



## Director's Monthly Report

April 2025

April brings the promise of rebirth with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. We concluded our Lenten journey during the month of April in the lead up to the most important liturgical day on our calendar. Easter is the cornerstone of our faith as we acknowledge the tremendous sacrifice through the passion, and the ultimate resurrection from death on Easter Sunday. We gathered in community on Easter Sunday to say: He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

I was so encouraged by the many ways our students and staff journeyed through Lent focused on fasting ("giving up for Lent"), prayer, and almsgiving/charitable work. Our students organize, give, and serve as Catholics, inspired by our faith and our commitments to serve and to do so as followers of Jesus. It is what makes our Catholic schools unique and distinct.

The rebirth in April is also found in our yards and gardens as buds start to pop and flowers being to poke their heads out of the earth. Our fields will soon be green with grass and our trees alive with leaves as we transition into the warmer months. After such a long winter this year, we are filled with hope and light with longer, warmer days and the promise of rebirth becoming reality.

I was proud to receive an invitation from our Lieutenant Governor Honorable Edith Dumont to represent the TCDSB at the Speech from the Throne to open the first session of the 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the Province of Ontario. I look forward to working with government on behalf of our students, staff, and families throughout Toronto.

I hope that Easter provides important time for family, prayer, and feasting this month as we paused for a well-deserved long weekend before the run up to the end of the academic year!

Highlights from **April** include:

Celebrating **Justice** as the **Virtue of the Month for April** and recognizing important observances such as: World Autism Day, Palm Sunday, Passover (Judaism), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, World Health Day, Holy Saturday, Vimy Ridge Day, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday, Katyn Massacre and Smolensk Air Disaster Commemoration Day, International Day of Pink (Anti-bullying Awareness), Vaisakhi (Sikh New Year), Sri Lankan, Sinhala, and Tamil New Year (Puthandu), Orthodox Good Friday (Eastern Rite), Orthodox East (Eastern Rite), National Volunteer Appreciation Week, Yom HaShoah (Judaism), Laylat al-Qadr (Islam – Night of Power), Election Day (Student Trustee), Eid al-Fitr (Islam), Festival of Ridvan (Baha'i faith), Earth Day/School Clean-Up Day, Anne Marie D'Amico Day of Kindness and Love, Administrative Professionals Day, Catholic Education Week

- Attending the **Opening of the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of Provincial Parliament at Queen's Park for the Lieutenant Governor's Speech from the Throne**
- Delivering remarks at the **Easter Celebration of the Eucharist at the CEC** and broadcast throughout the system
- Delivering greetings at the **Girls Who Game Celebration Day – Celebrating and Inspiring Girls in STEAM through gaming**
- Attending the delivering remarks at the **“Drop the Mic”** spoken word and speech competition at the CEC
- Attending the last dress rehearsal of the play **“Disconnected” – written and performed by staff and students of St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School** before going to the National Theatre School Competition
- Attending the **K- 12 Principal Meetings** for Areas 1 through to 4
- Attending a special **Eucharistic and Relic exhibit** at St. Conrad Catholic Elementary School
- Attending the **Passion Play** at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Elementary School
- Welcoming elementary student leaders at the **Young Disciples' Day at the CEC** – hosted by the Nurturing Our Catholic Community Team as a call to action for our elementary student leaders to put their faith into action. During the one-day events, students will learn about our new pastoral plan, In God's Image – Growing in Knowledge along with Grade 6 Religion programming
- Delivering greetings at the **Indigenous Justice Symposium** – honouring Supreme Court Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin
- Delivering remarks at the **Safe Schools Elementary and Secondary Student Ambassador Symposium** – the theme for the day is *Growing in Knowledge to Serve with Love*, with a special focus on digital citizenship and the responsible use of social media
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly **“Lunch with the Director”** series live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube
- **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