



CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF SASKATCHEWAN PROCLAMATION/PASTORAL LETTER
RE: WORLD CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK
May 1 – May 7, 2016

The Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan would like to recognize Thursday, May 5, 2016 as World Catholic Education Day. On this day Catholics across the globe give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education, and we joyfully celebrate the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic Education in the lives of people around the world. This year's theme for World Catholic Education Day is "Catholic Education: Opening Doors of Mercy."

Through the faith-filled foresight of our ancestors, in Saskatchewan we are blessed with a constitutional right to publicly funded Catholic Education. Through our eight Catholic school divisions, we educate over 38,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 118 Catholic schools.

This year's theme, for World Catholic Education Week in Saskatchewan, "Catholic Education: Opening Doors of Mercy" was chosen to help students and staff in Catholic schools reflect on the Holy Father's Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Pope Francis invites all Catholics across the world to celebrate this Year of Mercy. He introduced this Holy Year of Mercy by saying, "I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time."

In Catholic schools, we encourage our students to focus on answering God's call to be merciful through service to His people. Our Catholic schools strive to be places where God's merciful presence is witnessed and lived out each and every day. Through working together with parents and the parish community, we hope to awaken in our students a desire to both receive God's endless mercy and to pass on this wonderful gift of mercy to all those they may encounter.

We set aside this week to focus our attention on creating a greater awareness of the contributions of Catholic Education in the mission of the Church. As we know, Catholic Schools help encourage our youth to develop their talents and to share their gifts with the Church and with the world around them. A relationship with Christ, nurtured by a community of believers, will help our youth to better understand what is freedom and what is social responsibility. Accordingly, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to all the partners in Catholic Education including trustees, administrators, teachers, support staff, pastors, parish ministers, parish teams, and parents for supporting our children on their journey of life and faith, leading home to the Father.

We urge all people in the Catholic community of Saskatchewan to add their voice in support of Catholic Education and to recognize the week of May 1-7, 2016 as a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the wonderful gift of Catholic Education.

Very Rev. Lorne D. Crozon
Diocesan Administrator

Most Rev. Murray Chatlain
Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas

Most Rev. Don Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon

Most Rev. Albert Thévenot
Bishop of Prince Albert

Most Rev. Bryan Bayda
Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon

'To help our people rediscover Christ, the incarnate word of God because we are all called to holiness'