



Director's Monthly Report

March 2023

The month of March marks the turn toward the end of the academic calendar each year. As the snow begins to melt by the end of the month (we hope!) and new life starts to bloom, we focus on the run up to the last portion of the academic year. Staff, students, and families enjoy a well-deserved school break in the middle of the month and hopefully return energized and invigorated for the rest of the academic year.

Our Lenten commitments continue throughout March as we have collectively focused on prayer, fasting, and giving as part of our preparation for the Easter season. These days of Lent prepare us for the most important time on our liturgical calendar when we recognize the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for us, and the triumph of his resurrection on Easter Sunday as the foundation on which our faith is built.

We are looking forward to the installation of our newly named Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Toronto. Archbishop designate Francis Leo has been transitioning from his position in Montreal to formally begin his tenure as leader of our Archdiocese commencing on March 25th. I look forward to attending his installation that day along with Chair Crawford on behalf of the TCDSB and look forward to our continued partnership in leadership of the faithful throughout the city. We are so grateful for the servant leadership of soon to be Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Collins on behalf of staff, students, and families in Toronto Catholic.

Just as the spring brings with it rebirth, we move forward as a Catholic community by embracing change, honouring the foundations on which we stand, and optimistically look toward the way forward.

Thank you to our staff in every school throughout the system for their on-going support, commitment, and compassion for all students and families. We are united in our faith, commitment, and dedication to serving and supporting our students and families in Toronto Catholic as a beacon of hope and light.

During the month of **March** we celebrate **Forgiveness** as the **Virtue of the Month for March** and recognize important observances such as: Celtic Canadian Heritage Month, National Engineering Month, Nutrition Month, Education Support Staff Appreciation Day, National Social Work Week, International Women's Day, International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Ramadan, World Water Day, School Crossing Appreciation Day, Purple Day – Epilepsy Awareness Day, Earth Hour, World Day of Prayer, Purim, Holi, St. Patrick's Day, Solemnity of Saint Joseph (spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Nowruz, World Down Syndrome Day, Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, TCDSB ShareLife Week and ShareLife Wear Green Day.

- Delivered remarks at the **Annual African Heritage Month Mass and Cultural Expose** at **St. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy** (February 28)
- Participating in the Angel Foundation's **TCDSB-Toronto Marlies Health Action Day Game** along with the Chair of the Board, Nancy Crawford
- Participating as a guest speaker on Notre Dame Secondary School's Black Students Association podcast: **BSA Speaks**
- Attending the **33rd Annual Ordinandi Youth Event and Dinner**, sponsored by the Serra Foundation of Canada and the five Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese of Toronto - supporting transitional deacons who will be ordained to the priesthood this year
- Engaging with **The Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (E-CSLIT)** from across the system with greetings at their general assembly meeting
- Attending the upcoming **Mass of Installation of His Grace, Archbishop Francis (Frank) Leo** as Archbishop of Toronto by His Excellency, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič Apostolic Nuncio to Canada at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly "**Lunch with the Director**" series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube
- Participating on and contributing to **provincial leadership conversations** with **Directors of Education and Health officials** from across the province in support of TCSDb staff, students, and families, and to influence public policy decisions in support of education and health care
- **Meeting with Catholic Directors, particularly Catholic Directors from neighbouring GTA Catholic School Boards** in support of best practices, shared issues, solutions, and advocacy throughout Catholic education in Ontario