



Federation of North-American Explorers – FNE
Members of the International Union of Guides and Scouts of Europe FSE
Web site – www.fneexplorers.com

05 May 2021

An open letter to the Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustees

Dear Trustees:

The last 14 plus months have been anything but easy for members of society all the world over. The trauma and stress sadly have yet to conclude or end.

Our children have especially suffered from little or no in-person schooling, greatly restricted social interaction, and limited access to the Sacraments of our faith. Our children witness their stressed parents, and in some cases, the death of a loved one due to the pandemic either directly or as a consequence of limited proactive medical care or available elective surgery.

Our children and their parents look to you to safeguard the treasures of our Catholic faith through your example as trustees. There is too much confusion about what our faith teaches and upholds due to secular influences that embrace human values that often directly conflict with the teachings of our Lord and the ten commandments.

It is and continues to be important to teach our children to respect and not discriminate against others who hold values and beliefs different from their own. This is known as freedom of speech and expression. Conversely, our children need to know right from wrong through the eyes of our Lord to protect and uphold the salvation of their very own souls and that of others. If this is not the primary goal of our Catholic school system along with a good education, and if not through the board actions or lack thereof one could and perhaps should ask – why then do we have a separate Catholic school system vs the public secular one?

The month of June is marked with two celebrations remembered using a flag. The first is one from our faith perspective - The Sacred Heart of Jesus representing and reminding us about the love of Jesus for us and inviting us to return to him to receive his life-giving love and salvation.

The other flag – the rainbow flag- represents people who hold a different set of values and beliefs that frankly directly conflict with his Sacred Heart and Catholic church teachings.

I implore you as trustees to abide by your promise and commitment when you became a trustee to uphold and protect Catholic teachings and beliefs by choosing to fly the Sacred Heart of Jesus flag.

Our students, families and the larger community need to be reminded of the love and spiritual protection available through the Sacred Heart now as never before in modern-day times. We are a community and world in need of the Lord's blessings and help. Please do your part to help convey this soul saving message.

Yours in Christ

Paul Ritchi
Founder and General Commissioner
Federation of North-American Explorers

Cc Cardinal Thomas Collins