

OUR 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.

OUR VISION

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



Mike Del Grande
Trustee Ward 7

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To: Regular Board Meeting, April 23, 2024

From: Mike Del Grande, Trustee Ward 7

Subject: Consideration of Motion - International Pro-Life Flag

MOVED BY: Trustee Mike Del Grande, Toronto Catholic District School Board.
Seconded by Trustee Garry Tanuan.

WHEREAS: The Board's Operating By-Law No. 175 is binding upon all members of the Board of Trustees, who are elected, acclaimed, or appointed to the office of trustee of the Board of Trustees according to the provisions of the *Education Act* or the *Municipal Elections Act* (1.1.23) and;

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees shall promote student achievement and well-being (3.1.1) effective use and ensure effective stewardship of the resources entrusted to it for the purposes of delivering effective and appropriate education (3.1.2) ensure the delivery of effective and appropriate education programs to Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)'s students (3.1.3) and develop and maintain policies and organizational structures (3.1.4) that promote the goals referred to in *Articles* 2.1.3 and 3.1.4.1. and;

WHEREAS: Each Trustee shall bring concerns of parents, students and supporters of the TCDSB to the attention of the Board of Trustees (3.2.5)and;

WHEREAS: Each Trustee must follow the Teaching Magisterium of the Church, as sworn in the yearly "Oath of Office" (3.2.9) and;

WHEREAS: Each Trustee must be loyal to their Oath of Office, which demands that everyone who is baptized to be the light of the world with Jesus, and to bring the light of his Spirit to all areas and concerns of human life (prelude to Oath of Office) and;

WHEREAS: Each Trustee is committed to strive daily to live the Gospel Values as taught by Jesus Christ and to be faithful to the teachings of the Church, and fidelity to the primacy of the Pope and the authority of the Magisterium (Oath of Office) and;

WHEREAS: The Catechism of the Catholic Church proclaims the fundamental teachings of the Church and explicitly states:

- 2259 Man has become the enemy of his fellow man;
- 2260 The covenant between man and mankind is interwoven with reminders of God's gift of human life and man's murderous violence;
- 2261 Do not slay the innocent and the righteous (Ex. 23:7). The deliberate murder of an innocent person is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person, to the golden rule, and to the holiness of the Creator, the law forbidding it is universally valid: it obliges each and every one, always and everywhere;
- 2270 Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life;
- 2271 Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or as a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law ... God, the Lord of Life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life;
- 2272 Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life;
- 2273 The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constituent element of a civil society and its legislation: The inalienable right to life of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights ... belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his origin. Among such fundamental rights, one should mention in this regard, every human being's right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death. The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil society ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: As a public expression of this Board's fidelity to the pro-life teachings of the Church and to Catholic education, all TCDSB schools, the Catholic Education Center (CEC), and Office of the Board, shall fly the International Pro-Life Flag, annually, throughout the month of May, commencing May 1, 2024 and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In opposition to the lack of recognition by the political authorities in this country of the human and civil rights of the innocent unborn human beings' inalienable moral and constitutional rights to life and equal protection of the law, this Board refuses to stay silent or complicit in the face of such evil, and formally encourages, facilitates, and accommodates all staff, students, teachers and supporters of the TCDSB to participate in the annual National March for Life, until such time there is justice for all innocent unborn human beings in this country and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: As an alternative to those staff, students, teachers and supporters of the TCDSB who are unable for any reason to attend in person the National March for Life, the Board mandates that for the duration of the time the March occurs during the normal school day, that the entire teaching curriculum be exclusively devoted to explicitly teaching the portions of the Catechism identified in this motion, the book entitled, the Gospel of Life, authored by Pope John-Paul II, and the corresponding portions of the HOLY Bible, that is the source and foundation of the Church's teachings.



Mike Del Grande
Trustee, Ward 7
