

*You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*

*Luke 2:12*

The Association of Catholic Bishops of Ontario have issued a couple of pastoral letters on the subject of Catholic Education. The first, from 1989, was titled "This Moment of Promise" and the second in 1993, "Fulfilling the Promise". The third pastoral letter will be published in 2018 and will be called "Renewing the Promise". You may remember being asked to participate in a process of gathering information about the current strengths and challenges to Catholic Education last spring. Catholics from across the province were asked to answer some questions in the first round. That information was collated and then in round two, we were asked to indicate which we thought were most important.

In November, each Catholic School Board in the province was invited to send a team of 14 people to a Symposium in Toronto. Each team included: parents, teaching staff, union reps, principals, vice principals, the director, student trustees and the Board Chair. We were also joined by many of Ontario's bishops, including Bishop Miehm. Throughout the day we spent time in our school groups and then in groups where we were mixed in with a cross-section of people from other groups.

There were so many great discussions around the room and ideas on how to build on the wonderful system that we currently have. I look forward to meeting with the committee again in the new year to discuss how we will implement some of the great ideas in our schools, and to the publication of the Bishop's pastoral letter.

I hope to see many of you at Christmas Masses and Concerts this month. It is always so much fun to witness the joy and excitement of children at this time of year!

Merry Christmas!

Carol Corriveau-Truchon