith, to pray and give thanks for the gift of a new day.

As we begin this new school year, help us reflect on who we are and who You created us to be.

Give us the wisdom to recognize You in our relationships with others.

Guide us to be understanding and thoughtful in our actions.

May our actions help us bring peace to our school, families, and the world.

Touch our hearts as we approach this new day with respect and kindness.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

When we learn – En apprenant

God of grace and love,

Be with us this year as we change and learn and grow.

Open our hearts and minds to the beauty and wisdom of those around us.

Guide us to see and celebrate our differences as opportunities for learning and understanding.

Help us to ensure that our school is a place of warmth, welcome and acceptance where each and every person is valued and heard.

Teach us to appreciate the many gifts we can offer to each other as members of one school community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

When we act – En agissant

Jesus,

Thank you for always being part of our lives, showing us your love every day.

Help us to use our words and actions to care for others, and for the earth and all its creatures.

When we talk about our faith, show us how to also put those words into practice, by caring and forgiving, by being generous and including others.

Help us to make loving choices, and to help your family to grow stronger every day.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, SECONDARY – SEPTEMBER 2022

When we see – En voyant

We are many, we are one.
Our world tends to have a vision that judges and critiques, usually in negative ways.
Jesus, help us to see with eyes that are kind, compassionate, accepting and inclusive.
Broaden our perspective to allow differences and to learn creativity and diversity in expression.
Our spirits want to foster what is positive and celebrative.
We are many, we are one in the family of God.
Amen.

When we listen – En écoutant

God of all people,
You are our source of goodness and love.
Open our hearts to be present to each other and help us to understand the importance of listening.
Give us wisdom to see that we can grow through listening to others.
Strengthen our spirit so that we may overcome conflict and embrace our differences when we listen.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who listens to our every need.
Amen.

When we reflect – En réfléchissant

Loving God of goodness and grace,
We are many; we are one in the community of our school.
Our uniforms identify us as members of this body of (name of school).
This year we will reflect on the meaning of being many and yet one.
Through the body of Christ we share a humanity that is far more than any one individual.
May we celebrate our unity and diversity every day this year.
Amen.

When we learn – En apprenant

God of love and infinite wisdom,
Instill in us the courage it takes to learn, unlearn, and re-learn, to seek the truth and guide us into action.
Give us the ability to listen deeply to every voice—not just the loudest, but those voices that are not always heard.
Please provide us with empathy and foresight as servant leaders, to affirm, support, and empower one another.
As we embrace your wisdom to strive towards reconciliation, let us unite as one body in Christ.
We ask this through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, one body forever and ever.
Amen.

When we act – En agissant

Liberating God,
Again and again in our history, we have seen your loving power at work, always close to your people in their needs.
We ask you to inspire us with words and actions that unite and heal, that renew and give hope.
Help us daily to put into practice the faith we proclaim, and to live it authentically, in a way that speaks to our world of your love and compassion.
May your teachings guide our speaking and our acting, and may our values take shape in the choices we make.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE FOR *WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE* FOR THE
FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL**

	Monday September 5	Tuesday September 6	Wednesday September 7	Thursday September 8	Friday September 9	Thematic Setting for Mass
Feast Day	Blessed André Grasset			Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Peter Claver	We are many, we are one
Reading	1 Cor 4:1-5	1 Cor 6:1- 11	1 Cor 7:1, 17, 25-31	Rms 8:28- 30 OR Micah 5:2- 5a	1 Cor 9:16- 19, 22b-27	
Psalm	Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 (R. 39) <i>The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.</i>	Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b (R. 4a) <i>The Lord takes delight in his people.</i>	Ps 45:10-11, 13-14, 15-16 (R. 8a) <i>Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.</i>	Ps 13:5, 6 (R. 61:10) <i>With delight I rejoice in the Lord.</i>	Ps 84:2, 3, 4-5, 11 (R. 1)	
Gospel	Luke 5:33- 39	Luke 6:12- 19	Luke 6:20-26	Matthew 1:18-23	Luke 6:39- 42	

PLANNING SHEET FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Date: _____ Occasion/Feast: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ Presider: _____

Altar Server(s): _____, _____, _____

Minister(s) of Hospitality: _____, _____, _____

Greeting by: _____

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- a) Gathering Song _____ Sung ___
- b) Greeting and Opening Prayer (Celebrant)
- c) Penitential Rite (Celebrant)
- d) Gloria _____ Omitted ___ Spoken ___ Sung ___

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- a) First Reading _____ by: _____
- b) Responsorial Psalm _____ Sung ___
- c) Second Reading (*Optional*) _____ by: _____
- d) Gospel Acclamation _____ Sung ___
- e) Gospel _____
- f) Homily _____
- g) Creed (*may be omitted*) _____
- h) Prayer of the Faithful by: _____
Response: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- a) Presentation of the Gifts
Song _____ Sung ___
Gifts Presented by: _____
- b) Preface (Celebrant)
- c) Holy Holy _____ Sung ___
- d) Memorial Acclamation _____ Sung ___
- e) Doxology _____ Sung ___
- f) Great Amen _____ Sung ___
- g) Lord's Prayer _____ Sung ___
- h) Sign of Peace/Lamb of God _____ Sung ___
- i) Communion (Eucharistic Minister) _____
Extraordinary Minister(s) of the Eucharist _____

CONCLUSION

- a) Blessing and Dismissal _____
- b) Concluding Song _____ Sung ___