Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

June 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons, Trustees and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

CC: OCSTA Board of Directors
Board Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

FROM: Michael Bellmore, President
Patrick Daly, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **2026-2027 Catholic Education Week Prayer**

Catholic Education: *Becoming Artisans of Peace*
L'éducation catholique: *Devenir artisans de Paix*
MAY 2 – MAY 7, 2027

Further to our May 13, 2026 memorandum, the Catholic Education theme for the 2026-2027 school year is **Catholic Education: *Becoming Artisans of Peace* / L'éducation catholique: *Devenir artisans de Paix***. Throughout the year, OCSTA will be providing Catholic School Boards with prayers, events, and other resources in support of your Catholic Education Week celebrations.

The scriptural passage for Catholic Education 2026-2027 is:

> *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."* (Matthew 5:9)
> *"Heureux les artisans de paix, car ils seront appelés enfants de Dieu."* (Matthieu 5,9)

As previously reported, this year's Catholic Education theme, **Catholic Education: *Becoming Artisans of Peace*** is inspired by the following:

- Pope Leo XIV, in his message for the 40th World Youth Day, calls us to become active artisans of peace. In a world wounded by conflict, division, and indifference, his message invites us to build bridges where there are divisions and to reflect Christ's heart in every encounter.

- The recent, Apostolic Letter on Catholic Education: *"Drawing New Maps of Hope"*, Pope Leo XIV invites us to "disarm our words" in a polarized world; to "raise our gaze toward heaven"; to cultivate spaces of silence, interiority, and contemplation; and to build bridges instead of walls.

- *"Peace be with you!"* With those words, the risen Jesus greeted His followers after Easter—and with those words, the newly-elected Pope Leo XIV greeted the world as the new Bishop of Rome. From the Church's beginnings, the desire for deep and lasting peace has been a central pillar of Christian life. Each time at Mass, we exchange a sign of peace with each other before we come forward to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Our Holy Father's message reminds us that peace is not only something we hope for or pray about—it is something we are called to live.

- Jesus declares in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:9) that those who make peace are blessed by God. Becoming artisans of peace is something which is crafted patiently and lovingly through our daily words and actions.

- The year 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the saints who most powerfully embodied what peace-making looks like, and Pope Leo has proclaimed a "Franciscan Jubilee Year," inviting the whole Church to reflect on how the example of Assisi's most cherished son can still inspire and guide us. We are all keenly aware of the conflicts and uncertainties of our world, which remind us of the urgent need to pray, and work, for just and lasting peace.

The five sub themes for Catholic Education: *Becoming Artisans of Peace* are…

Monday:	***Peace from God*** ***La paix de Dieu***
Tuesday:	***Peace within*** ***La paix en nous***
Wednesday:	***Peace with others*** ***La paix avec les autres***
Thursday:	***Peace in our communities*** ***La paix dans nos communautés***
Friday:	***Peace in the world*** ***La paix dans le monde***

We are pleased to share with you the 2026-2027 Catholic Education Week prayer.

Catholic Education Week Prayer

Loving God,
You place Your peace within each of us
and call us to share it with the world.
Help us become Artisans of Peace,
beginning with peace in our own hearts.
Teach us to trust in You
and to seek You in prayer, learning, and love.
May we build peace in our relationships,
speaking kindly, listening deeply,
and showing compassion and forgiveness.
Help our school communities be places
where everyone is welcomed, respected, and valued.
Send us out as artisans of peace in the world—
working for justice, harmony, and hope.
May our lives reflect Your love and mercy,
as we follow Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Dieu d'amour,
Tu places ta paix en chacun de nous
et nous invites à la partager avec le monde.
Aide-nous à devenir des artisans de paix,
en commençant par la paix dans nos propres cœurs.
Enseigne-nous à avoir confiance en toi
et à te chercher dans la prière, l'apprentissage et l'amour.
Que nous construisions la paix dans nos relations,
en parlant avec bienveillance, en écoutant profondément,
et en faisant preuve de compassion et de pardon.
Que nos communautés scolaires soient des lieux
où chaque personne est accueillie, respectée et valorisée.
Envoie-nous comme artisans de paix dans le monde
afin d'œuvrer pour la justice, l'harmonie et l'espoir.
Que nos vies reflètent ton amour et ta miséricorde,
en suivant Jésus, le Prince de la paix.
Amen.

MB/PD/ac