**Catholic Education Week 2025: Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope/ *L’éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l’espérance***

Friday - *We are pilgrims of hope when we live as peacemakers.*

Adapted from:<https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/cet-2024-25-pilgrims-of-hope/>

**Call to prayer / Daily Theme:**

As we come to the end of Catholic Education Week and continue to celebrate the gift of Catholic Education, we reflect on our mission to be pilgrims of hope who live as peacemakers. We hear in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount that peacemakers are blessed. During this Jubilee year, we are reminded that the need for peace challenges all of us and we are called to take steps to be peacemakers by taking action to address the causes of violence and war.

As pilgrims of hope, we give thanks to God for peacemakers and the gift of Catholic Education as we begin together…

***In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

**Opening Prayer:**

God of love,

You sent your Son, Jesus, to show us how to be peaceful people.

We pray for peace in our world, peace in our relationships, and peace in our hearts.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, where there is conflict and tension,

show us the way to be peacemakers and peace-givers.

Help us to speak with words that calm and heal.

As pilgrims of hope, may your peace be the path we walk,

and the goal toward which we journey each day.

We ask this, God of peace, in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

***Amen.***

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:1-4 (International Children’s Bible)

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

**…**I belong to the Lord. God chose you to be his people. I tell you now to live the way God’s people should live. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient and accept each other with love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit. Do all you can to continue together in this way. Let peace hold you together. There is one body and one Spirit. And God called you to have one hope.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Reflection:**

How do you feel when someone you know is mean to you? How do you feel about that person? You and the person certainly are no longer one. Maybe you don’t want to speak to him or her. You might not even want to be with that person anymore. You are not at peace. But neither is the other person!

Today’s Bible passage teaches us that peace is kept when people are kind and gentle. Sometimes it’s hard to be kind. We might be sad or angry. We might not feel good. We might not like certain people, or maybe we’re bothered by what they do. If we do hurt someone and destroy the peace, we can still repair it. We can be humble and apologize. We can be extra kind to the one we hurt. The Holy Spirit will help us to restore the peace that is lost when we are not kind and gentle with one another.

**Call to Action:**

Have you hurt someone with your words or your actions? If so, seek them out, apologize, and ask for their forgiveness.

Has someone hurt you with their words or actions? If so, seek them out and offer your forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a powerful secret weapon! …and it helps us to be the peacemakers we are called to be.

**Closing Prayer:**

Father in heaven,

We thank you for your guidance as we pilgrim through life filled with the peace of Christ.

May we continue to reflect the image of your Son as we ask for the strength to be forgiving,

the understanding to show compassion, and the love to be gentle to others.

Be our guiding light as we journey together to become builders of peace.

May the grace of this Jubilee year awaken the flame of hope within each of us

and inspire us to be peacemakers within our communities.

Grant us the strength to be leaders of peace as we journey

and help us to rediscover your infinite mercy.

We offer this prayer to you, our Father in heaven.

***Amen.***

**Appel à la prière / Thème pour la journée**:

Alors que la Semaine de l'éducation catholique touche à sa fin et que nous continuons à célébrer le don de l'éducation catholique, nous réfléchissons à notre mission : être des pèlerins d'espérance, des artisans de paix. Le Sermon sur la montagne de Jésus nous dit que les artisans de paix sont bénis. En cette année jubilaire, nous nous rappelons que nous sommes appelés à devenir des artisans de paix et à prévenir la violence et la guerre.

En tant que pèlerins d'espérance, nous rendons grâce à Dieu pour les artisans de paix et le don de l'éducation catholique, alors que nous prions ensemble…

Au nom du Père, du Fils et du Saint-Esprit. Amen.

**La prière de la journée:**

Dieu d'amour,

vous avez envoyé votre fils, Jésus, pour nous montrer comment vivre ensemble en paix.

Nous prions pour la paix dans notre monde, dans nos relations avec les autres et dans nos cœurs.

Jésus, prince de la paix, quand nous sommes en conflit, aidez- nous à trouver une solution ensemble.

Rappelez-nous d’utiliser des mots gentils et respectueux.

En tant que pèlerins d'espoir, aidez-nous à suivre votre chemin de paix chaque jour.

Nous vous le demandons, Dieu de paix, au nom de Jésus, notre Seigneur. Amen.