

Good evening, my name is Julia Alphonso, and I have just completed my second year in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto, and I am a past student of the TCDSB. I am here this evening in support of the need to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrate this great feast day, and dedicate the entire month of June to Our Blessed Lord and His Sacred Heart in all Catholic educational institutions, in families, and in our own personal lives.

God, who is Love, has revealed Himself to us through His Sacred Heart made known to St. Margaret Mary Alcoque in the early 1600's. He asked her to promote devotion to His Sacred Heart that was burning with Love for all people. The heart is a cultural and religious symbol of love used to communicate the love we feel for another person. This was inspired by Jesus Himself who has given us His own Sacred Heart to remind us of His unconditional and unending love for us. His images show Him either pointing to or giving His Heart to us. He who loves us so deeply is desiring that we reciprocate His love in return. We do this best through devotion to His Sacred Heart – to the Person of Jesus.

Jesus made us twelve promises specific to this devotion, including peace in our families, comfort in times of trouble, overabundance of blessings and mercies and that He will write the names of those who promote this devotion to others, on His Sacred Heart! Bearing in mind that we obtain all of this and so much more through devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, promoting this devotion in our schools beginning with a daily prayer to the Sacred Heart, enthroning the image in our schools and classrooms or pinning the images on the screen virtually, teaching students about this revelation to St. Alcoque and encouraging them to grow in relationship with Jesus through this devotion, makes perfect sense that should have been done ages ago!

The Eucharist is the “Source and Summit of our Faith” and from Eucharistic Miracles proven to be living human heart tissue – we concluded that it is the Sacred Heart of Jesus whom we receive in the Holy Eucharist – His Real Presence. Therefore, growing in devotion to the Sacred Heart in our schools and in families, we grow in devotion to His Real Presence at the Heart of our Catholic faith. It is His endlessly beating Heart that keeps life going in us now and into eternity. Just as the heart is at the center of our being, so must His be too – in each one of us, our families, our school and faith communities.

God blesses those who are faithful to Him. If we want our Catholic education system here in Toronto to flourish, we must do just that – devote ourselves to Him – and I cannot stress this enough. His Heart must be at the centre of our hearts. We must put Him first before all things and seek to do His will. Let His Heart beat in unison with ours and let us teach the children to listen for His Heart beat saying, I LOVE YOU! YOU ARE MINE!

Thank you for your time and consideration and may God bless you all.