



Welcome Back

As another school year begins, more than 183,000 students have returned to 450 Catholic schools in Alberta, NWT and the Yukon. Catholic schools continue to grow at a rate of 9.53% per year. With more than 160 years of Catholic education in the province of Alberta, Catholic schools are inspired by a supernatural vision that places the dignity of the human being at the center of all they do.

As advocates for Catholic education, we gratefully acknowledge the gift we have been given. Thank you for your support, your prayers and your commitment.

May God continue to bless Catholic education!

About GrACE

The mission of GrACE is to *inspire*, *invigorate* and *embolden* the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.

GrACE Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.



Alberta's Catholic Schools: Consecrated to St Joseph

On World Catholic Education Day, May 13, 2021, Bishop William McGrattan, Bishop of the diocese of Calgary, consecrated all Catholic schools in the province of Alberta to St Joseph's loving care. As we begin this school year, again under the veil of COVID, we call on our guardian, St Joseph, to protect and shield us from all harm, danger and distress.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from every evil.

St. Joseph Prayer

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show us yourself as a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.*

Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for October

- † For Catholic Education: For protection and graces during this time of Pandemic, we pray to the Lord.
- † For the election of Catholic school trustees committed to serving God with their lives and their leadership, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may show the love of God in the world, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society, we pray to the Lord.

Catholic Trustee Elections

Monday, October 18, 2021

Trustees form the governing body of the School Board and play a vital role as communicators, policy makers, role models and politicians. Catholic school trustees also play an integral role as advocates for Catholic education by ensuring students receive an education permeated by our Catholic faith. As governors of an Alberta Catholic school division, the Board of Trustees is accountable to both their local bishop and the Minister of Education. This means that they understand and affirm the role the bishop has in ensuring that Catholic teaching is respected, promoted and cared for in the diocese they represent, as well as in the local Catholic schools.

To be a Catholic school trustee represents a dual challenge: trustees must ensure that students are provided an excellent education, while at the same time ensuring that Catholic principles and values are reflected in policies and practices of the school board, thus establishing an education system that is permeated by faith. In practice, this plays out in trustees being accountable to both government legislation, as well as Canon Law (Church Law).

The Catholic school trustee, answering the vocation of trusteeship, is a steward for Catholic schools and Catholic education. This vocation is a call from the Church and the community to bring together faith and political life to share in the central mission of the Church: passing our Catholic faith on to our children.

What is the role of a Catholic school trustee?

- † Advocate
- † Communicator
- † Planner
- † Goal Setter
- † Policy Maker
- † Role Model
- † Educator
- † Adjudicator
- † Influencer
- † Legislator
- † Politician

[Serving as a Catholic School Trustee: A Handbook](#)

GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Meet with your Catholic trustee candidates and ask them your questions. Vote on October 18.
2. Call a meeting of your local GrACE group and invite new members. Have you asked your clergy, parents, teachers, young people, parishioners and all stakeholders to be a part of your GrACE group?
3. Tell 2 people why YOU are an advocate for Catholic education.
4. Share this newsletter with friends and family.
5. Make plans to celebrate Catholic Education Sunday, November 7.

Telling the Stories of Catholic Education: A GrACE Initiative in Cooperation with the Diocese of Calgary

Stories have the power to move hearts, share insights, inspire change and build empathy. In our grateful effort to celebrate and advocate for Catholic Education, GrACE recognizes the importance of seeking and telling the powerful stories of Catholic schools.

By sharing our stories:

- † we start to recognize the sacramental “God moments” happening all around us.
- † we build up the community of Catholic schools with common lived experience.
- † we create the opportunity for others to understand more deeply what Catholic education is all about.

Recognizing the power of story, GrACE invites you to reflect on your moments in Catholic education, put them on paper, and share them. The Calgary Diocese publishes *Faithfully* online and in-print every month. *Faithfully* gives a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people. This diocesan online publication is sent by email to all subscribers and posted on the diocesan website monthly. Each month they will post 1-2 stories submitted by GrACE on the topic of Catholic education.

Thank you for your efforts and for sharing your commitment to Catholic Education.

Check out these Catholic education stories published in *Faithfully* in July and August.

- † [The Extension of my Domestic Church](#)
- † [Igniting the Spark of my Faith](#)
- † [Blessing, Gratitude, Challenges & Growth](#)
- † [Moved by the Spirit](#)

[Click here](#) for *Faithfully*'s September Catholic Education stories.

How can you support this initiative?

1. Prayerfully reflect on one of your stories of Catholic education.
2. Write the story. *Faithfully* limits each story to a maximum of 500 words.
3. Attach 1-3 pictures to support the story.
4. Submit the Catholic School story to GrACE by emailing gracedirector7@gmail.com
5. Tag (personally invite) someone you know to write the next story.
6. Subscribe to *Faithfully*. [Click here](#).

District Newsletters

A number of Catholic School Districts in Alberta publish a monthly newsletter focused on faith and Catholic education.

Links to those newsletters have been included here.

Please let us know if you have something to share through GrACE.

Links to Catholic School District Newsletters:

- † [Redeemer Revelations-CTR Catholic](#)
- † [Calgary Catholic Faith Formation](#)

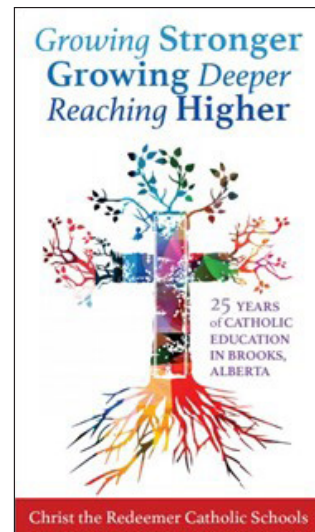
Catholic Education Sunday in Alberta November 7, 2021

Novena for Catholic Education October 28–November 5. Please join us in prayer and watch for details in the upcoming month.

From Around the Province

25 Years of Catholic Education in Brooks

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools is pleased to share (hot off the press) an anthology of stories which represents the voices of clergy, leaders, educators, staff, parents, alumni and community members – all stakeholders in Brooks' Catholic Schools over the past 25 years. These stories illustrate the abiding love of God, manifest in his people, through Catholic education. They also document lives changed and hearts healed through the call of God to be a part of Catholic education. In these pages you will discover deep faith, humour, reflections on joy and suffering, and more to sustain you on your own faith journey!



"It is evident that the faith and commitment shown by the early founders have allowed Brooks Catholic Schools to flourish. As this collection of stories from students, teachers, parents, clergy and community illustrates, 'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint' (Isaiah 40:31)."

—Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary (from the Foreword)

"The stories, memoirs and reflections in this anthology are more than a series of sentimental recollections about those involved in Catholic education in one small Alberta city. The entries in this anthology should inspire us all to reflect on the impact our Catholic schools have on students, staff, parents and the community."

—Dr. Scott Morrison, Superintendent of Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools (from the Introduction)

Purchase your copy of "25 Years of Catholic Education in Brooks, Alberta" at the Holy Family Academy school office or email hfasecretary@redeemer.ab.ca. Copies will be sold for \$15.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

We are in year two of our 3-year faith theme, Arise! Get up, get going and go with God!

This year's iteration takes inspiration from Jesus' call to St. Paul, "Arise! I have appointed you as a witness of what you have seen." (Acts 26:16). This year, our communities will focus on what it means to be a witness of faith. By our very lives, we are all called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are so excited to see our students reconnect to their parishes non-virtually! We are seeing priests visits to schools for opening liturgies, and school visits to parishes to celebrate the new school year with Eucharistic Celebrations.

One of our Excellent Catholic Teachers, Maureen Offenberger, was honored as the 2021 Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope Award recipient during our year-opening staff faith day. Maureen was recognized by the board of trustees for "her dedication to ensuring each and every child reaches their God given potential".



Social Media around the province...

Contact Us

Facebook

Twitter: @GrACE4cathed

Email: gracedirector7@gmail.com

All submissions for October must be received by October 13, 2021.



Holy Family Catholic Regional Division is with Betty Turpin.

Aug 26 · 🌐



This morning we celebrated our annual back-to-school Celebration & Mass! Central Office staff celebrated in person at Our La... See More



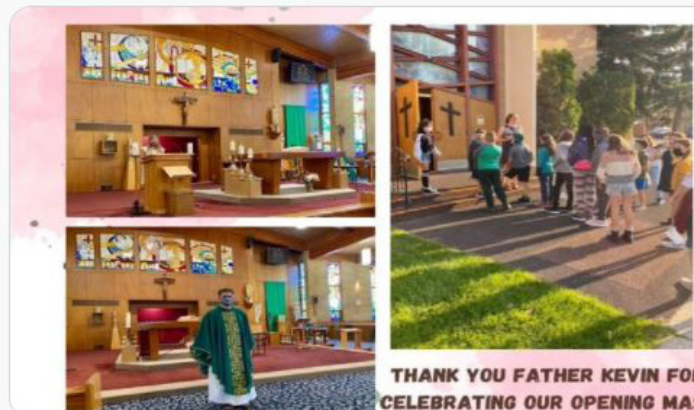
St Nicholas Catholic School @stncatholic · Sep 1

Welcome back StNicholas families! We've been called for such a time as this to make a difference in each other's lives ❤️ We are better when we are together! 🙌 @EICSCatholic #BackToSchool



Assumption School @OLAlethbridge · Sep 9

Assumption School celebrated our Opening Mass this morning. What a wonderful way to start the day! #hs4 #BelieveinCatholicEd



Holy Family School @HolyFamilyECSD

Our staff has gathered for 2 days to prepare our space and our plans for the return of our students. With a spirit of HOPE, we welcome them back Wed, Sept 1 🙌🌟 @EdmCathSchools #ecsdfaithinspires #ecsd



St. JPil Catholic @STJPICATHOLIC

Planting seeds of HOPE. Our faith made visible in each learning space shows this years' faith theme. #ecssdHOPE

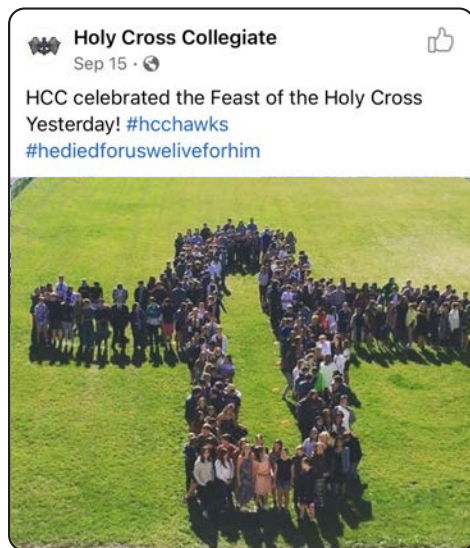


Holy Spirit Catholic School Division, Lethbridge & Area

August 26 at 11:12 AM · 🌐

This morning our #hs4 community gathered, virtually and in person, in Faith; beginning our school year with Opening Mass and nourishing our spirits before greeting our students. Thank you Bishop McGrattan and all our clergy for leading us! #IBelieveinCatholicEd





Watch for the new GrACE website created with the support of CCSSA. We will be live by October 15. www.ccssa.ca/grace.

Sincere thank you to Calgary Catholic School District for publishing the GrACE newsletter.