



REPORT TO

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### ST. JOHN PAUL II DAY IN THE TCDSB

*You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:13,14)*

#### Created, Draft

September 24, 2018

#### First Tabling

October 4, 2018

#### Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

Michael Caccamo, Superintendent of Education, Area 3 and Nurturing our Catholic Community

### RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**Vision:**

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

**Mission:**

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education

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Associate Director  
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Acting Associate Director  
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Executive Superintendent  
of Business Services and  
Chief Financial Officer



## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report will recommend that the date the TCDSB recognizes St. John Paul II's Feast Day be aligned with the date recognized by the Church; namely, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the date of St. John Paul II's papal ordination.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 5 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. This Recommendation Report is on the Order Paper of the Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee in order to align the Feast Day that the TCDSB's recognizes for St. John Paul II with that of the date recognized by the Church.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On April 20, 2011, the Board passed a motion to recognize "Blessed Pope John Paul II Day" on the first Monday following Divine Mercy Sunday (the second Sunday of Easter) upon his beatification.
2. Pope Benedict XVI beatified Pope John Paul II on May 1, 2011.
3. The City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario celebrate Pope John Paul II Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is the date of his death. (Bill 72, 2014, was an Act in the Province of Ontario to proclaim Pope John Paul II Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.)
4. Since Pope John Paul II's canonization on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Church celebrates his memorial on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the date of his papal ordination.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. During the 2017-18 school year, Monday after Divine Mercy Sunday fell on April 9<sup>th</sup>, which was the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord, a celebration that takes priority over any other feast or memorial. It would be considered inappropriate to have any other celebration in the Church on this date.

2. Since the date of Divine Mercy Sunday changes each year, depending on the date of Easter, it has been challenging for schools to remember that the first Monday after Divine Mercy Sunday is the date the TCDSB recognizes as St. John Paul II Day. The Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto and the Church have their own dates to celebrate, which creates further confusion in schools.
3. In a report to the Board on April 16, 2012, outlining resources available to assist schools with recognizing Pope John Paul II Day, it was recommended that, once the Church selected a Feast Day for Pope John Paul II upon his canonization, the Board align its Feast Day with that of the Church's.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Greater observation of St. John Paul II Day will be evident by schools sharing all of their initiatives, events and celebrations recognizing the feast day.

## **F. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. Schools will be advised through the Communications and the Nurturing our Catholic Community (NOCC) Departments regarding the new date that the TCDSB recognizes St. John Paul II Day.
2. Communications will occur through emails, Director's Bulletin, e-news, Weekly Wrap-Ups, and through the posting of the feast day on the Board's website and the NOCC portal page.
3. Resources to support school communities in the recognition of St. John Paul II Day will continue to be made available through the Communications and through the Nurturing our Catholic Community Departments.
4. Should October 22<sup>nd</sup> fall on a weekend, schools will be invited to celebrate St. John Paul II Day on the Friday prior.

## **G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the TCDSB recognizes October 22<sup>nd</sup> as St. John Paul II Day, aligning its celebration with that of the Church's.