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

**Adapted from:**[**https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/cet-2024-25-pilgrims-of-hope/**](https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/cet-2024-25-pilgrims-of-hope/)

**Call to prayer / Daily Theme: Hope**

Let us gather our hearts and minds as we begin our day, focusing on the hope that fills our lives through faith and learning.

Think about the moments when you felt hope shining brightly. Maybe it was when you finally understood a difficult math problem, or when you made a new friend, or when you helped someone in need. Hope is like a light that guides us, even when things seem dark or challenging.

In our Catholic schools, we learn not just from books, but also about love, compassion, and the teachings of Jesus. These lessons give us hope for a better world, a world where everyone is treated with kindness and respect.

Let us remember that hope is not just a feeling; it's something we can create through our actions. By working hard in our studies, by being kind to one another, and by living our faith, we spread hope to those around us.

So, as we celebrate Catholic Education Week, let us embrace hope in all that we do. Let us be beacons of light, showing the world the love and promise that comes from our faith and education.

**Opening Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for the hope you give us every day. It's like a light that helps us see the good things around us and inside us.

Help us to be hope for others, too. Help us be kind to our classmates, especially if they're having a bad day or feeling lonely. Let us be people who share what we have, help our friends and classmates with our school tasks, and include everyone in our group work and conversations.

Show us how to stand up for others when they're being mistreated or left out. Give us the courage to do what's right, even when it's hard. Help us to be good friends and classmates who spread joy and hope wherever we go.

Father, we want to be like Jesus, who always showed love and kindness to everyone. Help us to make our school, our community, and our world a better place, one act of hope at a time.

Mary, Mother of Hope, pray for us, that we may be hope for everyone we meet. Amen.

**Scripture: Romans 5:1-5**

Because of our faith, we are friends with God through Jesus. Jesus made it possible for us to enjoy God's kindness, and we are happy because we know that we will share in God's glory. But that's not all! We are happy even when we have troubles, because we know that when we are having trouble, it helps us learn to be patient. And when we learn to be patient, it makes us stronger. When we are stronger, it gives us hope. And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has shown us how much he loves us. He gave us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection:**

This passage speaks of the hope that comes from faith in Jesus Christ. It highlights that even in times of suffering, we can have hope because suffering produces endurance, which in turn produces character, and ultimately, hope. This hope is not a fleeting feeling but is rooted in God's love for us, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. It's a powerful reminder that our faith gives us a reason to look forward with confidence, even when things are difficult.

Here are a few questions to think about: (choose the ones you would like to pose to your students)

* Can you think of a time when you felt hopeless? What helped you to find hope again?
* How does the concept of "hope" relate to the virtue of charity (love)? Can we truly love without hope?
* In what ways can hope inspire us to take action and work towards a better world, even when faced with difficult challenges like poverty, injustice, or climate change?
* How does the Catholic belief in the Resurrection give us hope in the face of suffering and death?
* How does understanding the lives of the saints inspire hope? Are there any particular saints whose stories resonate with you in terms of hope?
* How can we balance the need for hope with the reality of suffering and injustice in the world?
* What are some practical ways you can bring hope to someone who is struggling or feeling lost?

**Call to Action:**

* Be Kind to Others: Try to spread joy and peace to those around you. A simple act of kindness, like helping a classmate with their homework or offering a smile, can make a big difference in someone's day and fill you with hope.
* Seek God's Presence: Take time each day to connect with God through prayer or reflection. Even a few minutes of quiet time can help you to feel more peaceful and hopeful, knowing that God is taking care of you.
* Don't Worry, Be Present: Remember that worrying doesn't solve anything. Instead of stressing about the future, focus on doing your best in the present moment and trusting that God will guide you.
* Share Your Hope: Think about someone you know who might be feeling discouraged or hopeless. Share a message of hope with them, whether it's a kind word, a scripture verse, or simply your presence and support.
* Trust in Tough Times: Remember that tough times can actually make us stronger and give us hope. When you face a challenge at school or in your personal life, don't give up! Trust that God is with you and that you can learn and grow from the experience.

**Closing Prayer:**

* Loving God, as we celebrate Catholic Education Week, we lift up our students to your loving care. May they find hope in their faith, wisdom in their studies, and the strength to live lives of purpose and meaning. Help them to embrace their talents, to learn with humility, and to grow in grace and knowledge, guided by your teachings and the example of Jesus. May they be beacons of hope and compassion, making a positive impact on the world around them. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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

En commençant la journée, assemblons nos cœurs et nos esprits en nous concentrant sur l'espoir qui remplit nos vies par la foi et l'apprentissage.

Pensez aux moments où vous avez ressenti l'espoir. Peut-être lorsque vous avez enfin compris un problème de mathématiques difficile, lorsque vous avez rencontré un nouvel ami, ou lorsque vous avez aidé une personne dans le besoin. L'espoir est comme une lumière qui nous guide, même lorsque les choses semblent sombres ou difficiles.

Dans nos écoles catholiques, nous apprenons non seulement des livres, mais aussi l'amour, la compassion et les enseignements de Jésus. Ces leçons nous donnent l'espoir d'un monde meilleur, un monde où chacun est traité avec gentillesse et respect.

N'oublions pas que l'espoir n'est pas seulement un sentiment; c'est quelque chose que nous pouvons créer par nos actions. En travaillant fort dans nos études, en étant gentils les uns envers les autres et en vivant notre foi, nous transmettons l'espoir à ceux qui nous entourent.

Pendant cette Semaine de l'éducation catholique, embrassons l'espoir dans tout ce que nous faisons. Soyons des lumières, montrant au monde l'amour et la promesse de notre foi et de notre éducation.

**La prière de la journée**

Seigneur, merci pour l'espoir que vous nous donnez chaque jour. C'est comme une lumière qui nous aide à voir les bonnes choses autour de nous et en nous.

Aidez-nous aussi à être de l'espoir pour les autres.

Aidez-nous à être gentils envers nos camarades de classe, surtout s'ils passent une mauvaise journée ou se sentent seuls.

Dirigez-nous à partager ce que nous avons, à aider nos amis et camarades de classe dans nos devoirs scolaires et à inclure tout le monde dans nos travaux de groupe et nos conversations.

Montrez-nous comment défendre les autres lorsqu'ils sont maltraités ou exclus.

Donnez-nous le courage de faire ce qui est juste, même dans les moments difficiles.

Aidez-nous à être de bons amis et camarades de classe qui partagent la joie et l'espoir partout où nous allons.

Seigneur, nous voulons être comme Jésus, qui a toujours fait preuve d'amour et de bonté envers les autres.

Aidez-nous à faire de notre école, de notre communauté et de notre monde un endroit meilleur, un acte d'espoir à la fois.

Marie, mère de l'espérance, priez pour nous, afin que nous soyons de l'espoir pour tous ceux que nous rencontrons. Amen.