


We Are Called To Love

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



 "If we love one another, God lives in us."
(1 John 4:12)

Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes CES

To demonstrate the theme of "Called to Love" students and staff at **Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Lourdes** have engaged in a variety of activities and practices this year, and every year, that **reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ and His love.**

People of Faith

As people of faith we as Catholic school communities engage in daily prayer and reflection. We also demonstrate our call to love **through everyday words and actions.** Students are reminded daily to use kind and gentle words and actions at all times. Staff model this type of behavior in their interactions with students and each other. This sets a positive example and reinforces the importance of love and kindness in daily life. We reflect often in **'What would Jesus do?'** We weave social teachings throughout our day and into curriculum. While Catholic Education Week highlights our distinction as Catholic schools, throughout the year students engage in school Masses and liturgies, kindness week, prayer days, Catholic meditation and May Crowning and devotions to Mary and the Legion of Mary join our students in praying the rosary.



People of Justice

As people of justice, both our Student Councils and our Catholic School Councils (parents/guardians) lead the schools in activities that **promote social justice** and **advocate for those who are marginalized or oppressed.** This aligns with the Catholic social teaching of love, solidarity with all people and compassion. We have done many food and clothing drives to support those less fortunate in our Hamilton community and beyond.



People of Mercy

As people of mercy our schools highlight the importance of **giving and forgiving** whether it be through our restorative circle practices in our schools or learning about local and global issues and raising funds for events such as HWCDSB's annual Pilgrimage Walk.

People of Joy

As people of joy we **celebrate the holy sacraments** of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. We emphasize their importance, particularly reconciliation and the Eucharist, as expressions of God's love and forgiveness. We encourage **regular participation in Mass** by attending as a school and by class and of course we always encourage students to attend with their families. Father Charlie does reconciliation with our students as well. We also celebrate and recognize our students and at our Catholic Graduate ceremonies and through the teachings of virtues.

People of Hope

As people of hope we connect ourselves to home, church and school as people of God. We know and teach that we are all His children and in that, we have **hope for eternal life**. The bonds between home, church and school are further developed through events such as Advent Nights, Christmas Concerts, Lenten Liturgies, Ash Wednesday Services and community events.



By integrating these activities and practices into the life of a Catholic school, **it is our hope that students can more deeply understand and embrace the theme of being "called to love" as central to their faith and education**. We work to nurture a culture of compassion, empathy and social responsibility within our school communities.



St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS

This year's Catholic Education Theme, "We Are Called to Love," is reflected in the **enthusiastic response seen at St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School** for the annual Pilgrimage: Walk With Christ event. Kicking off Catholic Education Week on Sunday, May 5, the Pilgrimage event is an opportunity for students to put faith into action. Pilgrimage involves a two-hour walk along the Escarpment as well as making a minimum \$25 donation that goes to charities in Uganda, Dominican Republic, Haiti and here in Hamilton. Close to 100 SJB students have signed up for the day-long event. The \$25 suggested minimum donation to support these charities has been surpassed by more than a few students. While several have contributed \$30 or \$35, one student came up with \$50, while another managed to raise \$225 for the cause! Grade 10 SJB student Thaliah Bryam, had no fewer than 16 family members, friends, neighbours and relatives donate from \$5 to \$25 each. Thaliah worked with her mom, La Toya Salmon, who also reached out to people at her workplace. "Haiti doesn't get a whole lot of recognition," said Thaliah. **"It's really hard there right now and I wanted to help."**