



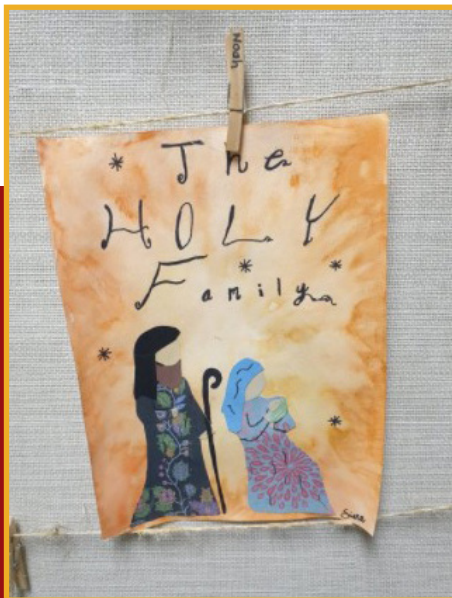
## Blessings of Christmas to all those engaged in the vineyards of Catholic education

Like every figure of the first Christmas night, every one of us gathered together in the ministry of Catholic Education comes to God in the same way. We come weak.

For in the silent night, that holy night, in which our weakness is welcomed, Christmas gives us a commandment. We must create places where God can be encountered as the one who welcomes our weakness. Therefore, go forth and build Bethlehem everywhere.

*Build Bethlehem Everywhere, CCSTA, 2002*

Student artwork below courtesy of (left to right):  
St. Teresa of Calcutta School, Sacred Heart Academy and St. Alphonsus School



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.

## Meet the New GrACE Board 2022

Following its recent organizational board meeting, GrACE and its partner boards (Alberta Bishops, Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association and Council of Catholic School Superintendents) are pleased to introduce the GrACE board for 2022. Thank you to the following board members:

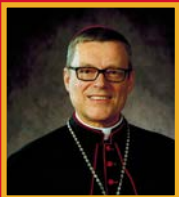


*Chair*  
**Archbishop  
Richard Smith**  
Archdiocese of Edmonton



*Vice-Chair*  
**Bryan Szumlas**  
Superintendent of  
Calgary Catholic  
School District  
(CCSSA)

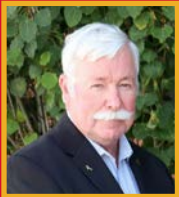
### Members at Large



**Bishop Paul Terrio**  
Diocese of St. Paul



**Trustee  
Michael Ouellette**  
Grande Prairie Catholic  
School District  
(ACSTA)



**Trustee  
Vincent MacDonald**  
Lakeland Catholic Schools  
(ACSTA)



**Superintendent  
Betty Turpin**  
Holy Family Catholic  
Regional Division  
(CCSSA)



*Director*  
**Bonnie Annicchiarico**

## Sincere thanks

Sincere thanks to departing GrACE board members, Trustee Lory Iovinelli (ACSTA) and Associate Superintendent Paul Corrigan (CCSSA) for their work on the GrACE board this past year. We are grateful for your prayers, service and support. We know you will continue to be advocates for Catholic education in your future endeavors.



## Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for January 2022

- † For Catholic Education
- † For protection and graces during this time of Pandemic, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may celebrate the richness of the Catholic faith that we have inherited, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may inspire students to a life of love and service, we pray to the Lord.
- † That the teachers in our Catholic schools may be strengthened for their important task in our world, we pray to the Lord.
- † For our educators and school staff called to live a life of love and sacrifice during Covid 19, we pray to the Lord.

## Delegation to Rome Postponed

December 7, 2021 – After careful assessment of the uncertainty and potential health risks surrounding international travel amid the recent spread of the Omicron variant, the Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami have jointly decided to reschedule a delegation to the Vatican in December 2021 to the earliest opportunity in 2022.

The decision to postpone was a heartbreaking one, made after careful consultation with delegates, family members, community leaders, public health officials and the leadership of each of the three National Indigenous Organizations. Particularly for many elderly delegates as well as those who live in remote communities, the risk of infection and the fluid nature of the evolving global situation presents too great a threat at this time.

We take comfort in the desire, conveyed to us by the Holy See, that the safety of the delegation should inform any decision to move forward. It is also important to note that the delegation is postponed not cancelled.

Currently, the world's health experts are still learning about the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. As more information becomes available, we will continue to assess the feasibility of future travel plans, based on guidance from the Canadian government and relevant international authorities.

Our shared commitment to walking together towards healing and reconciliation remains strong. We understand that the Holy See is very much committed to rescheduling this visit in the new year and we look forward to the opportunity for Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, residential school survivors, and youth to participate in private meetings with Pope Francis.

## Synod

People of God throughout the world are called by the Holy Father to begin a journey of listening, dialoguing, praying and discerning together the way in which we have carried forward our life and mission of holiness in the Church and in the world.



## Catholic Education Around the Province Mary's Table – A collaborative initiative to address Food Insecurity in the St. Paul Diocese

Mary's Table is a collaborative project between the Catholic school divisions and the Diocesan Caritas organization within the Diocese of St. Paul to help overcome student food insecurity. With the continuing economic conditions, it is apparent that more families are struggling to fulfil their basic needs.

The project impetus came from a generative dialogue during the October monthly Diocesan Caritas meeting, whereby, it was determined that there was need for Diocesan Caritas to support food insecurity, not only nationally, and internationally, but right here within the St. Paul diocese.

Bishop Paul, and the committee members determined that Diocesan Caritas would be able to support a biweekly hot meal for students who needed proper nutrition. This initiative would begin in the St. Paul Education Regional School Division starting January 2022, and the goal is to extend the support provided to other school divisions within the St. Paul diocese in the subsequent months.

His Excellency, Bishop Paul, generously donated the start-up funds, and on Christmas Eve, in all parishes across St. Paul diocese, there will be a collection for Mary's Table to further fund this beneficial project. At all the Christmas Eve masses, priests will be sharing the good news, implementation, and need for community support to expand the project to feed hungry students in all divisions.

Through the generosity of parishioners, the Diocesan Caritas organization hopes to quickly expand the benefits of the hot meal to students throughout the Diocese.

2021-2023 SYNOD  
ON SYNODALITY

## PRAYER

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Catholic School Districts' Publications

- † [Greater St. Albert Catholic](#)
- † [Calgary Catholic Schools](#)
- † [Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools](#)

### Stories of Catholic Education Faithfully – Diocese of Calgary ([catholicyc.ca](http://catholicyc.ca))

- † [Catholic Education Sticks with Them](#)
- † [The Power of Storytelling](#)

### Connect Online

- † GrACE Facebook address is [www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed](https://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed)
- † GrACE email is [gracedirector7@gmail.com](mailto:gracedirector7@gmail.com)
- † GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)
- † [GrACE website](#)

# Social Media from around the province...

## #gottagracegroup2.22

2022 is just around the corner and GrACE is ready to rebuild, restore and renew together! With new leaders and stakeholders advocating for Catholic education, we invite you to take an updated photo of your "new" GrACE group, share it and post it using the tag #gracegroups2.22

Tina Madden @MrsTLMadden · 2h  
 So many beautiful symbols of Advent @OLWChestermere to remind us of the real reason for the season. As we wait in joyful hope. #IBelieveInCatholicEd

Maria Apuzzo @mapuzzo1 · Dec 8  
 To prepare for our Advent liturgy next week and to dress up the bulletin board students worked collaboratively designing one out of 24 pieces of the nativity puzzle. They needed to match all sides of their piece to make it all fit together @stdominic\_ccsd

Dennis Zaccagnini @MrZacClass · 4h  
 🎵 O come, O come, Emmanuel... 🎵 @MrZacClass is preparing for the birth of Jesus.

St. JPll Catholic @STJPIICATHOLIC · 18h  
 Light the Advent candle two... Think of humble shepherds who... filled with wonder at the sight... of the Child on Christmas night. #ccsdHOPE

St. Mary's HS @StMarysHS\_ccsd · Dec 8  
 Celebrating St. Mary's day with mass at the Cathedral. Grade 12's in attendance and Saints TV live-streaming for the rest of the school. ❤️

**Holy Family School** @HolyFamilyECSD · 17h  
 Thank you to Gr1B for building and telling the Christmas story  
 #ecsdfaithinspires @EdmCathSchools For unto us is born a Saviour!



**St. Joseph Catholic** @joes4646 · Dec 6  
 Today we celebrated the second week of Advent together. Thank you to the grade 2 students and teachers who gathered in the GAP to help! Peace is on our minds this week. ❤️ #ecssdHOPE



**PofPCCSD** @PofPccsd · Nov 26  
 This Sunday marks the beginning of the #Advent season. We wait for the coming of Jesus. For He loves the world ❤️ @CCSD\_edu #IBelieveinCatholicEd



**St. Basil ECSD** @stbasilecsd1 · Dec 8  
 Grade 8/9 Art class made angel ornaments. Gorgeous!  
 #ecsd #ecsdfaithinspires #stbasilecsd



**Tina Madden** @MrsTLMadden · Dec 7  
 We are filled with hope, as we wait for the glorious return of our Saviour Jesus Christ. #Hope #Advent @OLWChestermere





**St. Anne**  
December 2 at 7:29 PM · 🌐

You may notice something different about our hill! We've converted it into a giant Advent Wreath as part of our Advent Celebrations. This week, our students took part in outdoor liturgies to pray over the first Advent Candle symbolizing Hope! Fort McMurray Catholic

**Scott Walker @MrWalkerEICS** · Dec 7

Thank you @Mercysoul for leading my class of @SABCatholic grade 9's in a time of Eucharistic Adoration. It was definitely at time of blessing for all!



**Medicine Hat Catholic Schools @MHCatholic** · 21h

Mother Teresa School grade 1's went on an adventure this afternoon to sing for seniors in our community! A beautiful way to share the joy of Christmas #Advent #WeAreMHCBE #IBelieveInCatholicEd



**Grace: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education**  
November 22 at 9:14 AM · 🌐

What a fun way to celebrate the season of Advent!  
#IBelieveInCatholicEd



**Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association**  
November 26 at 9:49 AM · 🌐

Click below to see some examples of how Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools has been permeating Christ's presence and teachings during the past couple of months!  
#IBelieveInCatholicEd

RS Fowler Catholic Junior High School JJ Nearing Morinville Community High School Holy Family Parish Catholic Church École Marie Poburan St. Albert Catholic Parish Ecole Father Jan St. Gabriel Education Centre Neil M Ross Catholic School St. Albert Food Bank Sister Alphonse Academy Grace: Grate... See more



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**Telling Our Story October/November 2021**  
The community of Neil M. Ross Elementary participated in Socktober, collecting 1 607 pairs of ...

**Red Deer Catholic @rdcrs** · Nov 28

Students from Red Deer's Holy Family School encourage you to focus on the theme of "Hope" during this First Sunday of Advent.

#rdcrs #advent #firstweekofadvent #hope



**St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School @StThomasRD** - Nov 26

Our hearts are full. As a staff we focused our PD on Community. We started with our Faith community by attending Mass, our school community by learning valuable teaching strategies & our Red Deer Community by volunteering @mustardseedrd @ReddeerFoodbank @FSCA1 @cssalberta @rdcrs



**SACHS - St. Albert Catholic High School @SACHS\_Skyh...** - Dec 9

This is why I love working at a Catholic School... The out-pouring of generosity from our faculty, students, and parents has been amazing. This is just the tip of the iceberg! @GSACRD @vincentjmaloney @SisterAlphonse @rsffalcons @ESSMY2



**Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education**  
November 24 at 3:13 PM · 📍

This week, students across the division were visited by the Sisters of the Seeds of the Word community. The Sisters shared their calls to faith and service, students were encouraged to ask questions and participate in meaningful conversations.

This religious community was founded in Brazil and now has communities worldwide, including Calgary, AB! Learn more about Seeds of the Word here: