



Strategic Directions



Our first installment of Strategic Directions focuses on our board’s strategic direction of Catholicity. I can think of no better way to begin a school year than to reflect on what makes us unique – our shared commitment to the Catholic faith.

At our recent Faith Day, I paraphrased the [wisdom of St. Teresa of Avila](#) by saying, “You are the hands and feet and face of Christ in our board.” I meant that sincerely. I have come face to face with many of you. I have seen your faces – and thus have I also seen the face of God.

I am a witness to your commitment to Christ-like behaviour. This September, I saw you assisting with the [St. Vincent Blue Box Campaign](#); celebrating the Eucharist together on [Faith Day](#); and showing solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters by wearing [orange garments](#). I heard you planning how to address the needs of those living in poverty – either through community service and/or structural changes to your workplace. And at a recent celebration of retirees and [25-year employees](#), I was blessed to acknowledge those who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to our board; to hear the histories, stories, and contributions of these employees was humbling and inspiring.

Being the hands, feet, and face of Christ may be our vocation, but that does not make it simple. It is not always easy to love others, and it is difficult to discern what to do in challenging times. We are called to service, yet we need to stay physically, financially, and emotionally healthy ourselves so we can continue to serve. This sometimes leads to drawing boundaries, denying requests, and feeling disappointment or guilt. We are called to love others, yet we must honour our public trust. This sometimes means we must ask uncomfortable questions about what is happening and address problematic behaviours, policies, or attitudes. Such questioning can again cause discomfort, even outrage. We are called to sainthood, yet we are fallible beings. This sometimes means, especially in moments of stress or fatigue, we do or say things we later regret, only to have to seek forgiveness. Again, there is the potential for embarrassment, distrust, and misunderstanding. These are only a few of the daily tensions we face as people of faith in our Catholic school system.

As we move forward together in 2017-18, I would encourage all of us to continue to reflect on how we are Christ’s hands, feet, and face to others, in good times and in bad. Are we doing all we can to love, serve, and live as Christ would want us to? How do we react when others deny our requests, question us, or say or do things that hurt us in some way? These are difficult questions to ask ourselves, but they are necessary if we are to stay on the path Christ has paved for us.

God bless,

Rose Burton Spohn
Director of Education

Quoi de neuf!



What's New!



Wegnesh e shki ii!



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