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# Good News For All

Singing the Praises of Catholic Education Week, May 3-8, 2009



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## GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

Written for Catholic  
Education Week 2009  
By Nancy Bodsworth

*How beautiful  
Are the feet  
Of those who bring  
Good News.  
How wonderful  
It is to walk  
Down this path  
With You.*

*Embracing hope  
That we may live for a better world.  
Announcing peace  
To everyone we meet.  
Celebrate  
The joy in our lives.  
This is our call –  
Good News for all!*

*Gather in  
As we build community.  
Giving praise  
Even for the little things.  
Growing in  
Integrity.  
This is our call –  
Good News for all.*

*Go out to all the world.  
We are God's hands and feet.  
Good news for all  
And everyone we meet.*

As the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul approaches, we are reminded of this year's Catholic Education Week theme, *Good News for All*. The prophet Isaiah (52:7) states, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news." St. Paul in his letter to the Romans (10:15) echoed Isaiah's words by saying, "How Beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." As Catholic educators, we have both the awesome and challenging task of proclaiming Jesus' message amidst a world affected by a barrage of often unpleasant and distressing news. Music is an amazing medium to get this message of *Good News* out to our students and have it reflected back into the world.

This past summer I had the pleasure of providing the music for the daily liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations at the religious education additional qualification courses for teachers in Brampton, Ontario. Under the direction of Michele Glavine (course director and religion department head at St. Joan of Arc C.S.S.), Urszula Cybulko (religion and family life consultant, DPCDSB) and Father Norm Roberts (pastor at St. Dominic's Parish, Mississauga), the theme for Catholic Education Week 2009 was adopted as the focus of the summer's daylong retreat. After looking through many hymnbooks for songs that would both relate to the theme and inspire teachers to return to their classrooms and proclaim the *Good News*, I felt compelled to compose a song. The scripture readings for Catholic Education Week and the theme of the retreat day inspired my creative process.

The song *Good News for All* aligns nicely with the directive sent out by Noel Martin, director of Catholic education, Ontario

Catholic School Trustees' Association to introduce the theme for Catholic Education Week 2009, which has been endorsed by the Catholic community and the bishops of Ontario. Noel Martin talks about how important the message of Isaiah and St. Paul is for us as Catholic educators. We need to further our commitment to Catholic education, by truly living out the message of the Gospels in our lives, in our classrooms, in the school hallways and on the playing field. The *Good News* theme was divided into five sub-themes: *Embracing Hope*; *Celebrating with Joy*; *Building Community*; *Growing in Integrity*; and *Living with Gratitude*. Each of these sub-themes is mentioned in the song *Good News For All*.

I had the opportunity to share this song with Noel Martin and was very pleased when he suggested that it be recorded and distributed to all the school boards in the province. In the next few months, every board will receive a copy of *Good News For All* and the accompanying sheet music. The CD will have two versions of the song, one with vocals and one without, so that students can sing-along with the CD in situations when no instrumental accompaniment is available.

It is my hope that teachers will be able to use this song in their classrooms and school liturgies to not only celebrate Catholic Education Week 2009, but to encourage their students that the *Good News* can be proclaimed through actions, words, stories, art and of course, music. This is our call – *Good News for all*.

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Nancy Bodsworth is a Christian singer/songwriter from the Greater Toronto Area. For further information visit her website at [www.nancybodsworth.com](http://www.nancybodsworth.com).