



PARENTS 4PARENTS PRESS

OCTOBER, 2025

www.OAPCE.org

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

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

WALKING IN FAITH

A New School Year Reflection for Parents

October is a season of fresh starts. New teachers, new classrooms, and new routines often leave families juggling homework, schedules, pizza days, school sports, and fundraising forms. In the middle of all this busyness, we are reminded that our journey as Catholic parents is more than just managing the calendar — it's a pilgrimage of faith.

This year's theme for Catholic Education Week is "On the Path to Holiness." It reminds us that in our Catholic schools we are not only students and teachers, but pilgrims, walking together in faith toward holiness. That theme inspired me to pause and reflect on what this means in daily family life — especially in the ordinary but sometimes stressful moments of parenting.

[READ MORE >>](#)



ENGAGE



ADVOCATE



ENHANCE

OAPCE

Fall 2025 message from the Liaison Bishop

✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM

About a month ago, we started a new school year. This first semester also marks the last stretch of the Jubilee year 2025, a year in which the late pope Francis invited us to become pilgrims of hope. A Holy year (or Jubilee year) begins when the pope opens the Holy Door at St. Peter Basilica in Rome. Pope Francis opened the door on Christmas Eve 2024. Pope Leo will close the door on January 6 2026.

"From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. [...] In crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, the pilgrim is reminded of the passage from chapter 10 of St John's gospel: 'I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.' Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd."

Last summer, Pope Leo welcomed the young pilgrims, who are the age of your children. On August 3th, as they gathered outside of Rome at the Tor Vergata University, he said to them: "We are [...] made [...] for an existence that is constantly renewed through the gift of self in love. This is why we continually aspire to something "more" that no created reality can give us; we feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations! Let us rather listen to them! Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God. We will then find ourselves before him, who is waiting for us, knocking gently on the window of our soul (cf. Rev 3:20). It is truly beautiful, especially at a young age, to open wide your hearts, to allow him to enter, and to set out on this adventure with him towards eternity."

On January 6th 2026, the Holy Door of the Jubilee Year will be closed. But if I hear well the invitation of pope Leo, to keep the doors of our hearts wide open. The movement will not be the same. During the Jubilee, we are the one passing through the Holy Door. Once the Jubilee will be over, it will be of vital importance to keep our own doors wide open so that Christ himself could enter into our hearts.



"There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom and mediocrity? [...] We need to lift our eyes, to look upwards, to the 'things that are above' (Col 3:2), to realize that everything in the world has meaning only insofar as it serves to unite us to God and to our brothers and sisters [...]."2

In the book of Revelation, Jesus says: "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." (Rev. 3:20) Please keep the door of your heart open. In pope Leo's words: "Dear young people, aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. Then you will see the light of the Gospel grow every day, within you and around you."

I share with you as well, the most wonderful news! On August 13th, I attended the General Audience of Pope Leo XIV in the Aula Paolo VI in the Vatican. At the conclusion of the audience, I was able to shake hands with the Pope. Needless to say I prayed for all of you in OAPCE during my pilgrimage.

A blessed school year to you all!

✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM

[READ MORE](#)



Why Your Voice Matters in Education

As the new school year begins, it's a great time to reflect on the vital role parents play in their children's education. When parents are involved, students thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally. From joining the Catholic School Parent Council to becoming an OAPCE Representative, there are many ways to have a voice in your school community and make a lasting impact. Your voice matters. Together, we can build stronger schools and brighter futures for our children.

[READ MORE](#)



ADVOCATE

Connecting with our Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's)

Catholic education shapes not only minds but hearts. As parents, we're called to protect and promote this gift through active advocacy—by staying informed, involved, and engaged in our school communities.

Since 1939, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) has been the voice of Catholic parents, ensuring faith and family remain at the heart of our schools.



[READ MORE](#)



ENHANCE

Fostering a Catholic Identity in Catholic Schools

Getting involved in your child's education starts with small steps—attending OAPCE events, volunteering, and staying connected with teachers. Every effort strengthens our Catholic school community and supports student success.

OAPCE empowers parents to be active partners in Catholic education across Ontario.

[READ MORE](#)



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

CYBER AWARENESS MONTH

In today's digital world, online safety is more important than ever. Teaching children to use technology responsibly helps protect their privacy, build awareness, and encourage respectful online behavior.

Together, parents and schools can guide students to be smart, safe, and kind digital citizens.

[READ MORE](#)



FAMILY & FAITH ZONE

Who Was St. Teresa of Calcutta?

St. Teresa of Calcutta, known as Mother Teresa, dedicated her life to serving the poor and showing God's love through simple acts of kindness. Canonized in 2016, her message—"Do small things with great love"—continues to inspire people of all ages.

Families can honor her legacy through reflection, creative activities, and small acts of service that teach compassion and faith in action.

READ MORE



FAMILY & FAITH ZONE

Family Activities to Celebrate St. John Paul II

Celebrate the life and legacy of St. John Paul II with meaningful family activities that inspire faith, courage, and togetherness. From creating a "Be Not Afraid" poster to sharing a Polish-inspired meal or praying as a family, these simple ideas help children connect with his message of hope and love.

READ MORE



Brother Francis

For elementary students (Kindergarten to Grade 5), the Brother Francis series offers a joyful introduction to the Catholic faith. With colorful illustrations and simple storytelling, these books teach children about the Mass, the Rosary, the saints, and the sacraments in a way that is both fun and meaningful.

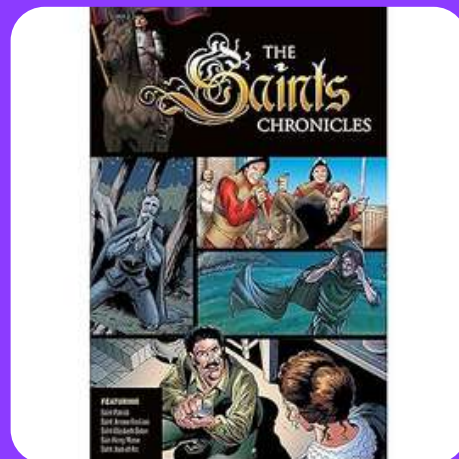
[READ MORE](#)



The Saints Chronicles

For middle school students (Grades 6 to 8), The Saints Chronicles graphic novels bring the lives of the saints to life through vivid artwork and exciting stories. Each volume highlights real examples of courage, faith, and virtue, inspiring young readers to live with purpose and integrity.

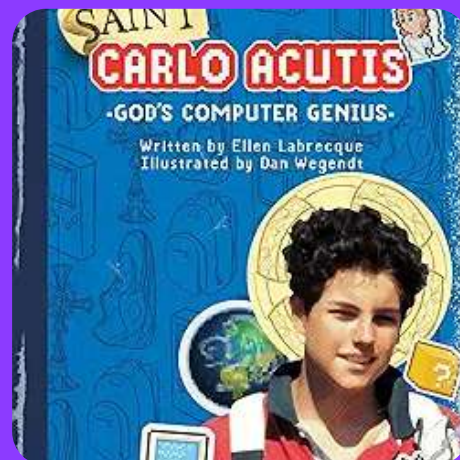
[READ MORE](#)



Carlo Acutis

For high school students (Grades 9 to 12), the story of Blessed Carlo Acutis—the first millennial saint—shows how faith and modern life can coexist. Known as “God’s influencer,” Carlo used his tech skills to spread devotion to the Eucharist and lived out his faith with authenticity, joy, and compassion.

[READ MORE](#)



PRAYER

October 2025 OAPCE Newsletter

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with hearts full of gratitude.

Thank You for the gift of family, for the love that binds us, and for the blessings You pour into our lives each day.

As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving, may we be reminded of Your presence in our homes,

Your guidance in our decisions,
and Your grace in our relationships.

Bless our children with wisdom and joy,
our parents with strength and patience,
and our educators with compassion and courage.
Help us to be a voice of hope in our communities,
a light of faith in our schools,
and a reflection of Your love in all we do.

May this season of thanksgiving renew our commitment

to serve one another, to listen with open hearts,
and to walk together in faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



READ MORE



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!



FOLLOW US



WWW.OAPCE.ORG