



WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

October 2018

*Praise to the Lord all of you, God's servants. Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun, May the Lord be praised,
Praise to the name of the Lord! (Praise to the Lord, Klusmeier)*

The lyrics of this beautiful song, which we often sing at church, offer us a lens to explore what it means to walk humbly with our God. If we act justly and love tenderly, then our life's journey, with Him always at our side, becomes an act of praise. This is the heart of what happens when we walk together in God's love.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is growing! As I write this newsletter, our enrolment is at 43,200 students, an increase from last year, with a final count being done on September 28. It is truly a cause for celebration that an ever-increasing number of families are entrusting us with the awesome and sacred responsibility of nurturing their children and helping them to grow to their fullest potential as members of the Body of Christ.

We were delighted by the announcement from Alberta Education that the scheduled modernization for our Ben Calf Robe K-9 School will now be a replacement school instead. Plans for this new facility will increase the capacity to 700 students and will include a cultural learning space.

Archbishop Smith and Bishop Motiuk joined us for a joyous celebration on September 19 for the site blessing and ceremonial ground breaking at our newest addition to ECSD, Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School in the Orchards. A beautiful, innovative learning space for that community will open in September of 2020.

We are very fortunate to have the leadership of two District Chaplains in our District. Father Julian Bilyj, who also serves as the pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish, has served our students and staff as a teacher and Chaplain since 2014. Father Glenn McDonald is a new addition to our team this year. Father Glenn is a priest of the Congregation of St. Basil. He was raised in Airdrie, Alberta; trained as a mechanical engineer at the University of Alberta, and was ordained at St. Basil's Church, Toronto in 2008. For the past five years, he has been serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta. In addition to his work at ECSD, Father Glenn will be assisting at St. Alphonsus Church / St. Clare Church.

The Archdiocese has just appointed Father Andrew Leung, CSB as the Archbishop's Delegate for Catholic Education. We look forward to him joining us to celebrate and form our faith!

Edmonton Catholic Schools has partnered with Alberta Health Services to create a series of videos that will provide parents with information about a variety of mental health topics and strategies to use at home to support their children. These videos are supported through the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Each month a new video will be posted on www.ecsd.net on the Mental Health page. The first video, *Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety*, is now available.

Last spring, we announced that we would be implementing a dual credit Aviation Program in partnership with WestJet and Mount Royal University. The program has now officially launched, and we have 16 students from across the District who are taking advantage of this excellent learning opportunity.

There are many ways for you to keep informed about the many wonderful things that are going on in our District. Visit www.ecsd.net, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving, enjoying time with your loved ones and celebrating the goodness of God in your lives!

Loving God,

*Who created and sustains the universe, who loved us all into being, and who gives us every good thing,
We thank you for the blessings that you bring into our lives.*

We thank you for the gift of life itself, and for the fresh start of each new day,

We thank you for our friends, our families, and our neighbors whose human love is an image of your divine care.

*Help us to recognize all the good things, and magnify our desire to share what we have with others,
so that they too may be grateful to you.*

Amen.

(adapted from *A Thanksgiving Prayer*, www.americanmagazine.org)

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent