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CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF SASKATCHEWAN PROCLAMATION/PASTORAL LETTER RE: WORLD CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK May 10 - May 17, 2015

The Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan would like to recognize Thursday, May 14, 2015 as World Catholic Education Day. On this day Catholics across the globe give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education, and we joyfully celebrate the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic Education in the lives of people around the world. This year's theme for World Catholic Education Day is "*The Universal Call to Holiness.*"

Through the faith filled foresight of our ancestors, in Saskatchewan we are blessed with a constitutional right to publicly funded Catholic Education. Through our eight Catholic school divisions we educate over 37,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 118 Catholic schools.

This year's theme, for World Catholic Education Week in Saskatchewan, "Catholic Education: Answering the Call" was chosen to help students in Catholic schools reflect on the Year of Consecrated Life. As students discern how they might "answer the call", in Catholic schools we will encourage our students to focus on answering God's call through service to His people. Our Catholic schools strive to "forward the call" by inviting our students to live out their faith through joyful witness and actively seeking ways to evangelize and share the good news. Through working together with parents and the parish community in helping our students to understand how they might "answer the call" we can help our students to grow and develop to their full potential as active participants in God's plan.

We set aside this week to focus our attention on the value of Catholic schools in encouraging children to develop their individual gifts and talents in an atmosphere that is characterized by both the freedom and moral responsibility that is found in the teachings of the Catholic Church. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all the partners in Catholic Education including trustees, administrators, teachers, support staff, pastors, parish ministers, parish teams and parents for supporting our children in their journey home to God through the gift of Catholic Education.

We invite all members of the Catholic community to a greater awareness of the contribution of Catholic schools to the mission of the Church. We ask each of you to pray for the continued success of our Catholic schools and indeed, wherever there is need, to add your voice in support of Catholic Education as we strive to support our students in their life long-faith journey.

We urge all people in the Catholic community of Saskatchewan to recognize the week of May 10 -17, 2015 as a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the wonderful gift of Catholic Education.

Most Rev. Daniel J. Bohan,
Archbishop of Regina

Most Rev. Albert Thevenot
Bishop of Prince Albert

Most Rev. Donald Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon

Most Rev. Bryan Bayda
Ukrainian Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon