



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

April 30 to May 5, 2017
Catholic Education Week

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Theme: Walking Forward Together

Walking forward together in Catholic Education means we are on a journey. As individuals, our journey begins with important lessons learned at home with our family that continue at school. With God's grace, we strive to overcome failings, to seek reconciliation, and to grow in the joy of the Gospel. As Canadians, we recognize our nation is on a journey of growth, too, marked by struggle and accomplishment, moments of pride and regret; but a journey forward nonetheless with great hope for the future. As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, we recognize that Catholic Education has always been part of that Canadian story. As our nation has walked forward, it has never been without the gift of Catholic schools. Finally, as the People of God, we are a pilgrim people, called, as the Church teaches, "to worship in truth and serve in holiness". (*Lumen Gentium*, 9) In our praying and learning and serving, we walk *together* towards our heavenly home.

In this week of celebrating Catholic Education, may we be reminded that we are called to be a people who journey, not content to stay in one place but always moving outward to where we can serve others; we are called to walk together, never needing to feel alone in our mission; and we are called toward a loving and merciful destiny.

May God continue to bless our publicly funded Catholic Schools in Ontario and all those who serve in and with them.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

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