



Catholic Education Week

April 29 - May 4, 2007

By the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Each year the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a weeklong celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration entitled *Created in the Image of God* is scheduled for the week of April 29 – May 4, 2007. For a number of years the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) has developed and distributed a school-based resource kit of activities, prayer services and suggested resources based on the theme of the particular year. The resource kit, designed for students, is sent to Catholic school communities early in the year to assist them in their Catholic Education Week activities.

In order to help all Catholic educational partners engage in prayer and dialogue in preparation for Catholic Education Week 2007, OCSTA, for the last number of years, has also prepared an advance kit of prayer services and reflection activities. The advance kit, sent earlier in the school year, is designed to help adult groups (trustees, school board staff, school staff groups, parent groups, parish groups, associations) prepare for Catholic Education Week with prayer services and reflection activities beginning in Advent and concluding in the month before Catholic Education Week.

The advance kit has five prayer and reflection activities for these five months, each activity reflecting one of the five sub-themes of Catholic Education Week:

1. Advent - Created Sacred
2. January - Created Essentially Good
3. February - Created Uniquely Gifted
4. March – Created Alive in the Spirit
5. April - Created for One Another

How can the Advance Kit be used in a local Catholic educational community?

Each service may be used to begin a meeting or gathering, or to provide an opportunity for the adult partners in a local Catholic education community to discuss the themes.

Each prayer service includes:

- † prayers that reflect the theme;
- † a scripture reading that connects with the theme;
- † a personal reflection related to the Scripture reading;
- † a theme-related reading taken from contemporary Catholic spiritual writings;
- † questions for discussion or reflection based on that reading.

The advance kit is a gift to be adapted and utilized in whatever way suits the needs of your local community. Educators, staff and parent groups in the school community are encouraged to contact their board office or board religious education consultant to obtain a copy of this kit. Both kits may also be downloaded directly from the OCSTA website's Catholic Education Week page located at www.ocsta.on.ca. For more information, call Noel Martin, OCSTA director of Catholic education, at 416-932-9460, ext. 25.

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