

- [When one door closes...](#)



A familiar phrase tells us that when one door closes, another opens. It can be reassuring to be reminded that opportunities exist in unexpected places or circumstances—often hidden or obscured from our view, but present nonetheless.

On Friday, November 18, the chapel door that then-bishop of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Saskatoon [Most Reverend Donald Bolen designated a holy door during the Year of Mercy at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School](#) was, in essence, closed. With the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy ending November 20, 2016, E.D. Feehan's holy door was decommissioned by Rev. Ciro Alfonso Perez, CSsR, at a school liturgy and reconciliation service.

When this door closed, it, well, it stayed open.

Unlike the familiar phrase about doors opening and closing, the door to God's mercy is ever-present and always open. The end of the Jubilee of Mercy does not put an end to God's mercy.

At a student assembly the day before the decommissioning, Matthew Courchene, parish life director at St. John Bosco Parish, gave students a powerful message that there is nothing anyone can do to make God love you less. His mercy is always accessible for those who seek it.

Other holy doors in the diocese—at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, St. Paul's Co-Cathedral and St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt—were closed Nov. 13. The holy door at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral was closed on Nov. 14.

*Pictured: Bishop Bolen blessing E.D. Feehan's chapel door in April 2016*

## [Day of prayer for reconciliation and healing](#)



In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS), through the leadership of the Diocesan Council of Truth and Reconciliation, are conducting a Day of Prayer for Reconciliation and Healing on October 21, 2016.

Students and staff at all 44 division schools located in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Biggar, as well as division office staff, will join diocesan pastors and staff in prayer for reconciliation and healing.

At the school board office, the reconciliation flag was raised to publicly represent the division's commitment to reconciliation and healing. Delvin Kanewiyakiho, the division's First Nation's cultural leader, sang an honour song while the flag was being raised. (A short video clip can be found [on our YouTube channel](#))

“Our Board of Education, staff and students are deeply invested in answering the calls to action,” said Gordon Martell, superintendent of learning services at GSCS. “The day of prayer is an opportunity to demonstrate our support for residential school survivors and their descendants, celebrate our strengths and seek guidance for the work yet to come. Responding to the calls to action happens everyday. The day of prayer is a special celebration that punctuates our year and reminds us of the importance of balance and supporting the mental, physical spiritual and emotional development of children and youth.”

October 21 is the anniversary of the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first North American Indigenous woman to be declared a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

## Students stock food bank



While most young people were seeking tricks or treats on October 31, almost 300 students from St. Joseph High School were Halloweening for Hunger, collecting food in support of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre.

Rachelle Kelln, a teacher at St. Joseph who helped coordinate the effort said that work began at the beginning of October. Students needed no encouragement to sign up, and there was no shortage of students, with 285 participating. Then students went to work developing collection-route maps and distributing flyers to inform residents that they would be collecting food.

According to Laura O'Conner, the executive director the Saskatoon food bank, this collection helps give the Saskatoon Food Bank a tremendous boost for Christmas, a time when demand at the food bank spikes. She said that over the course of a month, the food bank gets over 20,000 visitors.

On November 2, three trucks from the food bank arrived at St. Joseph High School to pick up the food. But that wasn't enough to hold all the food. When all the food was delivered back to the food bank, a total of 19,655 pounds of food were collected. Kelsey O'Byrne, a teacher and fellow coordinator with Kelln, said it's humbling to see the work of the students, to see them "take off with the idea and do something like this."

Students from Holy Cross High School and Bishop James Mahoney High School also collected food. They collected 6,000 pounds and 4,500 pounds of food respectively, bringing the total weight of food collected by the three high schools to an impressive 30,155.

*Story written with contributions from Sara Kunz from Holy Cross High School.*