



Media Release

NCDSB lower flags in half-mast to mark Pope Francis passing

April 22, 2025

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board lowered its flag to half-mast on Tuesday to mark the passing of Pope Francis. In many of our Catholic schools, students and staff members are gathering to offer up prayers for Pope Francis today.

Glenn Sheculski, NCDSB Trustee Chair commented, "Pope Francis passed away early Easter Monday and I join with all of my fellow Trustees, all of our students, staff members and families in praying for Pope Francis. We renamed one of our schools, Pope Francis Elementary School, a few years back to honour Pope Francis. It is our prayer that our students exemplify our Pope's call to social action, love of thy neighbour and becoming examples for others to follow."

"Our School Board theme is, *We all belong*. This was how Pope Francis understood the Church. The Church was to be found wherever people were animated by the love of Christ, in the poorest neighborhood, in the family, in a camp in the middle of the bush, and in a Catholic School in Northern Ontario," noted Michael Buhler, NCDSB Pastoral Care Worker.

NCDSB asks all of our school communities to remember Pope Francis and offer up your prayers for the repose of his soul.

*God of unfailing light,
we thank you for this day and the people we share this day with.
Today we pray for Pope Francis.
We pray that Pope Francis is resting in the loving hands of our Creator.
In memory of our Pope, we pray that our minds and hearts
will be open to divine grace, so that we can greet people with hope,
and treat one another with compassion.
We pray in Christ's Holy Name, amen*

For more information, please contact Andrew Marks, Community Relations Officer, at 705-268-7443 or amarks@ncdsb.on.ca