

Igniting Hope

Catholic Education Week 2020

Each year, Catholic schools in Saskatchewan participate in a week-long celebration to remember and share the gift of Catholic Education. This year we will be taking time each day, with students and staff all across our province, to pray together as disciples who are *Igniting Hope*.

Heavenly Father, during this special week dedicated to Catholic Education, we thank you for the gift of Catholic Schools. May your Holy Spirit open our hearts to hope as we proclaim your love and goodness to our families, our school communities, and to the entire world. We ask this in the name of our Saviour and Teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Daily Prayers

Monday, May 18 – Our Hope in Christ

Jesus, our brother, you are our hope and light. You have given us a mind to know you, a will to serve you, and a heart to love you. And through your life, death, and resurrection, you have given us the gift of eternal life. May your love inspire us, and your light sustain us.

We praise and thank you for the gift of Catholic Education, for the gift of schools where we can share our faith in you. Touch our hearts so that your light of hope may shine in us and among us. Through our love and care for one another, may we bring your light of hope to the world. And may a future full of hope bring us all closer to you.

We ask this in your most holy name. Amen.

For reflection and discussion:

What does it mean to be hopeful?

What kinds of things do you hope for, not only for yourself, but for others?

Tuesday, May 19 – *The Hope Within Us*

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of hope that burns as a light in each one of us. Help us to see this light within ourselves, and to remember that you are the source of this light.

When times are difficult, help us to find strength in you and your promises, and warm us with the joy that comes from knowing that with you, all things are possible. Remind us of the hope that lies within us, and ignite this hope so that we may be a source of light and strength to everyone we meet. Help us to shine with faith and courage, and guide us to reflect your love in all that we say and do.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our friend and teacher. Amen.

For reflection and discussion:

*If you feel sad or discouraged today, remember the light of Jesus is your strength!
How does that make you hopeful?*

If you see someone who is sad or discouraged today, how can you share the hope that is within you, and in turn bring them the light of hope?

Wednesday, May 20 – *The Hope Among Us*

Loving God, thank you for the gift of the people around us, in our families, our schools, our communities, and all around the world. Help us to realize that we are not alone on our journey to you. We are part of a large family, *your* family, and we are blessed with a variety of gifts.

Give us eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet and to recognize that you have created your children in goodness and love. Give us wisdom to know that our hope lies in our shared faith in you and in the love we all receive through your son, Jesus. Help us to always walk in your light, with hope in the goodness of our community.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen.

For reflection and discussion:

Ask your family to join you in recognizing the goodness of God in others. How have you seen God's love at work in someone today?

Thursday, May 21 – World Catholic Education Day – *Hope for the World*

God of goodness and life, you have blessed us in many ways. We join our prayers with students all around the world today as we thank you for the gift of Catholic Education, and we ask you to be with each of us as we share the good news of your love and promises with the whole world. May your presence in our schools inspire each of us to be messengers of hope.

Give us the courage and generosity to respond to your call to go and teach others about you, and help us to be disciples who go out and make disciples.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For reflection and discussion:

What makes you grateful for your school? How are Catholic Schools beacons of hope? Say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of Catholic Education!

Friday, May 22 – *A Future Full of Hope*

Loving God, we praise and thank you for the many blessings you have given to us, and for the ones that are yet to come. We know that our future is full of hope, because you will always be our guide and support when we face challenges and change. We live knowing that each day is a new day, and that because of your life, death, and resurrection, the future offers us endless opportunities.

Bless all of the students, staff, and families of our Catholic schools. Open our hearts to Jesus' call to go and make disciples. Send your Spirit upon us and give us the courage and desire to be a sign of your love and hope in the world.

We make this prayer in the name of the Incarnate Hope, Jesus, our friend and brother. Amen.

For reflection and discussion:

This year in the midst of concerns about COVID-19, many people may especially be in need of encouragement and good news. What are some hopeful messages you can offer the world? Can you think of creative ways to share these messages?