



The **Catholic Bishops**
of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques**
de l'**Alberta** et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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Catholic Education Week 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Catholic Education Week is an annual event in the month of May which celebrates the important and vital role that our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Publicly funded Catholic education provides a faith-based education to more than 180,000 students in Alberta. The Alberta and Northwest Territory Bishops' commitment to Catholic education remains steadfast. We continue actively to work with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

In the last two years, the pandemic has challenged us with many burdens, uncertainty, and insecurity, yet the prophetic words of Jeremiah have offered hope: "I will heal your wounds," says the Lord. "I will restore you to health." Received in faith, these words have truly sustained many Catholic school communities here in Alberta and the Northwest Territories as we prepare to celebrate Catholic Education Week – May 23-27, 2022. The theme of this week is: **Catholic Education: Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together.**

Catholic Education Week serves to celebrate the important and critical role that our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. It provides us with an opportunity to recognize the vibrant faith that is the foundation of our Catholic schools, and encourages us to reflect with gratitude on the countless

blessings to be found within the Catholic educational community. Catholic Education Week also serves to challenge each of us to step forward as advocates, inspired and emboldened to ensure the future of Catholic education as an essential dimension of the mission of the Church.

The “synodal process” in which Pope Francis has invited the Church to engage is one of listening, discernment, and conversion. He is inviting us to “journey together” in rebuilding, restoring, and renewing the mission of the Church. Attentive to the voice and promptings of the Holy Spirit, we seek to know how the Lord is leading us to deeper communion with one another, greater participation in the life of the Church, and stronger commitment to the mission of Christ.

In this spirit of the synodal process, those involved in Catholic education are invited to promote this in our school communities and educational institutions. We encourage all who have worked tirelessly to promote Catholic education to stay strong, continue your good work, pray for inspiration and guidance, and be strengthened in the promise offered to all believers: “And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast”. (*1Peter 5:10*)

We, the Bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories, recognize the vital role of Catholic education in the life and future of the Church and society. We are deeply committed to ensuring the integrity of our Catholic schools and the gift of faith offered to our students and their families. With hope and boldness, we must rebuild, restore and renew together the wonderful legacy of Catholic education.

Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift which must not be taken for granted. Together with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE), we shall continue our efforts to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

United in prayer, let us humbly and confidently ask our loving God to rebuild, restore and renew all of our Catholic schools through His providential care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



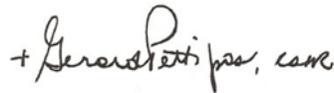
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



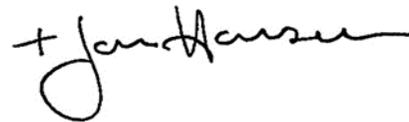
Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton



Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith