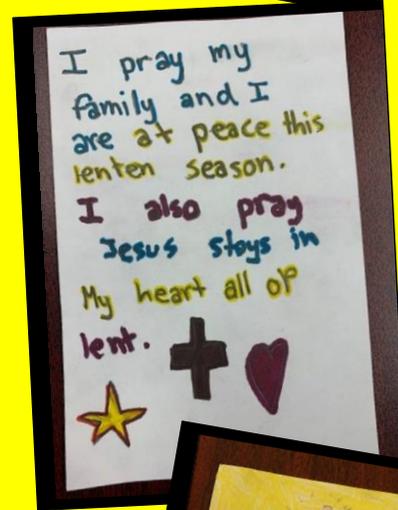


**Alleluia!**



**Catholic education...  
 in a distanced world.**



**Catholic Education Week.....**

- Catholic Education Week- May 18-22, 2020
- World Catholic Education Day- May 21, 2020

**Catholic Education Week 2020**  
**United in Prayer and Grateful for Catholic Schools**

With Catholic Education week only two weeks away, we invite you to prepare for a first-ever virtual celebration of Catholic education in our province. Despite isolation, Catholic students are growing in faith and embracing their learning. Teachers, schools, school districts and families are adapting to the current educational environment.

**We invite you to celebrate Catholic Education with all of us.**

**United in Prayer**

**Catholic Education Week of Prayer**

Join the Bishops of Alberta, as they lead all stakeholders in prayer at **9:00 AM** each day.

- May 19 Holy Rosary- Bishop Terrio
- May 20 Divine Mercy- Archbishop Pettipas
- May 21 Mass-Archbishop Smith
- May 22 Liturgy & Blessing-Bishop McGrattan



**Grateful for**

Post your thank you on social media.

**We are GRATEFUL for...**

- May 18 Thankful for our frontline workers serving those most in need
- May 19 Thankful for our priests, bishops and clergy who shepherd us with love
- May 20 Thankful for our families making faith real minute by minute
- May 21 Thankful for our teachers, leaders and staff who serve as gospel witness
- May 22 Thankful for our communities: parish, school and beyond

**Catholic Schools**

We will be recognizing and celebrating the **5 Marks of a Catholic School** and each day of the week will focus on one specific mark:

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Day 1- Mark 1 | Created in the Image of God |
| Day 2- Mark 2 | Catholic Worldview          |
| Day 3- Mark 3 | Faith Permeation            |
| Day 4- Mark 4 | Gospel Witness              |
| Day 5- Mark 5 | Community                   |

**Stories of Catholic Education**

Check out the following Catholic education stories published in *Faithfully* this month

[Meeting Students Where They Are- Trustee Michelle Lamer](#)

[Our Lady of Snows, Canmore-Lindsay Fagan](#)

Please help GrACE grow.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!  
@GrACE4cathed

<https://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed/>

Be sure to like our page. Share.  
Spread the news.

## Alberta's Catholic School Districts: Meet Southern Alberta in the Diocese of Calgary

Did you know that there are 17 Catholic School Districts in Alberta? As well, Alberta's four Francophone boards also offer Catholic education in specified schools. All in all, more than 183,000 students attend 450 Catholic schools in our province. Mark 5 of a Catholic School encourages us to build and share a communal spirit. In the spirit of community, GrACE encourages you to get to know more about Alberta's Catholic School Districts and their leaders.

In the month of April we introduce you to the five Catholic and Francophone districts within the Calgary diocese: Calgary Catholic School District, Christ the Redeemer Catholic School District, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division and Medicine Hat Catholic. Serving Francophone students in this area is the Conseil scolaire FrancoSud.

- † Calgary Catholic School District is the largest Catholic district in Alberta, serving +57,000 students. The Calgary Catholic School District became the first Roman Catholic Separate school district in Alberta on December 18, 1885.
- † Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools serves 10,000 students in rural southern Alberta. Based in Okotoks, CTR Catholic provides Catholic education in seven communities in southern Alberta. Established in 1995 (following provincial restructuring), CTR Catholic celebrates 25 years of Catholic education in 2020.
- † Holy Spirit Catholic Schools serves 5000 students Lethbridge and area in 17 schools. HSCSD was established during amalgamation in 1995 and celebrates 25 years of Catholic education this year.
- † Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education serves 2600 students in nine schools. Originally Medicine Hat Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No 21 was established in 1911. Over the years they have evolved to what is their current MHCBE.
- † Conseil scolaire FrancoSud was formed in 2002 and currently hosts four Catholic schools in the communities of Calgary, Canmore and Cochrane.

### Catholic School Leadership

Based on the premise of the **5 Marks of a Catholic School**, the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) created the document **The Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader**. This document is available on the CCSSA website and is a valuable resource for all Catholic School leaders. During this edition of the GrACE newsletter, we are introducing you to the Catholic school districts in the Calgary Diocese. This is a unique time for Catholic education in southern Alberta. Of the five Superintendents, three are brand new to their roles this year. Meet the three new superintendents and as you read their beliefs about Catholic education consider how they illustrate **the Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic Leader**. To each one of them...welcome and thank you for saying yes to Catholic School Leadership!



Ken  
Sampson



Dwayne  
Zarichny



Bryan  
Szumlas

## Meet Dwayne Zarichny, Superintendent of Medicine Hat Catholic Schools

This year marks my first year at MHCBE and I couldn't be prouder to join the Medicine Hat Catholic family! Prior to my appointment here, I have been an associate superintendent and deputy superintendent in Alberta and a superintendent in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. I have been married to my amazing wife, Angelica for 25 years and we have two sons, Josh and Matthew.

I believe that Catholic education forms the whole person. This requires all Catholic leaders to be originated in the gospels, inspired by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to evangelization. Catholic leaders recognize that their position is a vocation. A gift with which they have been blessed to receive. Their duty is not only to fulfill the mandate of education, but also to carry out the work of the church and her teachings.

While there are many secular demands placed on our schools, we understand that our decisions and our actions must demonstrate our promise to proclaim the good news. As Catholic leaders, we know that our schools form part of the Church and are not separate from it. Our work as educational leaders is to continue the work of the Church. We understand that while we may be held responsible to the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders, there is a sacred trust placed on Catholic schools that we will conduct our work in accordance to sacred tradition, grounded in the gospels and imitating the life of Christ.

When you work in a Catholic jurisdiction, you are not simply a teacher or a leader. You are more. You become a witness to the love that Christ has for all of us. Your testimony is the work that you do each day with students and staff. You teach, by demonstrating your love for Christ and his Church. You are above all else, a spiritual leader. Spiritual leadership forms the bedrock of our work as all that we do must be based on our beliefs and traditions.

Those in leadership must embrace the 5 marks of a Catholic leader. They recognize the dignity of all as created in the image of God; they make decisions rooted in the gospel teachings; they foster faith permeation; they proclaim the gospel message and they understand that God will be found with and in each other. The Holy Father has shared that "Catholic education gives a soul to the world." I can think of no more important role than that of a Catholic leader in carrying out this mission of the Church.

## Meet Ken Sampson Superintendent of Holy Spirit Catholic Schools

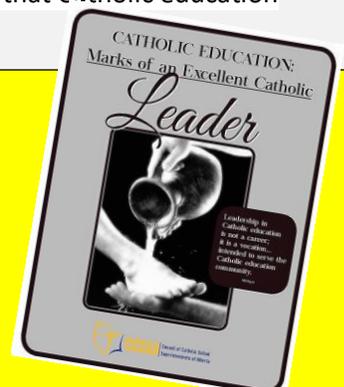
Originally from Cape Breton and a graduate of Acadia University in Wolfville Nova Scotia, earning Bachelor Degrees in Science and Education, I began my teaching career with Calgary Catholic in 1986. Serving seven years in K-9 schools in the capacity as teacher in elementary and junior high schools, I moved on to Assistant Principal in 1990, after having completed my Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Gonzaga University. When an opportunity to teach with the Bahamas Catholic School System presented itself in 1993, we moved our family south for what turned out to be a fourteen-year stint. During this time, I taught junior and senior high school Mathematics for nine years before becoming the principal of the largest private Catholic primary school in the country for the next five years.

2007 saw the return of our family to southern Alberta. During this time I worked as an Associate Principal, Principal and Director of Student Services for Holy Spirit Schools. Just when things seemed to be settling down, an opportunity surfaced to move to Livingstone Range School Division as Associate Superintendent in Programs and Services, which led to a couple of years as Deputy Superintendent. When the position of Superintendent of Holy Spirit was announced, I applied and was hired as Acting Deputy Superintendent, later taking on the position of Superintendent in January of 2020 ending a five-month transition period with Chris Smeaton, retiring superintendent.

For the first 29 years of my career, Catholic education was essentially all that I had experienced. It wasn't until I left for a neighboring public school division that I realized a great void. While I truly enjoyed this experience, there was one very noticeable void for me – the ability to practice and declare my faith in schools. Returning to Holy Spirit Catholic Schools provided the opportunity to share my beliefs about our faith, primarily through the gift of prayer. When individuals within our community are experiencing troubles and hardships, we collectively turn to God and offer intentions and prayer for them. How better to support one in need than to offer up a prayer? What a beautiful and faith-filled gift that Catholic education provides.

CCSSA Resource

[Marks of Leadership](#)



## Meet Bryan Szumlas, Superintendent of Calgary Catholic Schools

On March 1, 2020, the Calgary Catholic School District appointed Dr. Bryan Szumlas as our newest chief superintendent and chief executive officer. Dr. Szumlas is a familiar face throughout Calgary Catholic. He has been with the district for 29 years and has served as a teacher, assistant principal, science supervisor, vice principal, principal, supervisor of teaching and learning and director with Instructional Services, and an area director. Dr. Szumlas graduated from the University of Calgary (B.Ed., M.Ed., Ed.D.) and has presented at local, provincial, national and international levels. He is well-known for having chaired the Alberta Assessment Consortium and for his work on mentorship.

Dr. Szumlas believes in Catholic education. He believes it not only teaches general education, but also balances education with a deeper spiritual immersion. A faith-based education encourages students to recognize the face of God in everything they do and learn to accept that they are loved just the way they are. It also teaches that Catholic education is deeply rooted in the faith, hope and love that Jesus has for each and every one of us. Within Catholic education there is a solid foundation of Jesus' story (holy scripture) that students are encouraged to put into their daily lives and use as a tool for guidance and inspiration.

Dr. Szumlas puts faith at the forefront of everything he does. All his decisions are rooted in the question, "What would Jesus want me to do in this situation?" He believes that by keeping faith at the forefront, he can help do God's work, develop positive habits that help him provide quality leadership for Calgary Catholic and help him succeed in both his personal and spiritual life.

### Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for May

For Catholic Education...

- That our Catholic schools may be a source of hope for the young, we pray to the Lord.
- That our Catholic schools may fill students with a love for learning and a desire to change the world for the better, we pray to the Lord.
- That our Catholic schools may be always able to draw excellent and faith-filled teachers to serve in the classroom, we pray to the Lord.
- That our Catholic schools may be a blessing to families through their work with the young, we pray to the Lord.

The mission of GrACE is to

***inspire,***  
***invigorate*** and  
***embolden***

the ***spirit*** of Catholic education in order to **unite, engage, educate** and **communicate** with one voice on its behalf.

Check here for a comprehensive listing and review of Christian/Catholic resources for children brought to you by the Diocese of Calgary  
[Christian Video Programming for Children](#)

GrACE will be publishing a special newsletter edition: Catholic Education Week in Alberta on May 11, 2020. We welcome submissions. Due date is May 6.

### GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Plan for and celebrate Catholic Education Week May 18-22
2. Join and invite your community to daily prayer with the Bishops of Alberta.
3. Learn and share the fundamentals of **The Five Marks of a Catholic School.**



It goes without saying that these difficult times have brought many changes for all of us, including the ways we learn, pray, and celebrate. As we've settled into new routines of home learning, attending mass online, and avoiding physical gatherings, many of us have also adjusted to celebrating special occasions in new ways. In the midst of this new reality, STAR Catholic Schools' GrACE group invited students, staff, and families to "Share Your GrACE"!

From April 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, we encouraged our followers to share photos and stories of what Catholic Education, Lent, and Easter celebrations look like in this "new normal" using the hashtags #ShareYourGrACE and #IBelieveInCatholicEd.

By sharing this way, we reminded ourselves that though we are physically distant right now, and though we are missing our classmates, teachers, friends, and extended families, we are all connected through our faith, the love God has for us, and our love for one another. We enjoyed seeing our followers come together to spread faith, good news, and positivity!

Submitted by STAR Catholic Schools

#ShareYourGrACE

