



WE ARE CALLED...

TO BE LEADERS OF HOPE AND MERCY

May 2017

Jesus said to the disciples, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life...If you know me, you will know my Father also."

~John 14: 6-7~

This passage from the Gospel of John takes place right after Jesus has washed the feet of his disciples and is preparing for his impending arrest. He has reassured them that there are many rooms in his Father's house, and that he will go prepare the way for all. When the disciples say that they are unsure about how to get to be with their God, Jesus' answer is simple...follow him. The way to God is to be found in the person of Jesus. Living your life in relationship with Jesus, and therefore with God, is the key to eternal life!

The month of May begins with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, which also marks the beginning of Education Week. It is fitting that this week begins with a celebration of the life of this faithful servant of God, a carpenter by trade, who had the special ministry of watching over and caring for Jesus and Mary. We take time to thank all our staff for their dedication and commitment to nurturing our students to help them grow in mind, body, and spirit.

Mark your calendars - Saturday, May 13 is the 32nd Annual Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow, in partnership with the City of Edmonton, at the Commonwealth Recreation Centre. Grand Entry takes place at 1 pm and 6 pm. Drop by at any time from 1-10 pm to enjoy this amazing spiritual celebration of culture!

World Catholic Education Day falls each year on the Feast of the Ascension, which is May 25 this year. This special day is one which highlights the many gifts and great richness to be found in Catholic education. As we look to the world, we, in Alberta, are also deeply grateful for our publicly funded Catholic education. Please visit the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association website to read their article, *Catholic Education: Confronting Fiction with Facts*, <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/news/2017/4/4/catholic-education-confronting-fiction-with-facts>.

The Government of Alberta has passed *Bill 1, an Act to Reduce School Fees*. The intent of this bill is to reduce transportation fees and school fees by 25%. We are awaiting the release of the guidelines to school districts, which will go into effect on June 1, to help us establish our fee structures. Look for further communication from your school later in June.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is pleased to offer Diploma Exam Preparation courses and Summer School courses through the Department of Alternative Education. Visit their section of our website to learn more and to register: <https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8412/Pages/default.aspx>.

May is the month of Mary, our Holy Mother. As we celebrate Mother's Day on May 14, it is a wonderful time for us to honor all women, be they mothers, grandmothers, aunties, sisters, or others who fill this vital role in the lives of our children. I would like to leave you with a special prayer for them:

O Loving Lord,

As Mary was the model of prayer, of love, and of obedience to the will of God, by your grace make mothers holy and rich with your gifts.

Bind families together in the bonds of peace and safety so that mothers will feel nurtured by love.

May all mothers enjoy good health and spiritual well-being to enable them to care for their families.

Amen

Adapted from *Prayers for Mothers*, Bishop Kevin Manning, Parramatta Diocese

Many blessings,

Joan Carr

Superintendent