

Naming of a Catholic School

No. 1103

Policy Statement: Catholic school boards are to follow specific criteria guiding the process of naming a Catholic school.

Intent of Policy: From the name of a Catholic school, the culture and ethos of the school community will evolve. The intention of the name is to support the mission of the Catholic school to be consistent with the mission of the Catholic Church and to establish and deepen the relationship of everyone in the school with the person of Jesus Christ as members of his Body, the Church.

With these foundational principles in mind, consideration is given to:

- an aspect of the mystery of Jesus Christ (Christ the King, Good Shepherd, Holy Trinity, Holy Name of Jesus, Divine Mercy, etc.).
- Our Lady, who may be named under one of her many titles (Our Lady of Grace) or in relation to her life (Nativity of Our Lady, Assumption of Mary).
- the name of a canonized saint, since canonization is a declaration to the universal Church that the one canonized is worthy of imitation. The one after whom a school is named is, by that very fact, offered as a model for students. That model must be one of holiness, since the ultimate purpose of a Catholic school is to assist students to live holy lives. While we cannot judge the holiness of another, we rely upon the canonization process for assurance.

Procedure: In accord with the above criteria, Catholic school divisions submit potential names to the Archbishop for review and approval.