

Monday - May 18

Let us remember in our prayer today those who planted the seeds of Catholic education: the bishops and priests, the religious sisters and brothers and the school trustees. We are especially grateful for Father Henri Voisin, the Daughters of Wisdom and the Sisters of the Congrégation of Notre-Dame who believed in the importance of spreading the Good News of the Gospel and brought their love of Christ to our communities. They were great-hearted and great-minded people, spurred on by the profound vision of life shaped by the message of Jesus Christ and by the tradition of the Church. They paid a price for Catholic education that was not only financial but also deeply personal and they did it willingly, even joyfully.

United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools, we pray:

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, you are the God of our ancestors and you keep faith alive in all generations. Help us to become more strongly rooted in our Catholic faith, so that our schools may be places where knowledge and relationships are transformed by questions of meaning and by the search for meaning. Help us not only to create authentic faith communities in our schools, but also to connect them with our parishes and wider Church community. Teach us how to hand on our tradition of faith to our next generations, as did the religious communities, the bishops, the clergy and the school trustees who planted the seeds of Catholic education in Alberta. We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday - May 19

Let us be mindful today of those who parent us. They are our first teachers who taught us about faith through their care and kindness. They continue to nurture our faith by their example, especially the ways in which they find their life's meaning in sacrificing for our growth and wellness. In the midst of their own challenges, they nurture our family and do their best to provide for us a home where we are safe and a community where we are loved.

United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools, we pray:

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Compassionate God, we are grateful for those who parent us. May our families be places where we can find comfort, counsel and understanding; where we can increase in wisdom, in dignity and in favour before you, O Lord. Jesus, our Brother, you grew up under the watchful eyes and loving hearts of Mary and Joseph. Your love and respect for your parents and theirs for you, kept you close to one another. May the love you demonstrated for your parents be reflected in the speech and actions we show to our family, to the family beyond our homes and to the students and staff of _____ (name of your school).
Amen.

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Wednesday- May 20

Let us remember in our prayer today the administrators who shape Catholic education in our schools and throughout the province: our Senior Administrators, our Division Principals, our Directors of Education, our Principals, Vice-Principals and Assistant Principals. They are the people who are at work bright and early every morning and who stay long after we leave, creating the life, character and feeling of our schools. They are the stewards whose example of justice, charity and compassion set the overall tone and spirit of our school communities. Let us be grateful for their commitment and ask for blessings to help them discern wisely God's will for us in Catholic education.

United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools, we pray:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Dear God, we come to you today in gratitude for the work and support of our division and school administrators. With your grace, they have answered the call to lead our educators and schools so that our children might learn in a faith-filled and nurturing environment conducive to academic and personal success. Bless our school administrators with wisdom, integrity, a sense of humor, patience and the physical and mental energy equal to their tasks. Give them insights into each educator's unique gifts, strengths and abilities so that they might engage each individual in roles that contribute to the common good. Accept our prayer today as an expression of our gratefulness to you and to them for their dedication in making our schools a central and vital part of our Catholic community. We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thursday - May 21

Today we take a moment to recognize all those people in our schools: the secretaries and educational assistants, the custodians and the librarians, the teachers, our youth ministers and chaplain and all the others, who by their words and actions, witness Jesus in our midst. Through their listening, their experience, their passion for their work and their encouragement, they bring our spirits to life and invite us to grow in our faith in each other and in ourselves.

United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools, we pray:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, with grateful hearts we lift up our school staff into your care. Grant our teachers an abundance of Your wisdom that they share with our students. Give them grace and compassion to say what needs to be said, tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love, and strength and courage when they feel weak. They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day. May the Lord watch over them daily and fill them with the discernment necessary to effectively work with each child that crosses their path. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how the seeds of their faithfulness will bear fruit and impact generations to come. We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday - May 22

As we reach the finale of Catholic Education Week, we recognize the students in our schools. You are the life of the school; it is you who bring your strengths and weaknesses, your joys and fears, your struggles and your searchings into the community where you spend the greatest part of your time. You are a powerful influence on each other and through the gifts of your energy, enthusiasm and generosity. You strengthen each other's faith, building up the Catholic community within your school, as real-life examples of Catholic education's vision.

United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools, we pray:

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, grant that our students may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge. May they learn with humility and grace and show love and respect in return. Bless our students with the grace to be an example and realization of your message to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God. May they continue to grow in wisdom, knowledge and rationality to become citizens who live a life of integrity, as a witness of Christ's love in all they do. We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.