

PARENTS4PARENTS NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2021



Mark 10: 13–16

This story is a story about liberation. In a society concerned with power and status, Jesus shows a different way. In this story Jesus is faced with the weakest member of the society of the day, the child. In the first century, children had no status. They were chattels that belonged to their father. The closest friends of Jesus, the disciples were quick to dismiss children from the gathering of the grown-ups. Jesus' indignation is evident. To his disciples he says - Let the little children come to me...The discipleship of equals, he says, must include children and serve their needs, if we want Jesus in our midst.

To the children he extended a warm welcome by putting his arms around them— you belong... I am never too busy for you!

For us to call ourselves "the Church" we must seek the unaccustomed stance of Jesus. It is to stand, to preach, to serve and to play from the bottom up – at eye level with a child. It is to advocate for all children, all students, and represent all parents especially those who do not have a voice, we must come together now more than ever to ensure that our children are being taught in schools that truly represent our faith – let us remember, WWJD – what would Jesus do – this simple phrase can speak volumes in our lives if taken to heart.

Message from Bishop Dabrowski, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Diocese of London, Bishop Liaison to OAPCE

"Most kids will remember how their family home felt during the coronavirus panic, more than they will remember anything specific about the virus itself," someone observed. Seeing ourselves in the "bigger picture" and having trust and faith in God will help us through this crisis.

Fear has the power to drive us apart. Fear has the power to make us selfish. But selfishness is not going to win the day. Instead, kindness, reaching out to others in need, and being concerned about vulnerable people will help us overcome this pandemic.

All of these acts of selfless love have made a difference in the lives of so many others, to the point that his selfless love helped mitigate some of the worst effects of COVID-19.

We need this selfless love in action to continue by making decisions based on the common good. We can learn so much from St. Joseph because his tenderness and love towards Jesus and Mary come from his loving and trusting relationship with God. We know that we cannot love out of duty. Love is born, nurtured, matured, and embedded in caring and tender relationships.

But we also know that tenderness in our human relationships can be challenging right now; therefore, we must learn to look upon each other with patience and kindness.

St. Joseph is a great source of inspiration for us to continually practice tenderness and patience which requires a day-to-day striving and willingness to see all those we encounter through the eyes of Christ.



*Dear St. Joseph,
kind and loving,
Stretch to us a
helping hand;
Guide us through
life's toils and
sorrows
Safely to the
distant land.*

ENGAGE

November 20th WEBINAR

Parents who can cope with the stresses of everyday life, have the flexibility and inner strength to bounce back when things are not going well. Adapting to new changes, bullying, and the uncertainties in this complex world we live in, are challenges which arise from the skills of resilience.

Aligning with our theme, "Rebuilding our Resiliency as Parents", Join us on November 20th, as OAPCE presents two live webinars that will engage parents across the province and seek out good outcomes where problems were to be expected.

Our first webinar features Coach Miguel Martinez who will aim to provide fundamental principles and practices that will drive resiliency and rebuild stability in the home. This powerful workshop combines evidence-based studies with faith-based principals.

Our second webinar features the team of Sara Westbrook (Emotional Resilience Strategist) and Paul Davis (Internet Safety Expert), who will share strategies that are beneficial to both you, the parent or guardian, and the child, on how to handle emotions before using a keyboard as an emotional outlet that's hurtful instead of helpful.

WHEN: Saturday November 20th @ 10am

WHERE: Zoom

HOW: Register at www.oapce.org



ADVOCATE

OAPCE continues bring the parent voice to many catholic partner tables that represent various Catholic stakeholder groups.

Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario www.acbo.on.ca By its very nature, the ACBO is a forum where the Bishops of Ontario reflect together and collaborate on projects to proclaim, celebrate and live the Good News of Jesus Christ in our province. It is an instrument of the collegiality that binds Bishops with each other under the leadership of the Bishop of Rome in a common purpose, a common mission, a common faith. The ACBO is one of four regional assemblies of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is located in Ottawa. The CCCB is the national association of all Catholic Bishops of Canada.

CPCO (Catholic Principals Council of Ontario) www.cpco.on.caThe Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) is a voluntary, professional organization that serves the principals and vice-principals in Ontario's 29 publicly-funded Catholic school boards. The Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario is an advocate for a strong Catholic school system in the province of Ontario.

ICE (Institute of Catholic Education) www.iceont.caThe Ontario Institute for Catholic Education brings together, works with, and assists organizations that share responsibility for English Catholic education in their efforts to promote and maintain publicly-funded Catholic schools animated by the Gospel and reflecting the tenets of the Catholic faith. Contributes to curriculum, professional development, research and renewal. Bishops

OCSBOA (Ontario Catholic Schools Business Officials Association) www.ocsboa.ca OCSBOA works collaboratively with our partners in Catholic education to foster members' professional development and networking, promote effective best management practices, and support Gospel values in service of Catholic education.

OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association) www.ocsta.on.ca They provide an important link between local communities and the school board, bringing the issues and concerns of their constituents to board discussions and decision making. Trustees are ombudspersons for students and community members, advocating a wide range of issues regarding Catholic education. OCSTA is a powerful lobby for Catholic education. They monitor government activity, contribute to the decision-making process, liaise with all provincial political parties, and respond to issues affecting Catholic education.

OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association) www.oecta.on.ca OECTA promotes the professional and contractual welfare of our members, promotes the principles of Catholic education, and defends the constitutional rights of the Catholic school system in Ontario.



ENHANCE

OAPCE Strategic Plan is based on the Vision of OAPCE which is to Engage, Advocate and Enhance. We will strengthen parent engagement by continuing to provide resources to parents through multiple communication channels and our continuous learning events. We will advocate to ensure that our Faith is continued to be witnessed and implemented in school throughout the province. We will aim to enhance Catholic education by working with various partners on project and work teams focused on making enhancements to Cath education.



PARENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

*Institute in Catholic Education (ICE) www.iceont.ca
The Ontario Institute for Catholic Education brings together, works with, and assists organizations that share responsibility for English Catholic education in their efforts to promote and maintain publicly-funded Catholic schools animated by the Gospel and reflecting the tenets of the Catholic faith.*

*Digital Citizenship
Video Series*

*We asked a small group of students during the COVID shutdown to begin a conversation about the Catholic Graduate Expectations.
#StudentVoice is powerful!*

Listening to Indigenous Voices – Curriculum Mapping for Catholic Educators



Prayer for Parent Volunteers in Catholic Education

God Of Miracles,

*We give thanks for this day, for the people gathered here, and for
Jesus Christ, our brother and our Lord, and who gives our life
meaning*

God Of Miracles,

*Who directs the work of Catholic Education and who reminds us
that he is never too busy for children, Stay close to us, lest we lose
our way, and our heart.*

God Of Miracles,

*Grant us the gift of wisdom to work together and to proclaim the
Gospel to the children entrusted to us. Make us desire your life in us,
that our greatest joy is your love, so that we may be empowering
witnesses to those we serve.*

God Of Miracles,

*Through the power of your Spirit, may we grow in courage, that our
words may mirror your truth, and that our actions may reflect the
love we profess, right here and now.*

We ask this in the name of Jesus.