



REPORT TO

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

TCDSB PASTORAL PLAN 2018-2021 - UPDATE

*Live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, abounding in thanksgiving.
~Colossians 2:6-7*

Created, Draft

February 20, 2018

First Tabling

March 1, 2018

Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

Michael Caccamo, Superintendent of Education, Area 3 and Nurturing our Catholic Community

INFORMATION REPORT

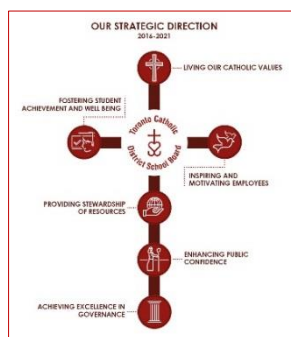
Vision:

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.



Rory McGuckin
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Executive Superintendent
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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pastoral Plan theme developed for 2018-2021 is “*Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become*”, and was presented at the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting held February 1, 2018. A Trustee motion that considered additional elements to the Pastoral Plan was referred to staff. This report outlines recommendations that could inform consideration of this motion.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 28 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. At the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee on Thursday, February 1, 2018, the Board approved the next Pastoral Plan for 2018-2021. Arising out of the discussion, a motion was approved for staff to return with a supplemental report:

The Pastoral Plan to include our TCDSB NCC team working closely with the various Toronto Archdiocese Lay Ministry groups headed by Bishop Kasun and the creation of the Congregation for the Defense of the Faith and Pastoral Care Program for administrators, chaplaincy, faculty, and staff sub-committees.

Other points for addition are:

1. *CMIC service trips*
2. *Components of:*
 - a. *Mercy and forgiveness, and Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 - b. *The sacrament of Holy Communion (there is certainly plenty on Eucharist i.e. Mass itself)*
 - c. *Helping each person to form and develop their own relationship with God, or as it is often described, ongoing encounter with Jesus, to ensure the growth of faith.*

That communication of the Pastoral Plan 2018-2021 be expanded to reach out to City Councilors, MPs, MPPs and local newspapers.

C. BACKGROUND

1. TCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan maintains Living our Catholic Values as one of its strategic direction and priorities. The three-year Pastoral Plan is designed to support that goal through curriculum links and special events that celebrate our Catholic faith unique to the TCDSB.
2. The theme for the next three-year Pastoral Plan, ***“Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become”***, was proposed and further developed at the Nurturing our Catholic Community Steering Committee meeting held November 1, 2017. This committee is made up of representatives from various stakeholder groups in the Board. The theme was then presented to the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee on Thursday, February 1, 2018.
3. The new Pastoral Plan will be launched at a special event on May 9, 2018, during Catholic Education Week. His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins will be invited to speak on the theme for the new Plan at a special prayer service that afternoon. For this special launch:
 - a. 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 attend.
 - b. The morning session, *Spotlight on Your School*, will focus on the culminating celebration for our Year of the School, showcasing some of the projects that were developed by students and staff across the Board.
4. 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.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. **With respect to the first part of the motion related to Budget:** To support the launch of the new Pastoral Plan and its three-year implementation, a

budget of \$100,000 was approved at the Corporate Services and Strategic Planning Committee on December 13, 2017.

2. **In dealing with the part of the motion related to working with Toronto Archdiocese lay ministry groups:** In the Archdiocese of Toronto, there are associations distinct from institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life. In these associations, the Christian faithful, laypersons together with clerics, strive to foster a more perfect life, to promote public worship or Christian doctrine, or to exercise other works of the apostolate such as initiatives of evangelization, and works of piety or charity, for example.

From time to time, the TCDSB works with lay ministry groups of the Archdiocese of Toronto, in schools and through its Nurturing our Catholic Community (NCC) central staff team to implement initiatives that support staff and families, and continue to nurture the important relationship between home, parish and school as the foundation for Catholic education. *The Rosary Apostolate* and *Faith in Our Child* are examples of lay ministry groups that collaborate with the TCDSB.

The NCC central staff team will set meetings with staff in the Bishop's office, and the Catholic Pastoral Centre for the purpose of sharing resources and information, as well as a greater engagement in the Pastoral Plan through these groups.

3. **With respect to the part of the motion related to the creation of a Congregation for the Defence of the Faith:** Pope Paul III founded The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1542 to defend the church from heresy. Today, it is the body responsible for promoting and defending Catholic doctrine, with its headquarters at the Palace of the Holy Office just outside Vatican City. The congregation employs an advisory board including cardinals, bishops, priests, lay theologians, and canon lawyers. The Congregation for the Defence of the Faith remains a function of the Vatican, although its teachings may be applicable to Religious education in Catholic school boards. For example: teaching about the Trinity; Mary, Mother of God and Church; the Holy Eucharist; the Apostolic Succession are common practices in our schools.

The TCDSB's internal NCC team meets weekly to prepare activities, initiatives, celebrations, and professional development that support the MYSP's strategic direction and priority of Living our Catholic Values. As

required, the team provides accompaniment, resources and direction at the local and system levels for matters that pertain to Catholic Faith and teachings. 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.

The internal NCC team provides advice to school and other central staff on matters that require perspective through a Catholic lens, and often works closely with other Board departments such as Student Success, Equity and Inclusivity, Guidance, Social Worker Services, Mental Health and Well Being, Psychology, to name a few. The team also works closely with the Archdiocese of Toronto and with the Institute for Catholic Education.

4. **In dealing with the part of the motion related to the creation of a Pastoral Care Program:** The NCC central staff team will continue to collaborate with the Archdiocese Centre for Pastoral Care to gain greater insights into providing continued pastoral care for administrators, chaplaincy, faculty and staff sub-committees.

It is noted that many other TCDSB departments promote care and well-being for the TCDSB community, including, but not limited to:

- Safe and Caring Schools,
- Special Services (Psychology, Mental Health and Well Being, Social Work, Autism),
- Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education,
- Student Success.

TCDSB routinely engages in facilitating central opportunities for pastoral care through events such as:

- annual symposium on Pastoral Care for secondary school staff
- Year of the School symposium focusing on the importance of creating a safe and inclusive environment in our schools.
- Stop the Stigma (elementary and secondary)

5. **With respect to the part of the motion related to Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) Service Trips:** Catholic Missions in Canada seeks to sustain and extend the Catholic Faith in isolated, poor and hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada. Catholic Missions promotes national awareness on

the needs of our Canadian missions and raises funds to sustain the work of evangelization.

Through its Catholic Student Leadership Department, student leadership service trips have been instrumental in facilitating the exploration of Catholic social teachings for our students. In collaboration with external organizations, service trips have included visiting Kenya, Tanzania, and the Philippines, to name a few. Discussions with CMIC will begin, through the Catholic Student Leadership Department, in order to explore the possibility of service trips in isolated, poor and hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada.

6. **In relation to the part of the motion that calls for inclusion of Additional Components in the 2018-21 Pastoral Plan:** These components are to be interwoven throughout the three-year Pastoral Plan and, in particular, during the years of we Belong and we Believe. It is a goal of Nurturing our Catholic Community and of the Pastoral Plan *“Rooted in Christ”*, that we continue to invite all in relationship with our Lord Saviour Jesus Christ, through the action items outlined in, but not limited to, the new Pastoral Plan.
7. **With respect to the part of the motion that deals with communication of the Pastoral Plan to reach out to City Councillors, MPs, MPPs and local newspapers:** The following communications vehicles will be utilized to share the new Pastoral Plan with the TCDSB community:
 - The official launch of the new Plan on May 9, 2018, preceded by invitations to the launch
 - Direct email to schools
 - Letter to pastors
 - Presentation to CPIC and OAPCE
 - Media outreach
 - Online Director’s Bulletin
 - E-News
 - Website (public site as well as employee portal)
 - Weekly Wrap Up
 - Social media (Twitter, Instagram)
 - In-service for Religion Reps and Chaplaincy Leaders
 - Presentations to Principals and System Leaders
 - Promotional materials such as posters, pop up banners, flyers

Communication of the Pastoral Plan will also include information shared with and invitations sent to City Councillors, MPPs, MPs, and local newspapers.

E. ACTION PLAN

Staff will:

1. Explore further collaboration with lay ministry groups in the Archdiocese of Toronto through the Bishop's office.
2. Continue with the model of promoting the Catholic Faith and teachings, whereby the NCC central staff team provides accompaniment, resources and direction at the local and system level for matters that pertain to Catholic Faith and teachings, and provides advice to school and other central staff on matters that require perspective through a Catholic lens.
3. Continue with the current model of Pastoral Care, whereby the NCC central staff team collaborates with other TCDSB departments to promote care and well-being for all.
4. Collaborate with Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC), through the Catholic Student Leadership Department, in order to explore the possibility of service trips in isolated, poor and hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada.
5. Communicate the Pastoral Plan as indicated in Comment #7 above.
6. Implement the above actions at no additional cost to the Board, operating within the allocated budget of the new Pastoral Plan.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.