



A Grateful Heart Makes All the Difference

It is with grateful hearts that advocates for Catholic education celebrate Thanksgiving 2021. When the original GrACE governing board gathered in the fall of 2018 to finalize the name for this new advocacy movement, the intentional decision to place “grateful” at the beginning was significant. As Trustee Pat Bremner said during that inaugural meeting, “Adding the word grateful to our work changes my perspective on who we are and how we proceed. Beginning with a grateful heart makes all the difference.” Thank you for those wise words, Pat. As we navigate Catholic schools in a time of pandemic, we begin with gratitude for publicly funded Catholic education in the province of Alberta, for we are Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education.

*Gratefully,
Bonnie*



GrACE Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

Check us out!!!!

GrACE now has a website in cooperation with CCSSA. Exciting things are happening! [Click here.](#)

Sincere thanks

Sincere thanks to departing GrACE board member, Trustee Pat Bremner (ACSTA). Pat was a member of GrACE’s inaugural board and has served as chair for the 2020–2021 year. Pat has retired as a Catholic school trustee for Holy Spirit Catholic Schools. Pat, we are grateful for your prayers, service and support.



Celebrate Catholic Education Sunday November 7, 2021

As we prepare for Catholic Education Sunday, please join us in a Journey with St Joseph novena October 28–November 5. The novena can be found [here](#).

How Will you Celebrate Catholic Education Sunday on November 7?

Whether you are an educator, trustee, parent, student, clergy or parishioner you are invited to celebrate Catholic education Sunday. As a leader...ensure that you are celebrating, showcasing and highlighting the faith of your schools. If you are a supporter...read, listen, follow, repost, share, support and cheer for Catholic education on this day and always!

Celebrating Catholic Education Sunday

Sharing great pandemic-friendly ideas!

- † Begin with prayer. Journey with St Joseph novena October 28–November 5
- † Share Catholic education prayer intentions with your community
- † Design a Catholic education insert for your parish bulletin and school newsletters. Use pictures, statistics and quotes to paint a picture of your district
- † Contact your local media to do a story on Catholic Education
- † Distribute the Alberta Bishops' letter on Catholic Education Sunday. Click [here](#) for the English version, and [here](#) for the French.
- † Be present at each mass and share information about your Catholic schools
- † Personally ask a “keen” student, parent, teacher, trustee and priest to record their perspective on “Why I choose Catholic Education.” Post testimonies on websites and social media
- † Share: Did you know? statistics about the history of Catholic Education and current numbers. Data is in the GrACE presentation and ACSTA website
- † Take and post pictures highlighting faith in your school or district
- † Gather stories of Catholic education
- † Read the stories posted by Faithfully and reposted on GrACE website
- † Tell the history of your Catholic school district
- † Pray the intentions for Catholic Education

Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for November

For Catholic Education

- † That our Catholic schools may be inspired by the example of the many great saints who have gone before them and who intercede for them, we pray to the Lord.
- † For protection and graces during this time of Pandemic, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may reveal the glory of God in all that they do, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may nurture the growth of wisdom and virtue in the young, we pray to the Lord.
- † For educators and school staff called to live a life of love and sacrifice during Covid 19, we pray to the Lord.

Catholic Schools Recognize Truth and Reconciliation

STAR Catholic

St. Benedict School in Leduc showed solidarity and commitment to growth on National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Students participated in schoolwide activities to learn, grow and show an understanding. Students read, reflected, and created artwork inspired by indigenous artists. Not only did we learn on this day, but we will continue to learn and grow.



Meet the Council for Catholic School Superintendents in Alberta (CCSSA)

CCSSA is a community of disciples leading and building Catholic education. Membership includes various leadership roles at the divisional level within publicly funded Catholic school divisions in Alberta, Yellowknife, and the Yukon. As lead educators in service of children and communities in Alberta, CCSSA provides a provincial perspective, discusses and initiates direction, and communicates the reason for Catholic Education and its value to society.

From Left to Right:

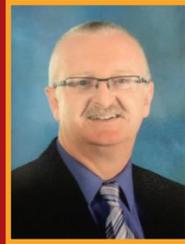
President, **Charlie Bouchard**
STAR Catholic

Vice-President, **Ryan Ledene**
Red Deer Catholic Schools

Secretary-Treasurer,
Paul Corrigan
Elk Island Catholic Schools

Past President, **Tim Cusack**
Edmonton Catholic Schools

Executive Director,
Michael Hauptman



Alberta's Catholic Education Curriculum Resource Coordinator

Last year, CCSSA created a new position to coordinate and develop resources and implementation strategies for religious studies programs across all Catholic school divisions in Alberta. Stacey MacNeil is the Alberta Catholic Education Curriculum Resource Coordinator and has just moved into a full-time position in this area. MacNeil has done excellent work in this new collaborative role and works closely with the Executive Director of CCSSA, Michael Hauptman, the Religious Education Network (REN), and the Alberta Catholic Education Resource Advisory Committee (ACERAC).

REN's membership consists of religious education directors and coordinators for Alberta's Catholic school districts. In Stacey's words, "I am in constant awe of the passion, dedication, and advocacy of all partners in Catholic Education working to create inclusive and welcoming Catholic schools in the province. It is remarkable to witness the commitment to permeating the curriculum and culture of the schools with the teachings of Jesus Christ."

The ACERAC includes representatives from the Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association and the Bishops of Alberta who provide additional guidance and support. It is through this committee that MacNeil found excellent support from Bishop William McGrattan. "Bishop McGrattan's advocacy and involvement for Catholic Education in Alberta is inspiring. The relationship with the Bishop has been one of the exciting parts of this new position, and I am blessed to have the opportunity to have his guidance and advice."

Stacey shared the opportunities in her role to collaborate also with school divisions on professional development, support implementations, faith formation, and curriculum engagement. Much of the last school year was spent planning,

supporting, and implementing the Fully Alive Programming for Family Life. The current school year has added numerous projects to her portfolio. To list a few, MacNeil is working towards the future implementation of grade nine religious studies, faith formation and professional development for Fully Alive, collaborating with REN colleagues on supporting diverse learners in religious studies, and engaging stakeholders on ensuring an authentic Catholic perspective in the draft K-6 curriculum.

MacNeil stated, "I love Catholic Education! The opportunity to work collaboratively with various Catholic education agencies to support teachers, students and stakeholders is fantastic. Getting a glimpse 'behind the curtain' has been a dream. In working together, all stakeholders can have assurance that all those who enter our schools learn the fundamental teachings of the church but, more importantly, experience our rich traditions, feel the love of community and understand their unique creation in God's image."



Join GrACE in recognizing Catholic Healthcare in Alberta

Introducing Catholic Works in Alberta

Meet: Catholic Healthcare: Covenant Health

Covenant Health is one of Canada’s largest Catholic healthcare providers. Founding Sisters provided the building blocks for Covenant Health’s 150-year history of delivering quality, innovative Catholic health services to Albertans.

The mission of Covenant Health is to continue the healing ministry of Jesus by serving with compassion, upholding the sacredness of life in all stages and caring for the whole person—body, mind and soul. As a Catholic organization, Covenant Health is committed to serving people of all faiths, cultures and circumstances according to values of compassion, respect, collaboration, social justice, integrity and stewardship.

Areas of emphasis for Covenant Health include seniors’ care, palliative and end-of-life care, mental health and rural care.

Covenant Health employs around 900 physicians and 11,000 staff members. As well, almost 2500 volunteers support the work of Covenant Health. An additional 1,500 physicians have privileges to care for patients and residents in Covenant facilities. Covenant maintains 980 acute care beds and more than 1500 continuing care beds.

October 3–9, 2021 was National Catholic Health Care Week; a week devoted to celebrating the value and impact of Catholic health care as well as a calling to care for all with compassion and humanity. We encourage all of you to join health care organizations across Canada and bring the message of Catholic Health Care to our local parishes and communities.

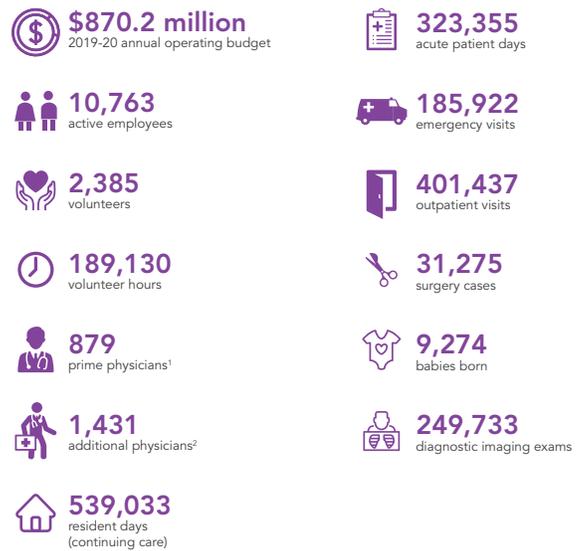
<https://www.covenanthealth.ca>

“Go, do not be afraid, and serve.” – Pope Francis

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| Banff | Edmonton | Mundare |
| Bonnyville | Killam | St. Albert |
| Camrose | Lethbridge | Trochu |
| Castor | Medicine Hat | Vegreville |



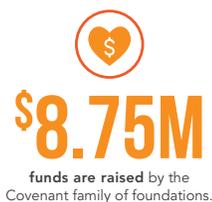
Covenant Health



Covenant Care



Covenant Living



Catholic School Districts' Publications

- † [Greater St. Albert Catholic](#)
- † [Calgary Catholic Schools](#)
- † [Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools](#)

Connect Online

- † [GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed](#)
- † [Grace email is gracedirector7@gmail.com](#)
- † [GrACE Twitter address is @GrACE4cathed](#)
- † [GrACE website](#)

Catholic Education Around the Province CTR Catholic Schools

CTR Catholic continues to intentionally focus on and highlight the 5 Marks of a Catholic school. The following example is taken from their October edition of Redeemer Revelations:

GrACE Corner

Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) aim to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice.

Mark #2 - Catholic Schools share a worldview that is apparent in physical space, liturgical celebrations and prayer life.

Thanks to Holy Cross Collegiate for sharing their photo with us as they celebrated their school's patronage - the Exultation of the Holy Cross on September 14th! Send in your photos for the November newsletter!



Young Servant Leaders in EICS

In our K-4 schools, our Grade 4 students learn about the importance of servant leadership. They participate in a retreat at the beginning of the year to develop important leadership skills and participate in team building activities. We look to our greatest leader - Jesus.

Spiritual leadership groups include:

- † Faith Team - taking care of the gift of faith.
- † School Spirit Team - taking care of the gift of our school community.
- † Healthy Living Team - taking care of the gift of our body.
- † Young Citizen Team - taking care of the gift our earth and global community



Lakeland Catholic School Division - Students Rally for Hungry for the Homeless

Every year, École Notre Dame High School (NDHS) students collect Food Bank donations and fundraise for the Bonnyville Friendship Centre through their Hungry for the Homeless Campaign.

On September 23, students collected two NDHS buses worth of donations for the Food Bank and \$2,900 for the Friendship Centre. The funds raised were used to purchase fresh produce and meat.

This year, the social justice project saw 51 students and seven staff members participate in order to support the local community prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

This project allowed students to reflect on the Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. "The obligation to evaluate social and economic activity from the viewpoint of the poor and the powerless arises from the radical command to love one's neighbour as one's self," was a lesson embedded in the school's fundraiser.

Students stood in high-traffic areas of our community to collect donations of food and funds, all the while reflecting on the people they were raising the money for, some of the local community's most vulnerable.



Click [here](#) for more stories from the Lakeland Catholic School Division.

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.

Did You Know...

- † 17 Catholic School Districts exist in the province of Alberta.
- † 4 Francophone boards offer Catholic education at specified schools.
- † St. Paul Education offers Catholic education at specified schools.
- † More than 183,500 students attend more than 450 Catholic schools in our province.

Social Media from around the province...

St. JPll Catholic @STJPIICATHOLIC · Oct 6
 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 John 1:1
 #ecssdHOPE
 Special day for grade 4 students!
 Bible Presentations with Fr. Paul @archedmonton

† St. Gabriel Education Centre @stgabes · Oct 7
 Thanks to Father Ignacy for joining us to preside over our Thanksgiving liturgy for St. Gabes and the Online Learning Pathway. We are grateful for all of our many blessings. @GSACRD @gsacrd_faith @gsacrdproud #sgcec

The beauty of Catholic schools can be seen in moments like this! Prayer is powerful and a uniquely Catholic way of preparing our hearts and minds for a task at hand.
 #IBelieveInCatholicEd

The FMCSd Saints Football Club
 October 8 at 8:55 AM · 🌐
 Thank you to Councillor Raymond Powder for leading the Saints in prayer last night. We are grateful for your powerful words!

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elem/JH School @SESecsd · Oct 5
 Thank you Father Raja for joining us today and presenting our grade 4 students with their very own bible. We are so grateful for your support!
 @SESecsd @EcsdServices

St. Kateri Academy @SKTAcademy_ · Oct 7

We welcomed Father Trini and Deacon Lester to our school for our Thanksgiving Celebration and Grade Four Bible Distribution today! #gsacrd #Thanksgiving



Jackie Comartin @JackieComartin · Oct 8

Grade 4 students walked to church for mass and to receive their bibles today. 15 000+ steps later, lots of laughter, friendship and joy along the way too. An absolute beautiful day! @St_JohnXXIII #calledtomore @EICSCatholic



stdominic_ccsd @stdominic_ccsd · Oct 8

Thanksgiving Liturgy. Thank you to Grade 5 and Mr. Volke for a lovely liturgy, and for all of our food drive items. @CCSD_edu



Tina Madden @MrsLMadden

Thank you to Mrs. Osmond and Mrs. Walker and their grade 2 students for leading the beautiful Thanksgiving liturgy today! We have so much to be thankful for. @OLWChestermere @megwalker17 #IBelieveInCatholicEd



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School @stfra... · Oct 6

Today our grade 4 students received their bibles. Thank you Father Glenn for blessing our bibles and leading us in our celebration! #ECSDfaithinspires



So amazing to see the permeation of faith in multiple subject areas - including MATH! #IBelieveInCatholicEd



Holy Family Catholic Regional Division
October 5 at 9:40 AM

Mrs. Rein's Kindergarten class at Good Shepherd School has been learning all about the Story of Creation! After reading the In the Beginning story from the Children's bible they made Creation mobiles that combined early numeracy skills with religion, as students had to put the days of creation in numerical order in order to create their mobiles.

Well done Kindergarten students!

GSACRD Faith @gsacrd_faith · 3h

Thank you Father Adam for leading the Thanksgiving Liturgy for @rsffalcons !



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.
- Matthew 25: 35-36

Thank you for being witness to the Catholic faith in serving others in need!

#IBelieveinCatholicEd



St. Mary Beaverlodge
October 8 at 10:16 AM · 🌐

Once again we are blown away by our St.Mary families generosity!!! Your kindness is overwhelming and so very appreciated!! The food bank drive was a success with over 1000+ items donated. Thanks so much for all that you do for our community! ❤️❤️❤️

St.Patrick Catholic School Camrose @StPatrickSch2 · Oct 5

Today was a beautiful day. The grade 4 students received their Bibles and then spent some time in a student leadership retreat. Thanks Father Kris and Cst. Fernhout and thank you to the Real Foundation for the Bibles. @EICSCatholic #calledtomore



Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary @calgarydiocese · Oct 7

What have I contributed to the hurt/pain/damage that has caused the need for healing? Are we open to the next steps that are required – the steps that open our hearts? loom.ly/nTT9ZYA #CatholicYYC
#NationalCatholicHealthCareWeek

National
Catholic
Health Care
Week
October 3-9

