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A November Reflection

For the November 2024 edition, we are embracing the theme of peace, inspired by St. Francis' prayer and the spirit of remembrance that this month holds. As we reflect on the importance of fostering hope, compassion, and joy amidst life's challenges, let us remember those who have sacrificed for peace and honor their legacy by being instruments of love in our communities. With Catholic Education partners gathering in anticipation of the 2025 Jubilee and regional meetings connecting our OAPCE Representatives, we celebrate a season filled with growth, advocacy, and unity in faith. This issue highlights the journey of "Pilgrims of Hope" and the ongoing impact of restorative practices in our schools, echoing our commitment to nurturing a loving, peaceful community for all.



FAITH MESSAGE

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is an 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

And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned

And it is in dying that we are born to
Eternal Life

Amen.



What Is the Prayer of St. Francis?

The prayer of St. Francis is a prayer loaded with spiritual meaning. For one, the words of the first few lines indicate how we should live our lives. In this world full of darkness, despair, and sorrow, we should be people who promote light, hope, and joy. This prayer is all about living our lives just as Jesus did during His time here on Earth. Living in a similar way is the most effective way of reflecting the image of God through our lives as His creation.

During November we dedicate it to remembrance for all our loved ones and those who have given their lives so that we may all live in peace.

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FAITH

The 2025 Jubilee will officially open on December 24, 2024, at 7pm with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square. The rite of the Opening of the Holy Door will follow.

"Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. The Vatican celebrates the Jubilee every 25 years and this year's theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". All Catholic Education partners attended a Retreat at the Mount Carmel Retreat Center in Niagara Falls in Preparation for the Jubilee for Catholic Education to be celebrated next year. The Catholic education community is already preparing with the Week for Catholic Education 2025 taking on the theme of the Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope.

Bishop Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines, President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and former Chair of the Education Commission of the ACBO, led everyone in a retreat to consider the meaning of the Jubilee and to help to reflect, as leaders and partners in Catholic Education, how we may best participate in this celebration and model what it is to be "Pilgrims of Hope".

There is information and many events scheduled on the website that you can see and follow along in the next year to come!

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ENGAGE

With the new school year comes the hope and excitement for OAPCE to host their regional meetings with our Representatives across the province. We had the joy of having our first meeting in Dufferin Peel and Halton and they were a great success! OAPCE representatives were led in our new “SuperParents” in Action presentation where Executive Director, J. Perri talks about the importance of being your child’s advocate, unlocking the powers of being a parent to help your children succeed! Parents were then commissioned and welcomed as OAPCE Liaison Representatives celebrating all that makes OAPCE special - connecting parents in their regions and across the province! Provincial and Regional updates were given and new connections and friendships were made! We look forward to the next several regional meetings in the upcoming weeks!



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ENGAGE



ADVOCATE

In October OAPCE Co-Executive Directors had the opportunity to meet the new Minister of Education, Jill Dunlop. It was an initial meeting to familiarize the Minister with our organization and discussed some key topics and issues in Education today. We look forward to building a relationship with the new Minister in advocacy of the gist of Catholic Education.

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ENHANCE

In our latest blog, E. Wylie, OAPCE's Executive Communications Director, introduces Restorative Practices—a compassionate approach that emphasizes healing and community-building over traditional discipline. By focusing on reconciliation and understanding, this approach fosters a supportive, faith-aligned environment in Catholic schools. Read more about how Restorative Practices are reshaping our school communities.

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PARENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT & RESOURCES

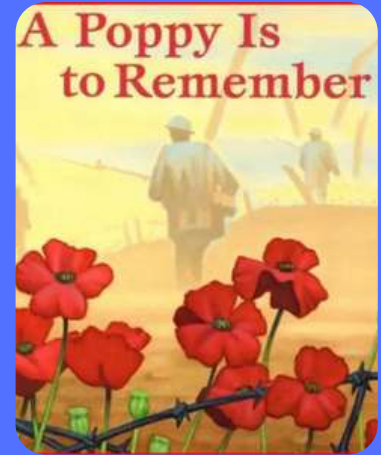
OAPCE Was once again honoured to attend the Catholic Education in Ontario's (CEFO) Father Patrick Fogarty Awards in October. Each year CEFO recognizes the outstanding students from across the province who exemplify the virtues and characteristics of what it means to be a Catholic Leader in our schools. The accomplishments of these wonderful students do not go unnoticed and is a testament that our Faith is stronger than ever as these young adults live their gospel values in and out of the school community they represent. It was not only an honor to witness their achievements, but to see the parents who were so proud to see their children receive these awards were also a joy to see - a special shout out to all our parents across the province for being the amazing examples to their children- we had to salute them in a small way by showing them all take the group shot of all the recipients! Special congratulations to Pat Daly, Past President of OCSTA, Chair of HWCDSB and friend for receiving the much deserved 2024 Medal Of Honor Award!



OAPCE BOOK NOOK

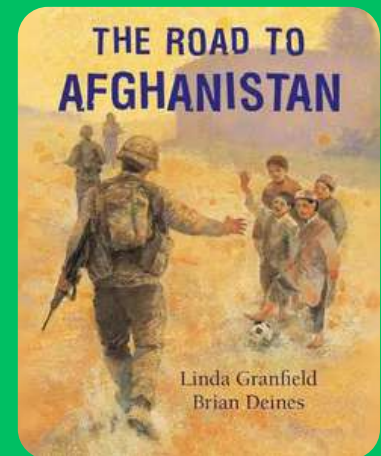
A Poppy Is to Remember uses gentle words and beautiful illustrations to teach young readers about the red poppy as a symbol of honoring those who fought for freedom. Featuring the poem *In Flanders Fields* and insights into Remembrance Day, it serves as a valuable resource for parents to explain the significance of past and present wars and Canada's peacekeeping role.

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In The Road to Afghanistan, a young soldier reflects on his time in Afghanistan—the land's beauty, the sorrow of war, and the sacrifices of those who served. His thoughts turn to his great-grandfather in WWI, his grandfather in WWII, and those honored along the Highway of Heroes who never returned.

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In Everyday Heroes, author Jody Mitic brings together the voices of Canadian Armed Forces members, sharing personal stories of courage, resilience, and sacrifice. Through accounts of bravery and camaraderie, both at home and abroad, this powerful collection offers an authentic glimpse into military life, inspiring pride in Canada.

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