



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

PROCLAMATION OF PARISH FAMILY DAY

Romans 15:6—“that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

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November 7, 2016	November 24, 2016	Click here to enter a date.
Click here to enter name and position of Lead Author.		

RECOMMENDATION 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 TCDSB is in the second year of our pastoral plan - Together With One Voice: Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School. This report recommends that the Board proclaims a *Parish Family Day* to celebrate the Family, Parish and School relationship, acknowledging the important role of the Parish in the school community. This will serve as an important culminating activity for The Year of the Parish,

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 8 hours.

B. PURPOSE

This report recommends that the Board proclaims a Parish Family Day in recognition of the Year of the Parish, and further recommends that the Board proclaims Friday, May 5, 2017, during Catholic Education Week, as Parish Family Day.

C. BACKGROUND

1. In keeping with its goal of Nurturing Our Catholic Community, the TCDSB has initiated a three-year pastoral plan for 2015-2018; the theme for the plan is “Together With One Voice: Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School”
2. During this second year of the pastoral plan (2016-2017), the focus is the Year of the Parish.
3. During the first year of the pastoral plan, the Year of the Family (2015-2016), the last Friday of Catholic Education Week – May 6, 2017 – was officially proclaimed “Family Day”.
4. In September/October 2016, four regional sessions were held to launch the Year of the Parish. Representatives from parents, teachers, school administrators, senior staff, trustees and parishes gathered to discuss The Year of the Parish and ideas designed to foster closer relationships between schools and parishes. (In total 467 people attended these Year of the Parish Conversations.)
5. The Archdiocese of Toronto will be celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2017.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Ideas generated at the Year of the Parish launches are posted at: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/YearoftheParish/Pages/Ideas-Conversation-Starters.aspx> and are shared via email as monthly suggestions to support a parish project.
2. Ideas generated include suggestions for a meaningful parish project that nurtures the relationship between the school and the parish, as well as ideas for a culminating event in recognition of the Year of the Parish.
3. Religion and Family Life Resource Staff continue to share ideas for activities for this culminating event, drawing on the ideas that were shared at the regional launch/conversations of the Year of the Parish in the Fall 2016.
4. Parish projects, coupled with a culminating event in recognition of the Year of the Parish, support the goals of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan in the area of Living our Catholic Values.
5. Catholic Education Week will be celebrated during the week of April 30 – May 5, 2017, with the theme of “Walking Forward Together”. A culminating, system-wide event held on May 5, 2017 will incorporate many of the ideas shared at the regional sessions, and will celebrate and showcase many of the parish projects implemented in this school year.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. Cardinal Collins, or his designate, will be invited to a meeting of the Board at the appropriate time to receive the proclamation of Parish Family Day—Friday, May 5, 2017. (Please see **Appendix A** as a sample proclamation).
2. Schools, in partnership with their parent councils (CSPCs), will engage in an event or activity with their local parish to celebrate the Family-Parish-School partnership on the designated day.
3. Schools will share information about their plans for Parish Family Day with the Communications Department, as well as any photos and articles about

their special events for publication on the Board's website or via Twitter and other communications vehicles.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board proclaims a Parish Family Day in recognition of this the Year of the Parish with Cardinal Collins or a representative of the Archdiocese present.
2. That the Board proclaims Friday, May 5, 2017 during Catholic Education Week, as Parish Family Day.