



Gratefully...
June 2021

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude.

1 Timothy 4:4

Gratefully

This month we end another school year and reflect, with gratitude, on the many, many blessings of Catholic Education.

Sincere thanks to each one of you who has prayed for, encouraged, spoken on behalf of and advocated for Catholic Education. We continue to remind each other of the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta. We do not take this for granted; nor do we believe that it will continue without constant vigilance.

We are blessed, in Alberta, to be shepherded by passionate and committed Bishops who have made Catholic Education a top priority. We are entrusted to our province's Catholic school trustees who celebrate, preserve, promote and enhance Catholic education. Our Catholic and Francophone school districts are led by dedicated and faithful superintendents and leaders who have answered God's vocational call to Catholic education.

More than 10,000 teachers and thousands more staff educate students in Catholic schools across the province. This year, more than ever before, our amazing educators have worked in situations beyond imagination and in the most challenging of circumstances. They have risen to the task, yet arrive at the end of this June spent and weary.

Our 183,000 students have paid a dear price. The pandemic has affected every age group but it is for our young people, that all laborers in the vineyards of Catholic education have special concern and love; it is for children that we do what we do. It is for their current and their future; their faith and their soul; their life in this world and the next that we do what we do.

May God continue to bless Catholic education with devoted, steadfast guardians and servants. May God call each one of us to advocacy for this irreplaceable gift of Catholic schools. Consecrated to St. Joseph, we offer our needs and prayers to his intercession.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico

A Look Back 2020-2021

September- Novena for a safe return to school

October- *Those who **hope** in the LORD will **renew** their strength.* Isaiah 40:31 Selected as theme 2020-2021

November- Catholic Education Sunday and an Evening of Hope

December- Regional GrACE Meetings

January- GrACE Assurance document created

February- Powerpoint: Learning from the Past: The Demise of Catholic Education in Quebec and Newfoundland

March- GrACE Workshop for Clergy hosted by the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

April- GrACE Symposium 2021. 250 registrants.

May- Catholic Education Week. Alberta's Catholic Schools are consecrated to St Joseph

June- 23 stories published in Faithfully this year

GrACE extends sincere thanks to the many who have ensured GrACE's success these past years.

Thank you to Alberta's GrACE Board 2020-2021

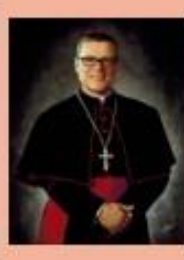


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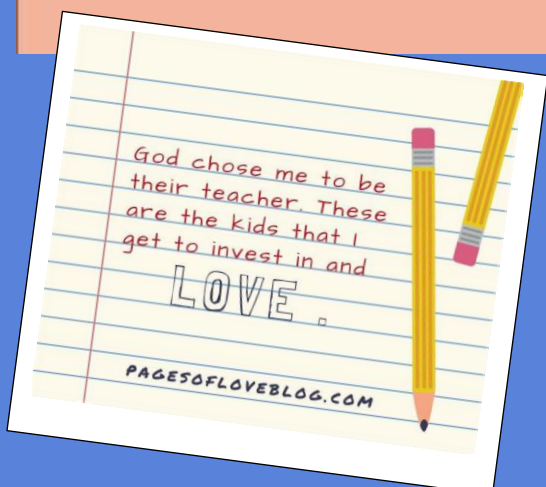
Bryan Szumlas- CCSSA



GrACE Director
Bonnie Annicchiarico

Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) is supported by:

- † Alberta Bishops
- † Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA)
- † Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA)



Thank you to Lindsay Fagan, Director of Catholic Education at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, who has served as the administrator of GrACE Facebook. Under her leadership our following on Facebook has grown significantly. To you, Lindsay, our grateful advocates offer heartfelt appreciation.


Thank you to Michelle Collett, volunteer treasurer for GrACE. Michelle does an excellent job balancing our accounts and tracking our expenses. Michelle, your generous sharing of time and talent is greatly appreciated.

Farewell and God's blessings....

Alberta's Religious Education leaders make a difference. REN (Religious Education Network) confirms that three of their colleagues will be retiring this year. We say good bye to:

Sandra Richard, Medicine Hat Catholic Schools
Cynthia Martin, St Paul Education
Joann Bartley, Holy Spirit Catholic Schools

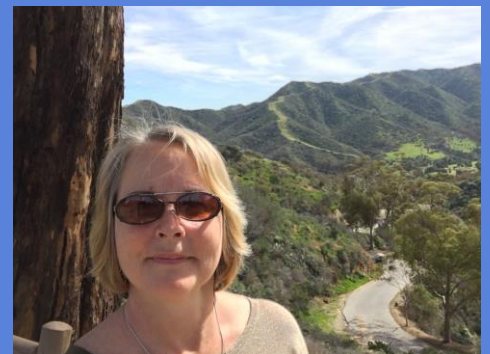
On behalf of Catholic education in Alberta, thank you for your witness and your service. May God bless you as you move into the next phase of your life. Your contributions have made a difference!

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MAY THE ROAD RISE UP
TO MEET YOU. *May the*
wind always be at your
back. MAY THE SUN
SHINE WARM UPON
YOUR FACE, and rains fall
soft upon your fields. AND
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
May God hold you in the
palm of His hand.

**"Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 1:2**

This is one of my favorite greetings. It is the greeting that I have strived to bring to others through my years of work in Catholic Education - Gods' grace and peace. I have had the great blessing of working with many faith-filled people who have, through their words and actions brought this greeting to me. As I journey on from the school system I reflect on the growth and change I have seen in Catholic schools over the years and the hope they hold for the future - for my grandchildren. In my 25 years working in schools in a variety of different roles I have always been encouraged by the serious joy that staff, students and parents have brought to the school through their individual journeys and willingness to share them as they endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Christ. I am leaving a career I have loved with a heart filled with gratitude for those I've come to know. God has truly blessed me and I am grateful.

Cynthia Martin
St. Paul Education



Joann Bartley- Holy Spirit Catholic School



Joann Bartley has served as Director of Religious Education with Holy Spirit Catholic Schools since 2013. She is retiring after 35 years of service in education and feels very blessed that most of that has been in Catholic Education. Along with Holy Spirit, Joann has worked in Catholic divisions in Lloydminster, Swift Current and Saskatoon. She feels that having a broad range of experiences in both provinces has given her a unique perspective of Catholic Education that has allowed her to serve faithfully as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and in her current role as Director of Religious Education. She is grateful to everyone she has met on her faith journey for she knows that each person has made an impact on her that made her a better leader in Catholic Education. Joann and her husband are excited to move back to Saskatoon to enjoy their retirement.

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.

Sandra Richard- Medicine Hat Catholic Schools

I began my career with Medicine Hat Catholic as an intern teacher in the fall of 1986 and have had the honor and blessing to have taught from Kindergarten to Grade 12, served as a counsellor in both the junior and senior high settings and was vice-principal and principal before completing my vocation in the position of Religious Education Coordinator.

Working with such dedicated individuals in our Division as well as such loving students and parents, I have grown both in my professional and faith life. I look forward to spending time with my three grandsons and exploring the world with my husband. It truly has been a blessing to be part of the Medicine Hat Catholic family for over 34 years and I will hold everyone close in my heart and prayers.



Retiring Superintendent Karl Germann Grande Prairie Catholic Schools



**GrACE Website coming soon
.....September 2021**

Karl Germann is transitioning to Grande Prairie Regional College as an Executive Director of Human Resources, effective July 2021.

For 31 years he served as a teacher & administrator in Meadow Lake School Division, faculty member at the University of Regina, Assistant Superintendent (Saskatchewan and Alberta) and Superintendent of Schools in Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools for the past 17 years . He also served on the executive of CASS and CCSSA, eventually becoming the President of both Associations.

Karl is very passionate about Catholic education and continues to promote, celebrate and encourage people to be part of the experience of having Christ in their daily work and faith lives

Links to June Faithfully

Thank you to Lili Szakony and Patrick Quinn from Calgary Catholic Schools for this month's wonderful stories of Catholic Education. GrACE invites YOUR stories of Catholic education. How has God touched your life through Catholic Education?

Hope to hear from YOU!

[Little Saints](#)

[What's in a Name? St Veronica](#)

A special note of appreciation to the Diocese of Calgary, especially Lia O'Hara for inviting the stories of Catholic Education to be published in the monthly Faithfully blog and newsletter.

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