



PARENTS 4PARENTS PRESS

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INSIDE NEWSLETTER

- Opening Message
- Faith Message
- Engage
- Advocate
- Enhance
- Parent Partner Spotlight
- Family & Faith Zone
- Book Nook
- Prayer
- Support OAPCE

PARENTS AS LEADERS OF HOPE

Loving God,
We thank You for the gift of our children and for the sacred calling
You have entrusted to us as parents.
Fill our hearts with hope, patience, and courage as we guide them in
their learning and in their faith.
Help us to lead by example—
to speak words that encourage,
to choose actions rooted in love,
and to nurture curiosity, compassion, and resilience in our homes.
When challenges arise, remind us that we are never alone.
Strengthen our partnership with teachers, schools, and
communities,
so together we may reflect Christ's light and truth in Catholic
education.
May our children see in us a living sign of hope—
hope that believes in their God-given potential
and trusts in Your constant presence on their journey.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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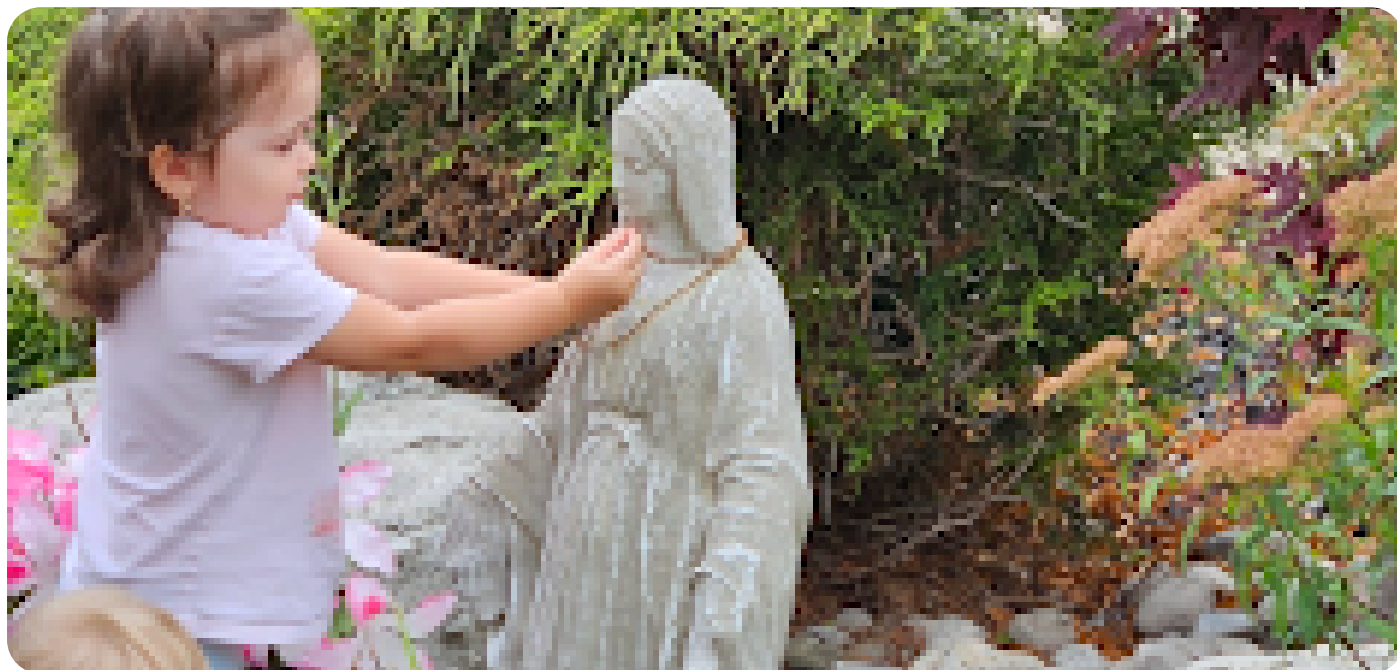
ENGAGE



ADVOCATE



ENHANCE



Loving as Jesus Loved: Lessons at Home and in the Heart

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives His disciples a simple yet demanding command: “Love one another as I have loved you.” Reflecting on this passage with her children, D. Pawlowski explores what Christ-like love looks like in everyday family life.

From helping a neighbour to including someone who feels left out, children often express love through small, tangible acts. But this reflection goes deeper, inviting families to consider not just what we do, but why we do it. Jesus’ love is quiet, selfless, and not performed for recognition. It is love rooted in compassion, faith, and humility.

The article offers practical ways parents can nurture this kind of love in their children, including modeling quiet service, focusing on internal motivation rather than praise, and practicing acts of kindness without an audience.

As parents in Catholic education, we are reminded that we are forming hearts as much as minds, helping our children grow into disciples who love as Christ loved, even when no one is watching.

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SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, April 18, 2026



St. Francis Xavier SS



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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Note: seeking vendors/exhibitors and sponsors for our conference if you are interested please contact us at oapce@oapce.org

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ALL REGIONS ONLINE EVENING PRESENTATION

OAPCE invites parents and guardians from all regions across Ontario to join us for a special online evening presentation with regional leaders and Directors. This province-wide gathering includes communities across Ontario, including Dufferin-Peel, Halton, and more.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, February 19

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Online via Zoom

Audience: All Regions

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Guest Speaker

Anne Jamieson, D. Min.

Leading in Hope: A Parent's Gift in Challenging Times



THE VOICE OF CATHOLIC PARENTS

In The Voice of Catholic Parents, OAPCE affirms the importance of a strong parent voice in publicly funded Catholic education. Prepared for CPCO, the article highlights how meaningful parent engagement and advocacy help protect Catholic values, strengthen schools, and support student success. The article also underscores the value of partnership between families and school leadership. Take a look and thank you to the CPCO for their ongoing partnership!

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CONCERNS OVER BILL C-9 AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Canada's Bill C-9 has raised serious concerns among Catholic leaders and parents, who warn it could undermine Catholic education and erode constitutionally protected religious freedoms. Critics argue the bill sets a troubling precedent by pressuring faith-based institutions to conform to government ideology at the expense of conscience rights, parental authority, and the long-standing role of Catholic schools in Canada's education system. Catholics and all Canadians who value religious freedom are urged to contact their Members of Parliament, stay informed, and speak out to defend parental rights and faith-based education.

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Bill C-9: A Threat to Catholic Education and Religious Freedom in Canada



Why is this a Threat to Catholics & Catholic Education?



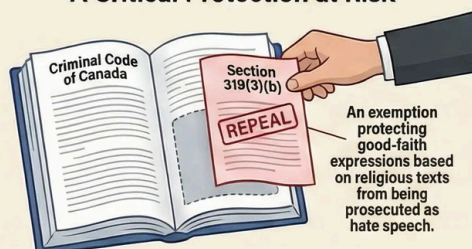
Risk of Misinterpreting Faith as Hate

A "Chilling Effect" on Religious Expression
The CCCB warns that removing the safeguard risks creating fear and uncertainty for faith communities across Canada.



A hate speech conviction under the current law can carry serious legal consequences.

What is Happening? A Critical Protection at Risk



An exemption protecting good-faith expressions based on religious texts from being prosecuted as hate speech.

The federal government's Bill C-9 (the Combatting Hate Act) is being amended to eliminate this key safeguard, following a reported agreement between the Liberal Party and the Bloc Québécois.



Cardinal Francis Leo of Toronto

A Cornerstone of Democracy is at Risk

"The ability to express and teach our faith freely...is a cornerstone of a healthy, democratic Canada."

What the Bishops are Saying



Primary Demand:
Keep the Protection

In a public letter, the CCCB urged the Prime Minister to retain Section 319(3)(b).



Alternative Proposal 1: Public Assurance

If the section is removed, the government must issue a clear public statement that good-faith religious teaching will not be subject to criminal prosecution.



Alternative Proposal 2: Mandatory Consultation

The Bishops demand mandatory consultation with religious leaders, legal experts, and civil liberties groups before any changes are made.



A United Front of Faiths

A Conservative MP noted that denunciations of the proposed change have also come from these communities.

Your Voice is Needed: A Call to Action for Parents



1. Stay Informed

Keep up to date on the progress of Bill C-9 as it moves through the parliamentary committee.



2. Contact Your Member of Parliament (MP)

Let your elected representative know you are concerned about the removal of religious protections in Canada's hate speech laws.

Notebook!

THE BINDER ON THE FLOOR: NAVIGATING HIGH SCHOOL IEPs AS A PARENT

The transition to high school can feel overwhelming for students with IEPs and for their families. In this reflection, D. Pawlowski shares a powerful moment when a binder spilling onto the floor revealed more than disorganization. It revealed a student carrying expectations beyond their developing executive skills.

The article explores how IEP support shifts in high school, where independence and self-advocacy are expected, often before students are fully ready. It offers clarity on IEPs and IPRC meetings, and highlights the evolving role of parents as advocates, collaborators, and guides.

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Navigating High School IEPs as a Parent

Helping our children navigate with support and understanding



PARENT & PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Time to Register for Kindergarten!

It's that time of year again! Kindergarten registration is open at your local Catholic School Board.

Key Documents Required:

- **Proof of Age & Legal Name:** Child's Birth Certificate or Passport.
- **Catholic Affiliation:** Child's or Parent's Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate.
- **Proof of Address:** Utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage statement, or property tax bill (driver's license usually not accepted).
- **Immunization Records:** Your child's updated records.
- **Immigration/Citizenship:** Canadian birth certificate, passport, Permanent Resident card, or immigration papers if applicable.
- **Custody/Legal:** Any relevant custody orders or legal documents.
- ****Proof of School Support Designation:** MPAC Property Assessment or property tax bill

Check out the [SMCDSB page](#) for some helpful information on what routines to practice, what snacks to pack, and how to get excited for school!



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Bring the Digital Parenting Workshop to Your School



Screens are shaping our children more than we realize. Rising distraction, anxiety, and screen dependence are challenges families and schools are facing together.

The ShineOn Digital Reset Programs for Schools Guide helps parent councils plan an engaging Digital Parenting Workshop that aligns home and school efforts and supports student well-being.

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Supporting Math Learning at Home

Math can feel challenging for many students, but with the right support at home, parents can play a key role in building confidence and skills. This article shares practical, everyday ways families can make math meaningful, from cooking and shopping to games and online tools. It also includes a curated list of trusted resources, apps, and community supports to help reinforce learning and encourage a positive mindset toward math.



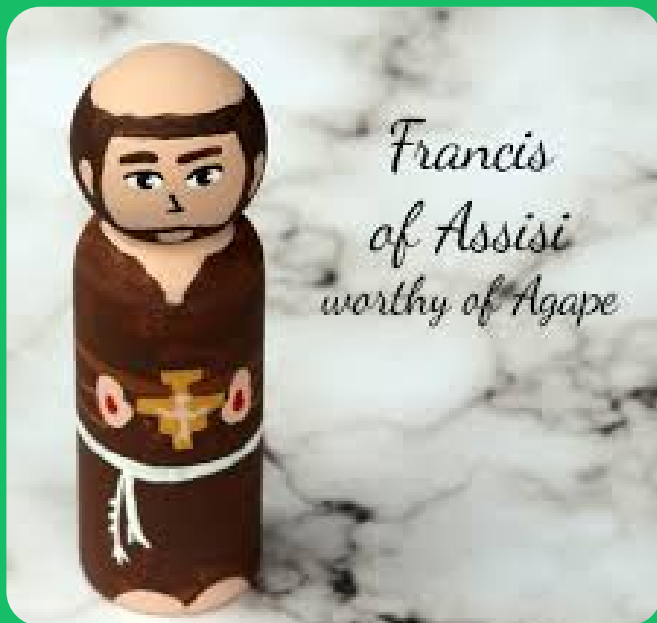
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A Jubilee Year Honouring St. Francis of Assisi

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Franciscan Jubilee Year to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Running from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, the Jubilee invites the faithful to reflect on St. Francis as a man of peace and a brother to all.

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Painted Peg Doll Exchange

I often find myself searching for simple, creative, and meaningful activities to do with my children—or with children at Church—especially as we prepare for special celebrations or our summer Bible Camp in July. Recently, a video popped up on my social media feed showing beautifully painted peg dolls—the same kind many of us remember from the 80s and 90s, or still use in classrooms today.

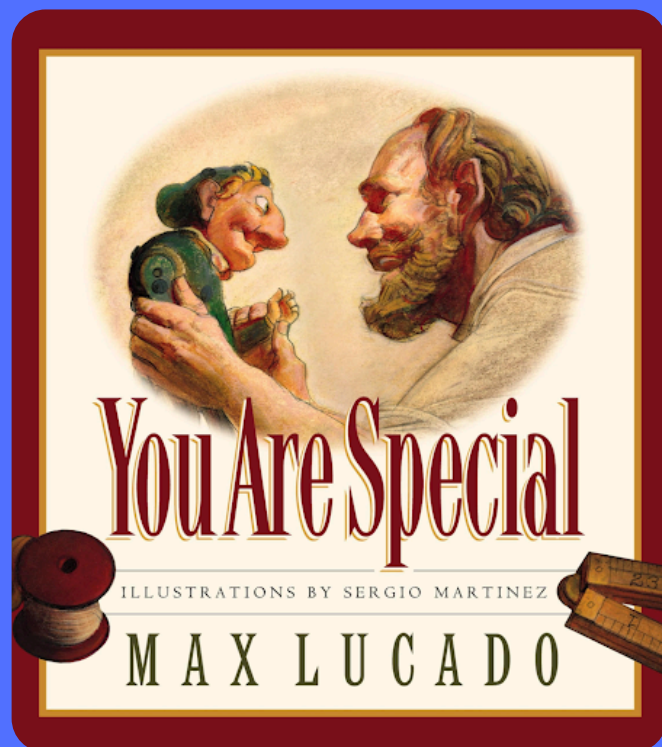
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You Are Special

In our Book Nook, we love highlighting stories that gently teach children about identity, belonging, and God's unconditional love. One of my favourites to share with families is the wooden people series by Max Lucado.

These stories introduce children to Eli the Maker, who lovingly creates each person exactly as they are meant to be. Through characters like Punchinello, children see the struggle to fit in, to earn approval, and to compare themselves to others. When Punchinello meets someone who only cares about what the Maker thinks, the dots and stars no longer stick—a powerful reminder that our worth comes from God alone.



These stories offer a deep but accessible message for children: even when they feel “out of place” or different from their peers, they are wonderfully made and deeply loved. They remind us that our purpose is not to meet the world’s expectations, but to live as God sees us.

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PRAYER

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
Eternal Life.
Amen.

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SUPPORT OAPCE

Your generous donations help us continue our mission to advocate for Catholic education and support parents in Ontario. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference in enriching the educational experience for our children. Join us in making a positive impact!

SUPPORT US



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter), and subscribe to our new YouTube channel for inspiring content, community updates, and spiritual resources. Like, follow, and subscribe to stay engaged with our faith community—we can't wait to connect with you online!



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