

five marks
THE FIVE MARKS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY



FAITH FORMATION PLAN
2024-2025
PROGRESS REPORT



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MARK ONE:

GROUNDED IN A CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

STANDARD ONE:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS DRIVEN BY A MISSION WHICH VIEWS ALL PEOPLE WITH AN INHERENT DIGNITY AS CHILDREN OF GOD.

GOAL: MAKING MISSION VISIBLE, KNOWN, AND LIVED

ACTIONS TAKEN 2024-2025:

- Presentation on Mission to all Principals at September CEL with mandate to review school missions and align with Division mission
- Placed Division mission on website landing page on the banner, Lumen Christi video loop, Board Public Meeting video loop
- Schools have been putting their mission statements prominently and clearly on electronic media (i.e. websites, video loops). Some schools have also shared their updated missions on social media
- Included Mission Statement in Division/Department publications, reports, templates, and letterheads as appropriate. This has included Board of Trustees Advocacy Documents, Division PowerPoint templates for staff use, Division Letterhead, and Division Memo templates.
- All schools will have reviewed their mission statements this year to align with the Division mission statement and will have received a pullup banner of their mission statement that is portable throughout the school.



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MARK TWO: IMBUED WITH A CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

STANDARD TWO:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAS A VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE CATHOLIC VISION EVIDENT IN ITS PHYSICAL SPACE, LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER LIFE.

GOAL: MAKING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH VISIBLE, KNOWN, AND LIVED

ACTIONS TAKEN 2024-2025:

- The Religious Education (RE) team supported over twenty school-based Feast/Faith days for students and staff.
- Father Michael “Catfish” Mireau Youth Faith Day was reenvisioned as an in-person event. The Youth Faith Days were scheduled from Friday, March the 14th to Wednesday, March the 19th, hosted at St. Charles Church in Edmonton. Each morning or afternoon session began with Mass concelebrated by Father Marc Cramer, Father Glenn McDonald, and Father Julian Bilyj, followed by an enthusiastic and lively one-hour presentation hosted by internationally renowned youth speaker, Jesse Manibusan.
- The RE Secondary Consultant participated in the planning process for the Junior High and High School Symposiums scheduled for November 1st and 13th respectively.
- The RE Elementary Consultant worked with Learning Services to develop a session that focused on creating faith-filled inclusive classrooms through the lens of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and the Catholic Faith. Participants were invited to engage in hands-on inclusive activities and lively discussions that celebrated every student's unique identity as a child of God.
- To support increased participation in the School Opening Mass, the Mass booklet was included as part of the invitation.
- Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre was updated to include a visible faith component in all meeting spaces. This included Crucifixes hung in each room as well as Centers of Beauty prominently displayed in more communal spaces in the building.



MARK THREE: ANIMATED BY A FAITH-INFUSED CURRICULUM

STANDARD THREE:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAS AN ACADEMIC CURRICULUM THAT INTEGRATES A VISION OF FAITH WITHIN THE LEARNER OUTCOMES AND TEACHING STRATEGIES.

GOAL: KNOWING, UNDERSTANDING, AND APPLYING FAITH IN OUR LEARNING AND WORK

ACTIONS TAKEN 2024-2025:

A Permeation Committee was established to support this important work. The committee includes members from Learning Services and Religious Education Services, collaborating to enhance faith integration across the curriculum.

To support Professional Development, the committee created two videos, which are available on a [SharePoint site](#) and shared with all Division leaders for staff presentations:

- **Video 1:** Defines permeation and its significance in Catholic schools.
- **Video 2:** Demonstrates permeation within the Science curriculum. This video also has supporting resources to facilitate the associated activity.
- **Video 3:** Titled: How WE are Wonderfully Made

In addition to these resources, professional learning sessions were developed to further support permeation. These sessions were facilitated within Learning Services' monthly All-Together Meetings and extended to divisional teachers. They focused on:

- Defining permeation and its role in Catholic education.
- Showcasing what permeation looks like in a secondary classroom.
- Exploring various ways to integrate faith into secondary subject areas.
- Highlighting the teacher's role as a faith-based role model.

The following sessions were also featured in the Beginning Teacher Conferences on the following dates:

- **September 9:** *Catholic Calculations: Counting on Faith (K-6)*
- **September 9:** *Permeating Programs of Study (7-12)*
- **January 28:** *Faith-filled Fun! A Journey through Lent and Easter*
- **January 28:** *Permeating Catholicism: Integrating Faith into Your Secondary Classroom*

Mini-Conferences, February 20 & April 17 (Presentation uploaded on Teams channel, under Mini Conferences)

Religious Education consultants contributed to this session by providing faith-based considerations for scenarios that participants worked through using the 4 agreements. Faith is emphasized as one way to ground oneself prior to having a courageous conversation, utilizing the Courageous Conversations about Race compass. Ephesians 4.29 scripture was provided for participants with respect to setting intentions for courageous conversations. Learning Intention: Recognize aspects of the Catholic faith that are addressed during courageous conversations.

Creating Faith Filled Inclusive Classrooms: Social Emotional Learning; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-racism; and universal Design for Learning (K-6)

The Mini Conference session explored various elements that need to be considered when incorporating SEL, EDIAR and UDL to create inclusive classrooms. The presentation included embedding our Catholic world view, utilizing the Five Marks and the Excellent Catholic Teacher as grounding documents. Emphasis was on finding guidance in scripture and the importance of prayer in helping guide meditations and SEL classroom circles. Learning Intention: Connect the Catholic Worldview to Social Emotional Learning and Universal Design.

Courageous Conversations With Students (Grades 7-12)

Student learning is impacted by their ability to be included, feel safe and have a sense of belonging. In this session we will explore a framework to support courageous conversations about inclusion, human dignity and the common good. Join us to dive into strategies to help students understand what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God and to what it means to be a person in relationship with others. Participants will be provided with key strategies that help students of all abilities thrive in their environment alongside their peers.

Other Professional Learning Sessions to support Permeation included:

- Kindergarten Year Planning using the new Religion Program
- Catholic Calculations: Counting on Faith (K-6)
- Permeating Programs of Study (7-12)
- Permeation in Mathematics in Edmonton Catholic Schools
- Faith-Filled Fun! A Journey through Lent and Easter
- Permeating Catholicism: Integrating Faith into the Secondary Classroom



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MARK FOUR: SUSTAINED BY GOSPEL WITNESS

STANDARD FOUR:

AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HIRES AND NURTURES TEACHERS THAT ARE LIVING WITNESSES TO THE GOSPEL, AND INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

GOAL: IGNITING THE SPARK TO GROW IN FAITH AS A COMMUNITY AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

ACTIONS TAKEN 2024-2025:

- Chaplains were provided professional learning to support schools in the development of their faith formation plans. Departments also created faith formation plans. The faith formation plan consisted of at least 3 activities beyond those provided by the Division. The general themes from the data collected were:
 - Faith and Spiritual Activities
 - Cultural and Indigenous connections
 - Social Justice and Community Service
 - Educational and Holistic Development
 - Celebratory Activities
- As was outlined in the Division's Faith Formation Plan 2024-25, Faith Development Day was re-visioned to an in-person formation experience. This year, the event was planned and implemented by a broader committee, including principals from each level and the Department of Religious Education. The day was celebrated in six locations: St. Thomas More, Corpus Christi, St. Charles, St. John Bosco, Santa Maria Goretti, and Lumen Christi. Each location hosted a time for coffee and fellowship, followed by a keynote address from a local Catholic speaker. The context of Faith Development Day is that it provides Catholics with a formation experience while allowing non-Catholics to develop a better understanding of the Catholic context of the Division. By participating in this event, staff members, regardless of their faith background, gain insights into the Catholic values and teachings that underpin the Division's mission. This shared experience fosters a sense of unity and mutual respect, reinforcing the commitment to living out their vocation within the Catholic educational framework.
- Along with the keynote addresses, Faith Development Day included opportunities for staff to engage in reflective practices and discussions. These activities encouraged staff to consider how their personal faith journeys intersect with their professional responsibilities, fostering a holistic approach to education that nurtures both the mind and spirit. This event strengthens the bonds between staff members and

reinforces the spiritual development of our staff and brings to the forefront the emphasis that we need to continually place on our shared mission of Catholic education

- The Grace for the Heart and Soul staff faith formation afternoon was also revised this year as was outlined in this plan for 2024-2025. A committee was struck that included representatives from Religious Education Services, the Office of the Chief Superintendent, Indigenous Learning Services, and school-based administrators to create a limited menu of sessions for schools and departments to choose from based on their contexts and needs.
- The Catholic Faith Series included the presentation of three sessions in September and November of 2024 and April of 2025 that were created by Religious Education Services to nurture staff member's vocations as Catholic educators and to cultivate the ongoing faith development within their own Catholic school communities. They were:

The Liturgical Year

The New Evangelization

Scripture



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MARK FIVE:

SHAPED BY A SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNION

STANDARD FIVE:

**STANDARD FIVE: AN EXCELLENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
RECOGNIZES THAT EACH AND EVERY MEMBER IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.**

GOAL: WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

ACTIONS TAKEN 2024-2025:

- Hosted a Division-wide event during Catholic education week for the parish priests, Board of Trustees, Archdiocese representatives including Archbishop Richard Smith, and Principal leaders of each family of schools.
- 65 schools participated in the Dream Builders annual campaign to raise funds for the ECS Foundation, which, in turn, supports our schools. \$231,522
- Schools across the Division celebrated Partnership Appreciation Week to acknowledge the people, groups, and organizations that contribute to our ability to provide an excellent Catholic education.
- Schools and sites continue to carry out social justice activities that are rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. This year, schools and departments were invited to share their stories in a more narrative manner, which will be presented to the Board in our annual June report – *Social Justice in Edmonton Catholic Schools*.

The Catholic school “must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”

(The Joy of the Gospel, 114)

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