

*“May we work together to form joyful disciples ready and eager to renew the promise as we respond to the challenges and opportunities of this present moment.”*

Renewing the Promise, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, 2018

As you know, the theme for this year’s Catholic Education Week was “Renewing the Promise” and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops has released a pastoral letter for Catholic Education under the same title.

This letter is the culmination of a process that began last year around this time with an online survey of stakeholders to identify the successes, challenges and future direction of Catholic Education. I was then blessed to attend a “think tank” type of conference last fall that brought together bishops and clergy, trustees, directors, staff, union representatives, parents and student trustees from all of the Catholic Boards in the province.

The bishops then took all of the information that was gathered and created a pastoral letter on the past, present and future of Catholic Education. The result is a beautiful document that is available online; there is a link on the Board website:  
[www.smcdsb.on.ca](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca).

There is a section towards the end that addresses each of the stakeholders, beginning, of course with students, then parents, teachers, support staff, principals and vice-principals, and even trustees. I encourage you to read the entire document, but wanted to include some excerpts from the section for parents: “God has gifted you with children and you are their first and most important educators...Your parish community and your Catholic school are there to support you in caring for and nurturing your children...School councils are opportunities for faith formation and collaboration, where parents and school staff learn from each other, pray together and work alongside each other to ensure all children have opportunities to grow in faith and in their learning.”

I am looking forward to celebrating our amazing students at graduations and other special events this month.

God Bless!

Carol Corriveau-Truchon