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

Monday - *We are pilgrims of hope when we honour human dignity.*

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

**Introduction to the Week: (Monday only)**

Each year, Catholic Schools in Saskatchewan engage in a week-long celebration to remember, promote, and share the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic Education during Catholic Education Week. This year’s celebration entitled, **“Catholic Education: *Pilgrims of Hope*,”** is inspired by the theme for this Jubilee Year declared by Pope Francis. The passage that guides our theme is, *“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us,”* which is a quote from Pope Francis in the context of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.

The theme reminds us that…

* We are to be pilgrims who fan the flame of hope and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision.
* We are asked to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes.
* We are summoned to contemplate the beauty of creation and be stewards who care for our common home.
* We are encouraged to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people.

Catholic Education helps us to do all this and more! And so, we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education always, but in a special way this week.

**Call to prayer / Daily Theme:**

As we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education, in this year of Jubilee, we reflect on our mission to be pilgrims of hope who honour human dignity. Our Catholic faith teaches us that every person is made in God’s image and has equal dignity. We honour human dignity when we see the image of God in every person and when we respect and value all people as our brothers and sisters. When we honour human dignity, we become real signs of hope in our schools, families, and wider communities.

As pilgrims of hope, we give thanks to God for Catholic education as we begin together…

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

**Opening Prayer:**

Good and gracious God,

Be with us as we journey together as Pilgrims of Hope and builders of peace,

sowing seeds of faith, hope, and love along the way.

Be with us as we walk together and share this journey.

Bless the path on which we travel and be our guiding light from above.

Help us treat each other as your beloved.

Let us honour human dignity as we welcome everyone into our communities

with open hearts of love and kindness.

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

***Amen.***

**Scripture:** 1 John 3:1-3(International Children’s Bible)

A reading from the First Letter of John.

The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God’s children, because they have not known him. Dear friends, now we are children of God. We have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him. We will see him as he really is. Christ is pure. And every person who has this hope in Christ keeps himself pure like Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Reflection:**

The scripture passage reminds us of our true identity as children of God. It speaks to our worth, purpose, and the incredible love that God has lavished upon us. Understanding and embracing this truth can transform our lives, giving us confidence, security, and a sense of belonging that surpasses anything the world can offer.

* The apostle John emphasizes the incredible love that God has poured out on us, calling us His children.
* Being a child of God sets us apart from the world’s system of values and priorities.
* As children of God, we have a hope in Christ’s return and the promise of being transformed into His likeness.
* This hope motivates us to live lives that reflect His purity and holiness, and to pursue righteousness and strive for personal growth.
* Our identity as children of God compels us to recognize that each and every person is a child of God and therefore has inherent dignity that we must honour.

In essence, today’s scripture passage encourages us to live in light of our identity as God's children, to anticipate the future glory that awaits us, and to strive for a life of purity and holiness, reflecting the image of Christ.

**Call to Action:**

One way we honour human dignity – our own and that of others, is to LOVE. The Bible tells us that it is by our actions that we show our love. Think of at least one loving thing – a kind act – you can do today and each day of this Catholic Education Week for the members of your family and for your friends. Then, make sure you remember to do it!

**Closing Prayer:**

Dear Lord,

We ask for your blessing as we journey as Pilgrims of Hope

who honour human dignity through our kind and loving actions.

Guide our minds and fill our hearts with hope and love.

Nurture our relationships and help us to see your divine image in each other

and give us courage to work for justice.

May the flame of hope be enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit

and reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

We ask all this in Jesus' name.

***Amen.***

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

Alors que nous célébrons le don de l'éducation catholique en cette année jubilaire, nous réfléchissons à notre mission: être des pèlerins d'espérance qui honorent la dignité humaine. Notre foi catholique nous enseigne que chaque personne est créée à l'image de Dieu et possède une dignité spéciale. Nous honorons la dignité humaine lorsque nous voyons l'image de Dieu en chaque personne et lorsque nous respectons chaque personne comme nos frères et nos sœurs. En respectant la dignité humaine, nous devenons des signes d'espoir dans nos écoles, nos familles et nos communautés.

En tant que pèlerins d'espérance, nous rendons grâce à Dieu pour 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 bon et miséricordieux,

Soyez avec nous, pèlerins d'espoir et bâtisseurs de paix, sur notre chemin.

Aidez-nous à semer des graines de foi, d'espérance et d'amour tout au long du chemin.

Soyez avec nous et partagez le chemin avec nous.

Bénissez notre chemin et soyez notre guide.

Aidez-nous à aimer notre prochain comme vous nous aimez.

Aidez-nous à respecter la dignité humaine en accueillant chaque personne dans nos communautés avec un cœur ouvert, rempli d'amour et de gentillesse.

Nous vous le demandons au nom de Jésus. Amen.