



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

August 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends in Christ,

As a new school year begins, the Archdiocese of Edmonton joins the Edmonton Catholic School Division in celebrating this season of fresh beginnings. Guided by the ECSD's mission, *"to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another,"* we are reminded that our Catholic schools are places where young people encounter Christ daily—through prayer, learning, friendship, and acts of service. Together, we strive to form hearts and minds that are rooted in faith, alive in hope, and active in love.

This year, ECSD's theme *"People of Hope"* comes from the motto approved by our late Pope Francis for the 2025 Jubilee Year. It reminds us that hope is more than a feeling—it is an anchor for the soul (Hebrews 6:19), steady and life-giving in every season. The anchor at the heart of the theme's image speaks to our steadfast trust in Christ, while the hands reaching upward cradle love and offer praise. The surrounding olive branches, in their stages from budding to fruit bearing, reflect the growth and renewal we pray for in our students, staff, and communities throughout the year. Together, we strive to form hearts and minds that are rooted in faith, alive in hope, and active in love.

The Congregation for Catholic Education (2022) Vatican document, *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue* states, "the fact that in their own individual ways all members of the school community share this Christian vision makes the school 'Catholic'; principles of the Gospel in this manner become the educational norms, since the school then has them as its internal motivation and final goal" (para. 20). This vision comes to life when students and staff work side-by-side "in an atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity" the very heart of ECSD's calling.

Just as each September invites us to set new goals and renew our commitment to learning, so too does our shared mission invite us to ground the coming year in the Pastoral Priorities of the Archdiocese. The three pillars, as outlined below, are not simply guiding statements; they are living realities that breathe life into our classrooms, inspire our teachers, guide our students, and weave faith into the rhythm of each school day.

- **Formation for Eucharistic Worship:** School liturgies, classroom prayer, and parish connections help our students know that Jesus is the heart of all we do.
- **Formation for Confident Witness:** Each lesson, project, and conversation offers opportunities to share the joy of the Gospel with courage and authenticity.

- **Formation for service to Families and Marriage:** Our schools partner with parents, honouring their role as primary educators, and support family life with compassion and care.

To every student: may this year be one of growth, discovery, and deeper friendship with Christ. To every teacher, administrator, trustee, and staff member: thank you for your dedication to forming not only minds, but hearts that are inspired by the Holy Spirit, yearning to deepen their faith and friendship with Christ.

To every parent and guardian: we walk alongside you in your sacred vocation of raising children in the faith.

At the start of this year's journey, we remember the words of Saint Paul, who reminds us that each of us is part of a greater whole, gifted for the good of all: *"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in teaching"* (Romans 12:5–7).

Together, home, school, parish, and Archdiocese, we unite in prayer for a year filled with learning, joy, and the peace of Christ. May Our Lady of the Rosary watch over our students, families, educators, and parish communities, guiding us all in the shared mission of forming hearts and minds in the light of Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Paul Kavanagh
Archdiocesan Administrator
Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton