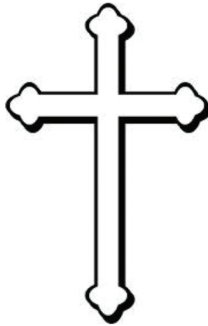




ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE OF CANADA



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN ONTARIO  
NURTURING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT**



**CHOOSE, EMBRACE AND STRENGTHEN  
OUR PUBLICLY FUNDED  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



## **Catholic Schools Offer Parents a Choice**

- Parental choice is something parents treasure.
- In Ontario Catholic parents have fought for the right to have publicly funded Catholic schools, and to have a choice.
- Our system is rooted in Catholic teachings which promote caring communities, the dignity of all persons and social justice.
- Our Catholic schools provide for the unique needs of students, nurturing individual skills and abilities.
- If Catholic parents do not choose our Catholic schools, the future of Catholic education is at risk.

## **Your Tax Dollars Help Fund Catholic Schools**

- Many of the students in our Catholic schools are not Catholic, but value a Catholic education.
- It is an oddity of our system that non-Catholic taxpayers who send their children to Catholic schools are denied the right to designate their education assessment for the school system they prefer. That makes it even more important for Catholics to be vigilant.
- Ensure your tax dollars are earmarked for Catholic schools by reviewing the designation on your tax bill or property assessment notice. Be sure that your education taxes are designated for Catholic education.
- If not, contact your local Catholic school board assessment department. They can tell you how to make the change.

## **Catholic Education in Ontario**

- The history of Catholic schools in Ontario since 1841 is one of dedication and perseverance. A fully funded public Catholic school system is a gift handed to us by our forbearers.
- The courts of Ontario and Canada have reinforced the rights of the Catholic school system with a number of judgements over the years which have reaffirmed the rights of Catholic school boards.
- The Ontario Catholic education system is an equitable and inclusive system where all students, parents and members of other faith communities are welcomed and respected; where every student is supported and inspired to succeed in a culture of high expectations for learning; and where all staff and students value diversity and demonstrate respect for others and a commitment to establishing a just, caring society.
- In Catholic schools, religious education programs and courses are included in the curriculum, integrating religious truths and values with everyday life.
- Catholic schools aim to provide education for mind, body and spirit.
- Ontario's Catholic schools educate approximately 600,000 students in approximately 1500 Catholic schools, and are supported by more than 2 million Catholic school ratepayers.
- According to a 2012 C.D. Howe Institute Study, nearly two-thirds of the top 29 schools in Ontario are Catholic schools.

### **Be Vigilant --**

Efforts are continually afoot to convince the government to eliminate all public support for Catholic schools. At election time, be informed, and get to know the issues. Support candidates who support Catholic Education.... VOTE!

## **Prayer For Catholic Education**

O, Holy Spirit,  
source of truth and grace for those entrusted  
with the Christian development of children,  
enlighten our minds, strengthen our will,  
fill our hearts with generosity  
so that our homes, our parishes and our schools  
may co-operate effectively with You,  
and with one another in the mission  
of Catholic Education.  
We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Information on Catholic Education is available at:**

- Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario ([www.acbo.on.ca](http://www.acbo.on.ca))
- Institute for Catholic Education ([www.iceon.ca](http://www.iceon.ca))
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association ([www.ocsta.org](http://www.ocsta.org))
- Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education ([www.oapce.ca](http://www.oapce.ca))
- Your local School Board ---