



REPORT TO

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

TCDSB PASTORAL PLAN, 2021-2024 – WALKING WITH CHRIST: WITH EYES OF FAITH & HOPE, WITH HEARTS OF KINDNESS & LOVE, WITH MINDS OF JUSTICE & PEACE

“Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with our God.” ~Micah 6:8

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Michael Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools, Continuing Education, and St. Anne Catholic Academy, School of Virtual Learning

INFORMATION 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.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The three-year Pastoral Plan is a living plan designed to nurture the faith and respond to the pastoral needs of everyone in our TCDSB community. The Pastoral Plan can also support the Mission and Vision of the TCDSB and serves as a foundational plan that supports the development of other plans, initiatives, and goals of the TCDSB that celebrate our Catholic faith.

The most recent plan, *Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become*, will end in June 2021 as we bring to a close our Year of *we Become*.

This report outlines the theme that is being developed for the Pastoral Plan for the next 3 years – 2021-2024 – as well as a celebration to launch the new plan in June 2021 during a liturgy livestream.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 15 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. For the past three years, the Pastoral Plan *Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become* has guided us in nurturing our Catholic community, creating safer places of belonging where we can nurture our faith and beliefs, and become all God intends us to be. These collective experiences help foster our larger Catholic community and create a positive public profile of Catholic education within Toronto.
2. The theme for the new Pastoral Plan was proposed and further developed at the nurturing our catholic community steering committee throughout its meetings since 2019-2020. This committee is made up of representatives from various stakeholder groups of the board. This report summarizes the themes for the new Pastoral Plan for 2021-2024.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Catholic schools are built on the relationships between our families, our parishes, our staff and our students and all of us who share a strong commitment to Catholic education. Since 2009, the TCDSB has adopted a three-year Pastoral Plan to help nurture and animate the faith of all our stakeholders.

2. The Pastoral Plan for 2018-2021 focused on the theme of ***Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become***. Inspired by St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, the Pastoral Plan strengthened our sense of belonging to God and to one another, expressed our belief in God through our vision and mission, and moved us to become a community working to achieve our common goals.
3. During the past three years, we also continued to nurture the close ties between family, parish, and school.
4. On June 1st, 2021, the weekly NCC liturgy livestream will focus on the culminating celebration for our Year of ***we Become***, showcasing some of the projects that were developed by students and staff across the TCDSB to spotlight the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and the many ways we become all that God intends us to be – a reflection of Christ in our world.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The theme for the 2021-2024 Pastoral Plan is ***“Walking with Christ: with Eyes of Faith and Hope, with Hearts of Kindness and Love, with Minds of Justice and Peace.”*** The passage from the prophet Micah helps us transition from our previous three-year Pastoral Plan, ***Rooted in Christ***, to our new Pastoral Plan, ***Walking with Christ***.
2. This Pastoral Plan, which is divided into three years, begins with a focus of our own personal understanding of God who is revealed through Jesus Christ, our teacher and guide. We are moved with compassion to love as Jesus did through our efforts to build bridges and reach out to the marginalized: ***with eyes of faith and hope, with hearts of kindness and love, with minds of justice and peace.***
3. During **Year 1: *Walking with Christ with Eyes of Faith and Hope***, we focus on living the gospel believing what we read, preaching what we believe, and practicing what we preach. Understanding that faith formation is a life-long journey, the theme will centre on nurturing our spirits by strengthening our faith and hope. We will be reflecting on the gifts that God has given us, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, discern how God is calling us to use those gifts to heal the world.

4. During **Year 2: *Walking with Christ with Hearts of Kindness and Love***, we will deepen our sense of belonging and caring for one another in our parishes, our homes and our schools. With Christ as our example, the theme will focus on building relationships through an awareness of and caring for the poor, the marginalized, the invisible and the disenfranchised. We emphasize extending our circle of relationships beyond our comfort zone, to actively listen with an open heart, and develop a sincere love for the other, reflecting on our interconnectedness, and how our choices affect each other and our planet.
5. During **Year 3: *Walking with Christ with Minds of Justice and Peace***, the theme focuses on collaboration and problem-solving, as a faith community on a journey together, to build consensus and bring the "kingdom of God" to life. We engage actively in living the message of the Gospel. We reach out and minister to others with justice and compassion and act with courage and wisdom to challenge norms and ways of thinking and living that maintain a status quo of injustice.
6. The new Pastoral Plan will be launched at a special liturgy livestreamed on the Nurturing our Catholic Community YouTube channel on June 8, 2021. His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins will be invited to offer a reflection on the theme for the new plan during the liturgy.

Representatives from all TCDSB schools, including administrators and teachers/chaplains, senior staff, Trustees, Parishes, the Archdiocese of Toronto, parents, students and other Catholic partners will be invited to participate. With the livestream format, the liturgy will be open for all to participate.

7. Resources will be developed to further reinforce the connections between the Pastoral Plan and the virtues of the month, the Catholic Graduate Expectations and Catholic Teachings, which have been widely used by TCDSB schools for many years. These resources will be updated annually to reflect the specific focus for each year of this Pastoral Plan.
8. The TCDSB works with lay ministry and community groups of the Archdiocese of Toronto, in schools and through its Nurturing our Catholic Community (NCC) central staff team made up of Catholic Teacher Centre, System Chaplaincy, Religious/Family Life Education Resource, Catholic Student Leadership staff, and its Superintendent. These initiatives serve as a support to staff and families and continue to nurture the important relationship

between home, parish and school as the foundation for Catholic education. The NCC central staff team continues to explore further collaboration with lay ministry and community groups in the Archdiocese of Toronto for the sharing of resources and information, as well as a greater engagement in the Pastoral Plan.

9. The TCDSB's NCC central staff team meet on a regular basis to prepare activities, initiatives, celebrations, and professional development that animate the Pastoral Plan, and that support the TCDSB's Mission and Vision and its MYSP. The team provides accompaniment, resources and direction at the local and system levels for matters that pertain to Catholic Faith and teachings, and on matters that require a Catholic perspective. Catholic Faith resources are shared in a comprehensive format on the TCDSB's public and internal websites; they can be accessed through a link found on the Board's homepage.
10. The NCC central staff team provides advice to school and other central staff on matters that require perspective through a Catholic lens and that reflect our Pastoral Plan, working closely with other TCDSB departments such as Student Success, Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education, Guidance, Social Worker Services, Mental Health and Well Being, Psychology, to name a few. The team also works with the Archdiocese of Toronto and with the Institute for Catholic Education.
11. The NCC central staff team continues to collaborate with other TCDSB departments grounded in the themes of our Pastoral Plan, promoting pastoral care and well-being for all: e.g. Safe Schools, Special Services (Psychology, Mental Health and Well Being, Social Work, Autism), Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education, Student Success, etc. The goal is to deepen our understanding of how we might care for one another in our Catholic community, engaging in dialogue that empowers us to renew our intentions to minister to one another spiritually and emotionally and to build communities where all are welcomed and inspired.
12. The Archdiocese of Toronto Pastoral Plan (2013) continues to nurture and strengthen our faith experiences and calls us to announce the Gospel. The TCDSB Pastoral Plan *Walking with Christ: with Eyes of Faith and Hope, with Hearts of Kindness and Love, with Minds of Justice and Peace* speaks to, for example: living the Gospel; faith formation as a life-long journey; active engagement in promotion of Catholic Teachings and the message of the Gospel; and, reach-out and ministering to others with justice and compassion,

building relationships through an awareness of and caring for the poor, the marginalized, and the disenfranchised. These are reflected in the Archdiocese's Core Directions of engaging in *Parish Life, Evangelization of Society* and *Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love*.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. A report will be developed after each year of the Pastoral Plan and will be presented to the Nurturing our Catholic Community Steering Committee. The report will include assessment of the impact of initiatives and events, as well as assessment of engagement of school and parish communities, as monitored through stakeholder use of social media, and the tracking of participation in events and initiatives across the TCDSB. Other artefacts to be used to measure impact would include results from *School Effectiveness Framework* surveys, student surveys (e.g., *My School, My Voice*, and *Safe and Caring Catholic School Climate Survey*), staff and parent surveys, as well as evaluations and feedback from PD sessions.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.