



June 2021

“...Well done good and faithful servant...” ~Matthew 25:21~

Our theme for this year has been *God Calls Us Each By Name*, and that has been the perfect description for what our students, families, and staff have experienced. In managing the turmoil, and often chaos, that has arisen out of the pandemic, we have each been called to be many things in ways far beyond what we are used to: patient, diligent, caring, calm, resilient, flexible, understanding, forgiving, creative, courageous, and so much more. As our year comes to a close, the passage from Matthew seems a fitting punctuation mark. Thank you to every member of the Edmonton Catholic Schools family who has risen to the challenges before us and answered God’s call as a good and faithful servant!

We were so glad to see all our in-person learning students return to class on May 25. We are a people of hope, and we look forward to having more stability and structure in the 2021-22 school year. In the Spring, we asked you to declare your intention for in-person or online learning for the 2021-22 school year. You will receive a notification from your school in mid-June asking you to inform the Division should you decide to change your choice. You will have until August 2 if you are in a year-round calendar school and August 16 if you are in a regular calendar school to indicate a final change of choice. There will be no changes after August 16 as we will have to staff based on the number of students in each school.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is excited to launch our new Faith Alive website and welcome our ECSD students and families to explore the beauty of our faith. We created this digital space after the Division's Student Voice members identified this project as an area of opportunity for young people and families to find quality Catholic content online. Faith Alive will provide students and families with a wealth of information and resources to help you become active in prayer, worship, and study. Visit ecsd.net/faithalive to start your journey.

The May 26 Public Meeting of the Board also saw our Board of Trustees passing our Division Budget for the upcoming year. You can learn more about the budget by visiting www.ecsd.net or [clicking here](#). Edmonton Catholic Schools has worked diligently to increase funding to the classroom through improvements in the delivery of administration, operations and maintenance. A total of 78.8% of this budget will support student instruction, while system administration expenses are 2.7%, which is lower than the 3.15% cap established by Alberta Education.

In May, our eyes were turned to mothers and a celebration of Mary. In June, let us turn our eyes to fathers and father figures and to St. Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father. In his Apostolic Letter, [Patris Corde](#), our

Holy Father Pope Francis declared this to be the year of St. Joseph. He shares the following: "Fathers are not born but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person." Happy Father's Day to all those who have accepted the sacred responsibility of nurturing our children!

Have a wonderful June and a restful summer. We look forward to a new beginning in the 2021-22 school year!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent