



WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

March 2019

*Come back to the Lord with all your heart; leave the past in ashes,
And turn to God with tears and fasting, for he is slow to anger and ready to forgive.*
(Cf. Joel 2:13)

This beautiful antiphon is often sung on Ash Wednesday during the blessing and imposition of the ashes. It is a wonderful reminder for us as we begin the season of Lent that God loves us unconditionally. In our humanity we make mistakes, but all we need to do is ask and he is ready to forgive. He even sent us the ultimate loving gift in Jesus whose death was the greatest act of forgiveness.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is very proud to have been named one of Alberta's Top 75 Employers! This is the fourth year that we have received this designation. Maintaining this designation over time is a significant accomplishment for our District. It affirms that we are able to provide an excellent work environment for all of our employee groups on a consistent basis. When our employees have great working environments, our students benefit as well.

Our District is part of the Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education, GrACE, network. The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf. GrACE is a partnership of stakeholders resolutely committed to Catholic education within Alberta. Each Catholic jurisdiction in the province has assembled a highly committed team whose members include Trustees, Superintendents, clergy, parish staff, parents, members of the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus. Every day is a celebration of Catholic education. Let us be grateful for our blessings and commit our support to sharing the great work of our schools.

Dual credit opportunities allow students to earn high school and post-secondary credits simultaneously. Edmonton Catholic Schools is working on a dual credit opportunity with MacEwan University in Police Studies. This unique program would provide a foundational experience that could lead to multiple career pathways for students ranging from community policing to social work to legal services. We will share more details as this new program for fall 2019 unfolds.

Spring Break for our year-round schools begins on March 18, and for our regular calendar schools it begins on March 25. It provides a wonderful opportunity for families and for our staff to rejuvenate and spend time with loved ones.

Pope Francis provides a message for Lent each year. You can find them, and so many more of his writings on the Vatican website, www.vatican.va. In his message last year, our Holy Father shared the following:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion”. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.*

I wish you a spiritually uplifting, sacramental Lenten experience and a refreshing Spring Break!

Yours in Christ,

Joan Carr
Superintendent